

## Welcome to MERCURY Multilateralism and the EU in the Contemporary Global Order

Well, another year is drawing to a close, and we are happy to report about some great work that has been done on EU institutions and external relations. See page three for a more detailed description! You can also check out our publications on our website, [www.mercury-fp7.net](http://www.mercury-fp7.net).

Meanwhile, the next part of our project is well underway. Teams are working on new research which examines the EU's relations with strategic partners and regions. We'll take this work forward at the next plenary session on 24-25 March in Prague, with public sessions featuring several papers-in-progress. More information will be posted online.

Outside the official channels, MERCURY partners and individuals are presenting papers at a wide variety of research conferences and other public events. We've reached out to the policy community with a stakeholders conference in Brussels in September, featuring an excellent range of insiders speaking on the challenges the EU faces. We're translating some of our research into Portuguese for a Brazilian audience. And there's much more.

Please stay tuned! Events are posted on the website. Major research findings are uploaded as e-papers. And you can send us comments there too.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, and see you in the New Year.

Mark Aspinwall  
MERCURY Co-ordinator

### What is MERCURY?

MERCURY is a consortium of academic partners formed to examine critically the European Union's contribution to multilateralism. It explores multilateralism as a concept, an aspiration, and a form of international order.

The MERCURY consortium is composed of the following nine institutional partners:

- University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (MERCURY co-ordinator)
- University of Cologne, Germany
- Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
- Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome, Italy
- Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Paris, France
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Fudan University, Shanghai, China
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden
- University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

### Don't Miss

- New publications on the institutional basis of EU multilateralism
- Updated version of the DATEX database
- MERCURY's glossary on multilateralism
- and more...

The MERCURY Newsletter is published twice a year by Gunilla Herolf, leader of Work Package V Dissemination ([herolf@sipri.org](mailto:herolf@sipri.org)). If you wish to be included or taken off the distribution list, please contact Information Manager: Rebecka Shirazi ([shirazi@sipri.org](mailto:shirazi@sipri.org)). MERCURY is financed by the EU Commission's Seventh Framework Programme

*Read more at [www.mercury-fp7.net](http://www.mercury-fp7.net)*



# MERCURY Events

## Challenges for Global Europe conference Brussels, 3 September 2010

On 3 September 2010, MERCURY and the Europa Institute of the University of Edinburgh hosted the conference “Challenges for Global Europe” in Brussels. The event covered a range of challenges currently facing the European Union, including discussions on the financial crisis, climate change, migration, the relationship to the United States, and the rise of China. Leading figures from academia, the policy community, and media reflected on the EU’s priorities and capabilities given the post-Lisbon restructuring of external policy.

Speakers included *Lionel Barber* (Editor, Financial Times), *Jonathan Faull* (Director-General, DG MARKT, European Commission), *Jim Cloos* (Council of the EU), *Sebastian Oberthuer* (Free University Brussels), *Wolfgang Wessels* (University of Cologne) and *John Peterson* (University of Edinburgh).

The presentations triggered an intensive debate with the audience. For example, the point was made that the EU should have a set

**Strategic EU messages  
in international fora?**

of strategic messages to be delivered in all international fora, and directed towards major partners. On the one hand, there seemed to be a consensus that such a coherent communication strategy would significantly increase the EU’s weight as an international actor. On the other hand, some participants warned that such a strategy might raise expectations too high. The EU is still far from a coherent approach—both at the rhetorical and at the operational level—when it comes to critical issues such as energy policy towards Russia.

On a more optimistic note, speakers and participants underlined the power of well-established and newly created EU laws, which do work toward a coherent European approach.

**Did the financial crisis  
reinforce multilateralism?**

From the perspective of multilateralism, it was noted that despite fierce discussions and the reluctance of several EU member states during the financial crisis, the final decision on the Greek bail-out was reached on a multilateral basis. Therefore, some argued that the financial crisis could be seen as having reinforced EU multilateralism.

## MERCURY Panel at the Biennial South African Association of Political Studies Conference

On 1-4 September the Pretoria MERCURY team organised a panel for the Biennial South Africa Association of Political Studies Conference which took place in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The event witnessed a vibrant exchange on European and African understandings of multilateralism, EU-Africa relations and global governance.

Presentations were given on “Is There an African Way to Multilateralism? Some Insights from the Mercury Research Agenda”, by Lorenzo Fioramonti; “The EU, African Development and Multilateralism: the Economic Partnership Agreements with Southern Africa as a Case Study”, by Alida Kok; “Conflict Resolution in Sudan: Multilateralism or Confused/Confusing Approaches?”, by Maxi Schoeman; and “Africa and the EU: a Quest for Effective Multilateralism”, by Gerrit Olivier.

## MERCURY Roundtable Discussion

Dr Mark Aspinwall, University of Edinburgh, delivered a talk and led a roundtable discussion on “Green Regions? Comparing Civil Society Activism in NAFTA and the European Union” at the University of Pretoria, South Africa on 6 September 2010.

## Upcoming MERCURY Plenary

The next MERCURY Plenary will take place in Prague on 24-25 March 2011. The event will bring together MERCURY partners and practitioners to discuss the project’s current and future work.

Updated and further information can be found on the MERCURY website.

Link: <http://www.mercury-fp7.net/index.php?id=10077>

## MERCURY-Related Activities

Dr Caroline Bouchard, University of Edinburgh, represented MERCURY at a Net4Society Workshop on 8-9 July 2010 in Dublin, Ireland, where she took part in the panel discussion on the international aspects of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

## Recently Published

### Conceptual and Institutional Basis of EU Multilateralism

#### “Externalising Migration Policy: the European Union’s ‘Global Approach’” (E-Paper No. 4)

In her paper, Nur Abdelkhalik examines constraints at EU level, posed by decisionmaking structures and differing policy prioritisations, on the multilateral pursuit of migration policy objectives with the Mediterranean.

She argues that the Commission, seemingly as a way of bypassing these intra-European constraints, increasingly supports the implementation of migration related initiatives coherent with the 2005 Global Approach through international organisations such as the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency.

#### “Market Power Europe: EU Externalisation of Market-Related Policies” (E-Paper No. 5)

In his paper, Chad Damro claims that the EU actively externalises its internal market-related policies and regulations in multilateral settings. This externalisation provides clear evidence of the EU acting as a Market Power Europe and suggests an oft-overlooked way in which the EU pursues effective multilateralism.

The large size of the EU’s regulated single market and its significant institutional and regulatory capacity enhance the ability to externalise both economic and social regulations. Such an exercise of power, which may occur as intentional or unintentional behaviour, suggests the EU is more capable and more likely to use coercive means and tools than would be expected by other conceptualisations of the EU as a power.

#### “Assessing EU Multilateral Action: Trade and Foreign and Security Policy Within a Legal and Living Framework” (E-Paper No. 6)

In their paper, Nadia Klein, Tobias Kunstein and Wulf Reiners draw on research on the EU’s performance as an international actor and provide a framework for assessing the varying levels of multilateral action in EU external policies. In particular, the paper focuses on two institutional factors: (1) the capacity to co-ordinate internally a given EU position and (2) the capacity to represent an EU position externally.

These two factors are analysed systematically for the common commercial policy and for the common foreign and security policy. The findings of the analysis indicate that the EU is relatively stronger in supporting international law (multilateral legal basis) than in pooling resources with other international actors (multilateral implementation).

#### “Cooperation in the North: Multilateralism or Mess? (E-Paper No. 7)

In her paper, Gunilla Herolf explores whether the EU has lived up to its commitment to “effective multilateralism” by studying its policies towards the Baltic Sea Region. The paper explores how the EC/EU got involved in cooperation, the driving forces behind its continued involvement in the north and the character and possible changes of its policies.

E-Paper 7 will be published shortly.

All MERCURY publications can be found on our website.  
Link: <http://www.mercury-fp7.net/index.php?id=10076>

#### Other MERCURY-related publications

John Peterson, “Multilateralism and the EU: a ‘Cheap Date’?”, *The International Spectator*, No.4, December 2010

Yolanda Spies, “South Africa’s Multilateral Challenges in a ‘Polypolar’ World”, *The International Spectator*, No.4, December 2010

#### In the Pipeline

With the publishing of these four E-Papers MERCURY has completed its work package related to the conceptual and institutional basis of EU multilateralism.

A Policy Brief summarizing the findings will be published next month.

#### Glossary of Multilateralism

As part of the work to elaborate and clarify this concept, MERCURY is producing a glossary of multilateralism.

The glossary is a work in progress which currently includes over 43 terms related to multilateralism. Partners continuously collect relevant terms and we welcome additional proposals.

To access the glossary or to find more information see [www.mercury-fp7.net](http://www.mercury-fp7.net)

# Presentation of MERCURY Institutes

## Fudan University, Shanghai, China

As one of the two partners outside of Europe, Fudan University is widely regarded as one of the top universities in mainland China. Based in the most internationalized city of Shanghai, Fudan has been known for its strong natural, medical and sciences research. The research team members are mainly from the School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA) and the Center for European Studies.

SIRPA, founded in 1964 as one of three earliest institutions offering an international politics program, has been one of the leading forces in the field of research and education of international studies in China. SIRPA has also established a wide range of exchanges and cooperative relations with many distinguished schools and institutions around the world; offering undergraduates, masters and PhD students worldwide the opportunity to study international relations in both Chinese and English. The Center for European Studies is the earliest institute ever created in China in the field of European studies; it is also a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for its continuous contribution of European studies in China.

The Fudan team is taking the lead on the trade policy paper and participates in the joint papers on Diplomatic Strategies of Major Powers, Darfur conflict resolution, climate change, and regionalism. The Fudan team is comprised of six permanent staff and is co-led by Prof. Dai Bingran and Prof. Chen Zhimin.



**Prof. Dai Bingran** (Economics) is an expert in European politics and economics and a Jean Monnet Professor. Widely regarded as the father of European Studies in China he has published numerous books and articles in scholarly journals. Professor Dai Bingran was the first Chinese scholar who translated the Maastricht Treaty into Chinese. He won the European Union's Jean Monnet Prize in 2008.

**Prof. Chen Zhimin** (Politics) is Professor of International Politics and Jean Monnet Chair professor. Professor Chen sits at the editorial board of Pacific Review and Hague Journal of Diplomacy. His publications, both in Chinese and English, focus on European foreign policy, diplomacy studies and Chinese foreign policy.



**Dr Chen Yugang** (International Relations) is a Professor and Associate Dean at the SIRPA. An expert on European integration, his focus on theoretical issues, the combining of Chinese and contemporary Western perspectives has begun to reap important new insights. Dr Chen has published extensively in the field of International Relations theories and their application to the study of China's foreign policy.

**Dr Jian Junbo** (Politics) is a research fellow at the Center for European Studies. He earned his doctor's degree in International Politics from Fudan University, and has been conducting research on EU-China-Africa relations. He is at the forefront of efforts to help the world understand China's involvement in Africa and how it impacts EU-China relations.



**Dr Bo Yan** is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Politics, SIRPA. Concentrating on the field of environmental governance and international organizations, she has worked at and with a host of distinguished international institutions, including the Yale Center for International and Area Studies.

**Dr John Armstrong** is a lecturer at the Department of International Politics, SIRPA. Reflecting the need for effective bridges between the EU and China, his research focuses on international institutions, negotiation and mediation.

## Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

The Faculty of Social Sciences is the second youngest faculty of Charles University. Its Department of West European Studies is responsible for two well-established Master programmes in European Studies and in West European Studies (both in Czech). Recently, it opened a new English language Master programme in European Studies. The Department received the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence award for European Studies two times—the first time was in 1999 as the first institute in Central and Eastern Europe. The Faculty has participated in a number of international research projects, including EU-CONSENT, CONNEX, and IGC Net. In MERCURY, Charles University participates in Work Package I 'Mapping Modes of Multilateralism' and leads Work Package III 'Multilateralism in Practice'.

**Prof Lenka Anna Rovná** is a Jean Monnet Chair Ad Personam, chair of the Department of West European Studies, and the bearer of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies at Charles University. She is Honorary President of ECSA–Czech. She has participated in various Czech government committees on European integration and education, such as the Committee on Scientific Output Evaluation. Professor Rovná served as government representative's alternate in the European Convention. She lectures in European and British Politics and her areas of research include European Integration Processes, Convention and Institutional Reform, and British Political System and History. She participates in the MERCURY Steering Group and leads the Charles team.



**Ms Lubica Debnárová** is a PhD candidate at Charles University. Her research focuses on the European Neighbourhood Policy and the role of individual member states. She contributes to a paper on modernization in the EU neighbourhood in MERCURY.



### Updated Version of the DATEX database!

MERCURY is setting up a database categorising legal acts on external relations instruments in the framework of EC and CFSP from a multilateral perspective.

A revised and extended version of DATEX was launched in August 2010, and includes qualitative and quantitative data on the level of multilateralism in the fields of Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Commercial Policy. A final version will be published in the coming months.

Link <http://www.mercury-fp7.net/index.php?id=10075>



**Prof. Ivo Šlosarčík** is Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law and Associate Professor of European Studies at Charles University and at the Prague campus of New York University. He has participated in various advisory groups to the Czech administration on EU issues, including the Czech Presidency. He was founding member and director of research of the

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. He specialises on EU constitutional law, European cooperation in criminal law and transformation of national political and administrative structures in the context of the EU membership. In MERCURY, he participates in both Work Package I and III.

**Mr Tomáš Weiss** is a PhD candidate and lecturer at Charles University. His research and teaching focuses on reaction to new security threats, the EU common foreign and security policy and transatlantic relations. In MERCURY, he will contribute to the paper on conflict management in the EU neighbourhood and serve as administrative contact.



### 24 March 2011

MERCURY Plenary plus workshops on “Multilateralism in Practice” (Work Package III) and “Organised Multilateralism” (Work Package IV), Prague.

### October 2011

MERCURY joint conference with the EU4SEAS and EU-GRASP, together with Stakeholder conference, Brussels.



**Ms Věra Řiháčková** is a PhD candidate at Charles University. She is also a senior research fellow in the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in Prague. She focuses on EU institutional reform, European Neighbourhood Policy, and security and counter-terrorism. In

MERCURY, she contributes to papers on conflict management and modernization in the EU neighbourhood.