

THE EUROPEAN GLOBAL STRATEGY PROJECT:

KEY DOCUMENTS

July 2012 to December 2013

Towards a European Global Strategy: Securing European Influence in a Changing World

EGS report, May 2013. [Full report](#) and [executive summary](#).

Selected Opinion pieces

The rationale for a European global strategy

[European Global Strategy in a World of Power Transition](#) by Jolyon Howorth
“The current global power transition, and the exhaustion of the EU founding narrative of internal peace, underpin the quest for a new European global strategy.”

[Reflections on a European Global Strategy](#) by Heather A. Conley
“There would be a very strong ‘value to the process’ in the development of a European White Paper (rather than a Global Strategy document) in 2013.”

Content and structure of a European global strategy

[Strategic Priorities for a Common Security and Defence Policy](#) by Daniel Keohane
“The EU cannot cope with all the potential security threats and challenges facing the world, nor should it aspire to. As Frederick the Great told his generals ‘to defend everything is to defend nothing’.”

[Towards a European Global Strategy:
Through Coordinated Regional Approaches](#) by Agnes Nicolescu
“Insufficient cooperation among member states is part of the EU’s external action problem. Deepened mutual knowledge is thus crucial for a European global strategy.”

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Issues of interest for a European global strategy

[Bridging the human rights gap](#) by Nicolas J Beger

“Bridging the divide between external aims and internal responsibilities should be the priority of a European global strategy”, says the Director of Amnesty International’s European Institutions Office in interview.

[Global Swing States and European Strategy](#) by Daniel Kliman and Richard Fountaine

“A new European global strategy must account for the growing influence of ‘global swing states’: Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Turkey should receive special focus, for together they are key to adapting and renewing today’s international order.”

Theoretical approaches to a European global strategy

[Realpolitik and Idealpolitik: Interest and identity in European foreign policy](#) by Kjell Goldmann

“Realpolitik vs Idealpolitik: It is possible to envisage a meaningful global strategy for the EU by specifying what roles the EU intends to play in world politics, and how this relates to what the EU thinks is special with Europe.”

[How Grand is Global?](#) by Björn Fägersten

“Can the EU really ‘do’ strategy and what sort of strategic concepts are applicable to a collective of states?”

Europe and global power shifts

[Recalibrating CSDP-NATO relations. A Strategic Pivot in the Making?](#) by Coelmont & De Langlois

“In an age of major power shifts, which we know from history always to be particularly dangerous, different scenarios are possible; the only promising one is that of more and well-structured international cooperation. Yet, critical voices point at a drifting apart of longstanding allies.”

The transatlantic link

[Reinventing the West: the geopolitical importance of TTIP](#) by Brattberg.

“Besides the immediate positive economic effects for both sides, TTIP could also give spark to a more strategic transatlantic relationship – something that is desperately needed.”

Cyber

[EU and Cyber Security: what’s next?](#) By Cencetti & Marrone

“Cyber security crosses the traditional borders of politics, economics and society. Improving cyber ‘resilience’ - capacity to resist and recover from an attack - is fundamental for the economic growth and welfare of the European countries.”





Articles referencing the EGS project

Lehne (2013) [A European Global Strategy: Ten Key Challenges](#)

“Beyond the member states and the EU institutions, the conversation should also draw on the expertise of think tanks and academics. Four think tanks have already made an important contribution to the debate.”

Bonino, Sikorski, García-Margallo y Marfil and Bildt (2013) [In search of a global strategy.](#)

“The foreign ministers of Italy, Poland, Spain and Sweden argue that Europe needs a strategic framework to help it navigate a more complex world.”

Dennison, Gowan, Kundnani, Leonard and Witney (2013)

[Why Europe Needs a New Global Strategy](#)

“During the last year, there have been a number of assessments of the EU’s potential for cohesion, including a report published in May by four European think tanks at the behest of the Italian, Polish, Spanish and Swedish foreign ministries.”

European Parliament (2013) [Report on the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the Common Foreign and Security Policy.](#)

“Regrets the fact that the EU has not yet developed a clear strategy for its relations with the rest of the world and that its activities are defined more by reaction than by action; demands, therefore, a fundamental strategic debate...notes, as a contribution to this debate, the European Global Strategy initiative pursued by the foreign ministers of Sweden, Spain, Poland and Italy”

Keohane (2013) [Does the EU need a New Foreign Policy Strategy?](#)

“The EGS is an excellent attempt at reconciling the full range of EU foreign policies, from trade, climate and development assistance to defense and security, with Europe’s global and regional interests.”

Lindley-French (2013) [Influencing the World or Organising Europe?](#)

“...this report should not be under-estimated. The ambition of getting Europeans to “think strategically about their global role” is to be commended as is the analysis which fuels it”

Minard (2013) [La réforme de la stratégie européenne de sécurité: État des lieux d’un débat sur la diplomatie et la défense européennes.](#)

“Le projet d’une « European Global Strategy »...constitue un espace riche de débat sur la question cruciale de la mise à jour de la stratégie européenne de sécurité, qui fête ses dix ans en 2013.” Edited version in English: [Europe needs an inclusive ‘Grand Strategy’.](#)





About the project

European Global Strategy was a think tank-driven process designed to stimulate debate on the future direction of the European Union's external relations.

In the summer of 2012, four European think tanks were asked to initiate research and debate around a common European strategy in external relations.

In the first phase of the process, Elcano, IAI, PISM and UI did this in cooperation with more than [20 partners from Europe and around the world](#) in a process that included a series of workshops and conferences alongside an ongoing online debate.

In May 2013 the final report: "[Towards a European Global Strategy: securing European influence in a changing world](#)", was presented in Brussels and the respective capitals of the four organisers.

In the autumn of 2013, the EGS project entered its second phase, with the aim of debating the report and the issue areas it dealt with as well as digging deeper into a few areas of particular strategic interest. It hoped to inform policy makers and academics during a time when important questions of Europe's global role was high on the agenda for politicians and think tanks alike.

Browse the [EGS Publications archive](#) for contributions from European and worldwide think tanks and institutes.

