

## **The Effects of the Geopolitical Shift on the Making and Reception of EU Foreign Policy**

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The literature has poured into the so-called geopolitical shift in EU foreign policy. We have learned about its inconsistencies, the ways in which it clashes with self-conceptions about the EU's international role, its shortcomings, and its promises. We want to explore a more specific aspect. We want to enquire how it is challenging EU foreign policy at its both ends –decision-making and reception by third countries. Our starting point is that on both ends EU foreign policy has traditionally depended on specific institutional and normative mechanisms that are now at play.

When it comes to decision-making, research has identified several factors that oil the gears of the system, and account for the existence of a relatively stable international identity of the EU. At the Council, socialization into norms, substantive or procedural, respect for agreed language, and expert cultures can be challenged by the need to embrace less rules-based logics. At the Commission, geopolitics can call into question the relevance of established organizational cultures, with the associated expertise-derived authority. Finally, a more strategic and competitive foreign policy can disrupt intra-group cohesion in the European Parliament, change coalitional dynamics, or intersect party-voter relationships. To be sure, the contrary might be true as well. As the breakdown of the international order is associated with more frequent, less tractable crises, they can reveal information and help focus minds. Preferences can be reassessed and strategic cultures can converge. In between these two options, a range of combinations can exist.

When it comes to the reception of EU foreign policy by third countries, given its traditional commitment to normative actorness through diplomacy, the EU has been more reluctant to use hard power than other regional actors. In addition, a decline in European commitment to diplomacy is likely to affect other world regions that would emulate the prevailing tendencies in Europe. In this workshop, scholars will discuss the current state of European diplomacy in different regions, themes, and sectors as part of the 'polycrisis' underlying the demise of diplomatic culture and the return to geopolitics.

We invite paper proposals on the ways in which any such hypotheses are being met, or the reasons why they are not. More to the point, we want to address two broad questions:

-Is the so-called geopolitical shift having any impact on EU foreign-policy making at the Commission, Council or EP? What kind of impact would that be? Is it impacting inter-institutional relationships?

-How is the EU's changing foreign policy vision or rhetoric received by third countries and regions that are influenced by Europe through conditionality, coercion, and emulation, particularly in the Caucasus, Eurasia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East?

We welcome research conducted under a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches, over any of the areas of EU foreign policy broadly understood.