



Direction générale des Politiques externes de l'Union
Direction des commissions
Secrétariat de la commission des affaires étrangères

European Global Strategy (EGS) meeting on the 21st of February

Foreign Ministers Carl Bildt and Radosław Sikorski will speak at the joint meeting of the European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs and Sub-Committee on Security and Defence (AFET/SEDE) on the European Global Strategy (EGS) initiative launched in July 2012 by the Foreign Ministers of Italy, Poland, Spain and Sweden.

The meeting has been convened by the Chair of the Committee for Foreign Affairs Mr. Elmar Brok and the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Security and Defence Mr. Arnaud Danjean. The Director of the European Union's Institute for Security Studies (EU ISS) Antonio Missiroli will also provide remarks on how European strategic thinking in foreign policy has evolved.

The speeches will be followed by an exchange of views with members of the European Parliament and National Parliaments of the Union. The meeting will provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to be informed on this new initiative and give their input to the ongoing reflection process on the future of the EU external action.

The presence of representatives of the national parliaments of the EU is important. It will enrich and stimulate European strategic thinking in this important area and contribute to the development of a more coherent approach to the Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policies of the Union.

European Global Strategy (EGS) - inspiring a debate on the EU's global role

The intention of the debate is to provide an input to the formulation of a future European Global Strategy, which should be then brought to the attention of all the EU institutions and EU member states. This reflection process should contribute towards framing a clear mandate for the High Representative/Vice-President to provide political guidance in the EU external policies. This initiative will also contribute to a wider reflection on the future of the Union and is closely related to the current review of the European External Action Service and European Council's important discussion on defence taking place at the end of 2013.

At the time of political and economic crisis, a global environment in flux and a decade after the adoption of the European Security Strategy (2003), there is a need for a re-definition of EU priorities and goals on the international scene as well as to hold a reflection on the areas in which the EU's collective action would have the greatest leverage and added value.

In addition, the economic crisis has resulted in a shift in the balance of powers globally and highlighted the need for refocusing and re-targeting the EU's external action. There have been calls for the EU to re-define its interests and on this basis re-prioritise its objectives in

order to preserve its role in the world and continue to provide peace, stability and economic prosperity for future generations.

The EGS process and its outcome

This think tank-driven process will be finalised in May 2013 with a report on elements for an EGS. The report will be submitted to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU member states.

The process includes a series of workshops and conferences as well as an online debate. It is designed to be open and transparent, welcoming participation from creative thinkers in the academic, think-tank and practitioner communities. To-date, 19 European and international organizations have joined the debate as associated institutes, contributing through written material and active participation in workshops.

The four leading institutes are: the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), the Elcano Royal Institute for International and Strategic and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Ui). These institutes serve as the focus for information and coordination of the process. So far, three seminars have been organised in Warsaw, Stockholm and Rome in order to take-stock, draw lessons from the past, as well as set out practical and conceptual issues and priorities for the EU's external action.

The four core think tanks work in an independent and autonomous fashion, in order to encourage a lively and thought provoking debate. You can follow the European Global Strategy process at www.europeanglobalstrategy.eu, and on Twitter: @euglobstrat.