

EIN SUMMER UNIVERSITY RIGA 2018

“THE EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE”

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Round Table 1 - RESPONSIBILITY UNION - External policies of the Union and development

External policies are a core value in shaping the design of a prosperous and bigger Europe for all. Promoting external action based on democracy and the rule of law; ensure a smooth and effective enlargement process as well as spread our fundamental principles; keep working on eradication of poverty across the world will lead to a strong Europe, both at home as well as abroad with the cooperation of other nations such as Australia and New Zealand.

Enlargement is a priority for Europe. Since it started, the process has been very successful. The European Union must carry on promoting stability and prosperity within all European and neighbouring countries too. By having a clear and chosen strategy, it will consequently lead us to have a more tactical approach towards foreign policy. How can we, through the European way of life, portray security and stability to our countries and neighbours?

Nowadays, we should carry on supporting and reinforcing the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood partnership with different approaches, adequate to each country, while also empowering them through freedom of expression, rights and access to information and organisation of fair elections and democracy. Now, Europe needs to focus on new geopolitical scenarios that prioritise security and safety in the regions surrounding the EU.

Russia is an important neighbour. The relationship between Russia and Europe must be based on common security and peace. Europe needs a clear strategy regarding the conflict between Russia-Syria. Russia entered a dangerous symbiosis regarding security and Europe needs to apply full force of the law against Russian organised crime and the corruption emanating from Russian business activities in the European Union. So far, the sanctions applied have been effective but to what extent can we keep these? We need Russia as much as Russia needs us but this reciprocity can only be achieved through common values, democracy, trust and respect. The global challenges call upon good relations from both sides therefore, how can we keep a consistency between internal and external policies between the EU and Russia going beyond the consolidation of common policies (on trade, energy, migration)?

Trade plays a major role in internal and international affairs as it can make a significant contribution to the creation of new jobs and economic growth in Europe and deepen the relationship between the EU and its partners. We are in favour of advancing trade relations with our immediate neighbourhood. We give high priority to the conclusion of a Trade Agreement with the US, leading to potentially dramatic changes in world trade.

On the other side of the Atlantic, it is vital to keep the transatlantic relations which are undoubtedly a cornerstone Europe's external policy. The relationship between Europe and the USA have come a long way throughout the years and together, the EU and the US have

the largest bilateral trade and investment relationship in the world, with around a third of world trade and half of the world's GDP. Although some disagreements with the Congress may prevail, it is now time to consolidate and strengthen the “partnership leadership” across the Atlantic. The dialogue between both sides must be based on the promotion of common values such as: freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights. How can we get back on track with TTIP negotiations?

External policies also involve the drive of reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty. Nowadays, Europe needs to go beyond the traditional development aid to achieve this goal. Development aid is important when it comes to addressing migration. Creating a strong economy is a core to facilitate environmental needs which consequently will lead to the assistance of those who seek help the most. Human rights are in our forefront and Europe has to be an example and promoting these by raising awareness about human rights situations across the world. This is our chance to thrive. Europe has the lead. In which other ways can we address defence and security, trade, development aid and human rights?

Round Table 2 - UNION OF OPPORTUNITIES - Economic growth, industrial competitiveness, research and innovation

Europe is facing a period of change both on an economic and technological level. Digital innovation is (re)shaping our societies, economies and industries. Speed and scale are undoubtedly today's ingredients to a Europe of opportunities. Innovation brings digital transformation a political, economic and social growth and competitiveness, therefore we should embrace this digital transformation. Renewing industry and enterprise through new technologies and innovation creates new jobs and allow businesses to raise in a prosperous Europe. To embrace the digital transition, we need a regulatory environment that drives competition and innovation, and empowers companies with trust and an awareness of the benefits of digital technology.

Big data and Internet has a vast offer of opportunities for Europe. These tools drive economic growth, new jobs and it improves the lives of citizens by bringing efficiency in many ways: health, education, transportation, services, energy, environment and manufacturing.

Healthcare and education in Europe face challenges that include rising costs, ageing populations, increasing expectations by the citizens, and increased budgetary pressure. Therefore, it is important to promote high quality education in order to support competitiveness of the EU economy, conducting to not only innovation but also entrepreneurship.

Such exposure may also bring challenges that need to be tackled carefully. Technology needs to be secure and sustainable for all. It is important to create policies that protect citizens,

their rights when it comes to safety, security and privacy. This seems to be a problem yet to be dealt efficiently in Europe.

It is important to assure the digital world is rooted in our education systems, starting from young generations. Education with equal access promotes growth and equality, especially with regard to threats from technological change and demographics. There is still a 70% gap of people who lack digital skills which means there is a large risk of digital exclusion which will lead to significant social and economic impacts. How can we tackle this impasse?

Innovation is the key for Europe to be at the forefront of global competition. Europe must take full advantage of the internet and invest in ways of improving the system. Through internet it is possible to promote democracy, European values, cultural diversity and human rights. However, how can Europe keep on improving in the Tec-universe without compromising its people, their safety, their jobs, education, health and their future?

Round Table 3 - SECURITY UNION - EU Security and defence and strategies on counter terrorism and extremism

Nowadays and after the series of unfolding terrorist attacks and a rise of extremism across Europe, our perception of security calls for a stronger and sharper European Union. Preventing and combating extremism is a major priority and this can only be achieved if all Member States cooperate on the same level. We cannot have peace, justice freedom and security taken for granted and these are values that Europe need to protect as much as possible.

In order to keep security and defence in Europe and across borders, it is vital to keep supporting democracy and good governance in the neighbouring countries. Developing civil societies, support women and their political participation are all elements that promote this.

Europe has been underinvesting in defence for many years, and EU member states must individually and collectively step up their efforts. Strengthening the EU-NATO strategic partnership and cooperation with other important security and development actors is paramount.

Due to the high number of terrorist and extremist attacks across Europe, security and defence are core subjects and challenges shared by all Member States. Radicalisation needs to be tackled and prevention efforts at the EU level must be strengthened to match accordingly the scale and pace of such phenomenon.

RAN-Radicalisation Awareness Network and its Centre of Excellence have been serving as a support in countering radicalisation and consequently, violent extremism. Although RAN has been doing an outstanding job regarding prevention, Europe needs more. The proposal

envisions the creation of the “EU Centre of Excellence for Preventing Radicalisation (CoE PR)” which would serve as a hub of expertise in supporting the EU institutions and Member States in preventing radicalisation.

The flow of refugees and economic migrants coming from Syria, Libya, Somalia, Nigeria amongst other countries is a constant challenge to Europe’s capacities to cope with such flows. In the East, Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea posed a direct challenge to European security.

Asylum seekers and refugees coming to Europe through the EU-Turkey border or the Western Balkans seem to affect the stability within those regions which burdens several of European Member States. Although the instability is spreading, Europe needs to have more control over its external borders and at the same time, maintain societal stability and values.

It is essential to use RAN as an agent to help Member States in tackling radicalisation and extremist propaganda spreading rapidly. How could we build the bridge between RAN and CoE PR?

Round Table 4 - UNION OF VALUES

What is a (European) Union of values nowadays? Since the Cold War, Europe and its values have been facing a number of challenges: the rise of populism and the far right, the refugee crisis, Trump and China are part of this big picture. Nevertheless, the European Union is the pioneer in emanating core values such as promoting democracy, human rights and freedom to the rest of the world. Our western values are pioneers.

The US are still our greatest ally and Europe should carry on working together in order to keep promoting the rule of law, democracy and freedom despite some disagreements with the current Office.

Russia, China, war crisis, waves of refugees are in the vicinity of the EU and such external developments have a direct impact or are intrinsically linked to some of the domestic situation in EU Member State, such as: terrorism, human trafficking, populism and Russian influence, economic domination by China are all factors that will require a confident Europe, a European Union who is keen on promoting universal values externally as well as internally. A Europe who is ready to stand foreign policy and security despite the economic and financial crisis where we still have sequels.

Undoubtedly, recognising and naming Europe’s flaws are the first step in addressing them. Europe’s strengths regarding innovation, technology, education, social cohesion and sustainable welfare are strong points to hold on to.

On the global scale, development and climate policies remain priorities, in order to counter authoritarianism and terrorism; inside the EU and its Member States, we must return to sustainable growth, fight terrorism and combat human trafficking and illegal migration more effectively while defending liberal democracy with new vigour; in defence, we have to become serious about increasing cooperation and in the transatlantic partnership. What innovative approaches can the European Union take to stabilise its core modules and set an example of prosperity to the rest of the world?

Panel 1 - In which way does the European Way of Life affect the relation between EU and Russia?

The EU - Russia relation has never been easy. However, it is already known that both are key partners at the international scale. Russia does not only play an important role in Europe, but it is also a trans regional power. For this reason, it is in our best interest to foster its cooperation with the EU. The differences between the two are accentuated, which could be a problem, influencing their relations in a better or worse way.

European values, actively pursued by the European Union, are secular and liberal, promoting the protection of human life and dignity, the right to freedom, equality, as well as democratic values and the rule of law. In this context, there are several differences between the European way of life and the Russian options, as the difficult situation regarding the respect for Human Rights in Russia is already known, and there are constant violations of human dignity and life. Thus, the repressive legislation regarding freedom of expression (great control of information in the media) and Human Rights activism are witnessed. Worsening the situation is also the intense persecution towards ethnic minorities, women and LGBT people, all resulting in abuse and inhumane treatment. The annexation of Crimea was totally unsupported by the EU, which, together with other Western countries, enacted a set of sanctions against Russia.

However, contrary to what might be expected, the economic link between the EU and Russia remains steady and strong. The relationship of interdependence is obvious - the EU remains Russia's largest trading partner, which, on the other hand, is the European Union's main energy supplier.

Evaluating this whole picture, will Russia ever be able to open up to the same values that depict the European way of life? Will the European Union be able to overcome such differences at the political and social level in order to maintain a good economic relationship?

Panel 2 - In which way does the European Way of Life protect Human Dignity?

As mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights and, therefore, have the right to be valued, respected and treated ethically. However, all these concepts of value, respect and

condign treatment can be the target of various conceptions, being the understanding of the concept of human dignity by each involved part that will influence the visions and involvement to adopt in varied subjects throughout life.

Human Dignity is an inherent right to human identity, thus giving man more individual power, since he is endowed with reason and conscience that allows him to make his own decisions. However, this can lead to other issues. European values promote the freedom of the individual and the protection of human dignity. In a broader context, it is up to the European Union to adopt a way of life that promotes the respect for the Human Rights of all citizens, always acting accordingly with the values that have been fulfilled, which allow to tackle situations of great violations, in terms of slavery, persecution, among others.

On the other hand, the debate can also be extended to the bioethical viewpoint. The very first and most important European value is the protection of human life, so in matters of bioethics, for example with regard to voluntary interruption of pregnancy or the right to euthanasia, inconsistencies may arise between the moral behaviour to be adopted in the light of these requests and the judicial obligations of health professionals. In this context, given the European way of life and shared values among member states, there is an increased need to regulate these cases in order to ensure, above all, the protection of the individual's dignity.

Assuming that all the European countries share the same values and way of life, are we doing our best on protecting human dignity in reality? Are we on the way to find the solution for the gap between moral values and justice?

Panel 3 - In which way does the European Way of Life shape our Common Security and Stability in the Mediterranean Region?

The concept of security has undergone some changes over time, tracking most recent changes and challenges, with special attention to the immigration flow. Stability in the Mediterranean region means security for Europe. For this reason, stability in the Mediterranean should be one of the first priorities for Europe, using all the economic and human potential for peace and prosperity that will benefit Europe and its neighbours.

One of the things to be put into practice immediately is the outline of the political strategy on tackling the migration and refugee crisis that has shaken Europe. In this way, there is an even more pressing need for greater cooperation between the European Union member states in undertaking this issue. In order to combat this crisis, it is not only important to deal with the consequences and problems that arise from this situation, but also to fight the main cause. To support partners that are undertaking reforms, as well as promoting democratic values, the rule of law and the protection of human rights (values that characterize the European way of life) is the right path to reach prosperity and stability of the Mediterranean region. The European role is to promote democracy and free democratic elections in the region by making

use of its own political instruments and crisis management capabilities, which will help emerging democracies. Europe should lead by example.

In this context where security is also gaining ground, it is important to reinforce the role of young people in the creation and dissemination of conflict prevention material by promoting their education, which will allow to prevent their radicalization and engagement in terrorist groups.

Will all these measures be enough to delineate a better common strategy on security and stability in the Mediterranean region? Can we say that the European way of life, which has already revealed its advantages, will have some influence in promoting peace, stability and economic growth in the region?

Panel 4 - In which way does the European Way of Life affect the future of the EU Transatlantic relations?

Europe and America have always been in constant connection, with Iberian Peninsula being the main interlocutor of these relations, since Portugal and Spain have always had a privileged relationship with Brazil and Latin America, respectively, making it possible to tighten the bonds between these two continents. The EU-US relationship is long standing, underpinned by strong historical links. Together, they are the largest providers of development aid and represent the world's largest intercontinental commercial flow. Transatlantic relations provide economic, political and cultural opportunities. A strong and vibrant relationship between EU-US delivers growth and stability for business and citizens.

However, this relationship is much more than numbers. The shared values and visions are the core of this transatlantic relationship, bringing prosperity and growth on the global level. We share the same threats and challenges, being even more pressing the cooperation on transnational issues such as the defence of human rights, non-proliferation of weapons, conflict prevention, among others. All these efforts will, later on, reflect on global benefits.

The current situation of the transatlantic relations is a bit more delicate at this point, given the changes that have taken place on both sides of the Atlantic. While in Europe we are still dealing with Brexit's shock, trying to gauge the current and future impact, in the United States, Trump's presidency has somewhat shaken the strong relationship between the EU and the US. The consecutive transformations of the international system should not, however, disregard the fact that we share the same democratic values, human rights and rule of law based societies. Therefore, it is of common interest to preserve the prosperity and security already achieved over the years. The future of EU Transatlantic relations is to strengthen this partnership and overcome the difficulties.

How can we jointly work on the different challenges that already exist, as well as on others that are approaching?