



PRESS RELEASE

New CER Working Paper:

Unilateral America, Lightweight Europe? Managing divergence in transatlantic foreign policy

By Steven Everts

The election of George W. Bush has caused uneasiness in Europe. Despite the close relations between Europe and America across a range of areas, there has been a gradual drifting apart when it comes to many foreign policy issues – particularly those outside the European arena. Increasingly, Europeans and Americans differ over the importance of global rules and norms; over the value of international organisations; over what counts as a security problem; and over what sort of strategies are effective in tackling global problems.

In ‘Unilateral America, Lightweight Europe?’ Steven Everts describes key trends in US foreign policy and assesses their implications for Europe. He argues that Europe should respond constructively by pointing out the benefits – to the Americans – of staying within multilateral frameworks. He also calls on the Europeans to improve their own performance in foreign and defence policy – by making greater efforts to match words with deeds. Only on that basis will Europe have an impact in Washington.

Other suggestions include:

- Europe should think more globally when it comes to ‘hard security’ questions such as weapons proliferation and security threats in North East Asia.
- To increase support for multilateral governance, Europeans should be more serious about their own international obligations. This means making the EU import regimes for hormone-injected beef and bananas WTO compliant.
- The Europeans must improve the representation of their views to Congress. The EU’s Mr CFSP, Javier Solana, should hold regular but informal briefing sessions, with members of the House and Senate. In turn, the Bush administration will have to make greater efforts to curb the unilateral instincts of Congress.
- The Americans need to realise that global governance will not go away as a European preoccupation. Those Americans who call for a global partnership with Europe should accept that the promotion of a rule-based international system must be an explicit aim.
- Both Europe and America need to be prepared – financially and politically – to use the full spectrum of foreign policy tools. Thus, the trend in America toward spending ever more money on the military and ever less on diplomacy needs to be reversed.

Steven Everts is a Senior Research Fellow at the CER and Director of its Transatlantic Programme. He can be reached on 020 - 7233 1199 or 07879 - 63 88 61.