

# War & Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

## The EU ahead of a new political cycle and a new geopolitical era

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CIDOB

BARCELONA  
CENTRE FOR  
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DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES,  
UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Y COOPERACIÓN

## The EU ahead of a new political cycle and a new geopolitical era

The EU is facing a new political cycle beginning with the European Parliament elections scheduled for June 2024. The new European legislature will determine the leadership of European institutions and the scope of future EU policies. A fragmented parliament and/or one with little incentive to deepening integration will hinder the EU's ability to address the internal and external challenges that it is facing. Considering it has been more than fifteen years since the latest major institutional reform -the Lisbon Treaty-, the EU could undertake new reforms to gain efficiency and legitimacy and get ready for an increasingly complex global context.

Internally, issues such as EU enlargement and reform, green and digital transitions, the Migration and Asylum Pact, fiscal reforms and the EU's own resources, European defence, and persistent divisions between EU member states require renewed efforts for consensus and internal transformations. Externally, the EU needs to increase its mechanisms and resources to tackle the challenges of a complex geopolitical reality, with open conflicts in European territory and its neighbourhood: the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, the relationship with the US and China, the rivalry with Russia, and a necessary engagement with the so-called Global South. The seminar "War and Peace in the 21st Century: The EU ahead of a new political cycle and a new geopolitical era" will contribute to the analysis of the EU's internal dynamics and how to address its relations with major powers in an era of changing geopolitical alliances.

### 09:30 **Opening**

**Jaume Collboni**, Mayor of Barcelona  
**Antoni Segura**, Chairman of the Board, CIDOB

### 09:45 **Introduction**

**Javier Solana**, Honorary Chairman of the Board, CIDOB; President, EsadeGeo

### 10:00 **Reforming and enlarging the European Union for a new era**

*A discussion between:*

**Daniela Schwarzer**, Member of the Bertelsmann Stiftung Executive Board  
**Loukas Tsoukalis**, President, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)  
**Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze**, Member of Parliament; Chair, Committee on Ukraine's Integration with the EU  
**Brigid Laffan**, President, European Policy Centre

*Chaired and moderated by:*

**Cristina Gallach**, Member of Global Women Leaders Voices; former UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

*Followed by a debate between the speakers*

### 11:15 **Coffee break**

### 11:45 **The EU in a new geopolitical context**

*A discussion between:*

**Jean-Marie Guéhenno**, Director, Kent Global Leadership Program on Conflict Resolution, Columbia University  
**Natalie Nougayrède**, Member of the Council, European Council on Foreign Relations  
**Maha Yahya**, Director, Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center  
**Wang Huiyao**, Founder and President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG)

*Chaired and moderated by:*

**Xavier Mas de Xaxàs**, Diplomatic Correspondent, La Vanguardia

*Followed by a debate between the speakers*

### 13:00 **Debate with the audience**

### 13:30 **Closing Remarks**

**Pol Morillas**, Director, CIDOB

Working language: English

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#WP2024