

EU MEMBER STATES AND RUSSIA: NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN DEBATES IN AN EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

On Thursday 15 March 2018, at 13:30–15:30
In the Auditorium of the Annex Building of the Parliament,
Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki

The Ukraine and Syrian crises, different views concerning the future of the post-Soviet space and allegations of electoral interference have had a profound impact on EU-Russia relations. At the same time, for the EU Russia has remained an important interlocutor in the resolution of international crises, from Iran to North Korea, and a key energy provider. From an EU perspective, this situation is compounded by a growing number of challenges – the refugee crisis, Brexit, terrorism, instability in North Africa and the weakening of the transatlantic partnership – which also influence relations with Moscow. The seminar examines how the evolving international scenario affects relations between the EU, its member states and Russia. How have EU-level and national debates on Russia developed? What are the prospects for a common European policy towards Moscow? Is the EU-Russia relationship set on a long-term confrontational path, or is there room for cooperation and a rapprochement?

The seminar marks the publication of the FIIA report “EU member states and Russia: National and European debates in an evolving international environment”

Programme:

- Opening remarks and Chair:* **Juha Jokela**, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs
- Keynote:* **John Bogaerts**, Deputy Head of the Russia Division, European External Action Service
- Report presentation:* **Marco Siddi**, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs
- Speakers:* **Derek Averre**, Professor, University of Birmingham
- Sinikukka Saari**, Senior Expert, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland



John Bogaerts is currently deputy Head of the Russia Division at the European External Action Service, responsible for strategic planning and policy definition related to EU relations with Russia. Before that he served as the EEAS based Chairperson of the Council of the EU's Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which handles all aspects of EU relations and cooperation with countries in Eastern Europe, including Russia, and Central Asia. Prior to joining the European External Action Service he served with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in particular at the Netherlands Permanent Representation to the European Union where he dealt with the Eastern Partnership, the EU's neighbourhood policy, Russia, as well as Asia and Latin America.



Marco Siddi is Senior Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, where he focuses on EU–Russia relations and Southern European politics. He has worked at think tanks in Italy, Germany, Belgium and Hungary. He studied at Oxford University, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the University of Edinburgh, where he received a PhD in Politics.



Derek Averre has been a member of CREES since 1991, first as a Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow working on a long-running (1991–2015) UK Government-funded project on arms control and economic transition, and latterly as Senior Lecturer and Reader. From August 2008 to August 2012 he was Director of CREES. He has published a co-edited book *New Security Challenges in Postcommunist Europe: Securing Europe's East* and numerous journal articles on these themes in *International Affairs*, *European Security*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Europe-Asia Studies* and *Demokratizatsiya*, as well as several book chapters. He has submitted oral and written evidence at recent House of Commons and House of Lords inquiries and maintains strong links with the UK Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He is also on the editorial board of *European Security*.



Sinikukka Saari is a Senior Expert at the Unit for Planning and Research at Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Prior to her current position, she worked as a Senior Researcher at the FIIA. She has also worked at the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, as a Reporting Officer and as an Mission Analytical Capability Analyst. She holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her areas of expertise include Russian politics, Russian relations with other post-Soviet states and EU–Russia relations.



Juha Jokela is the Programme Director of the European Union research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His current research interests include political implications of Brexit, differentiated integration (in EU's external relations), and the EMU reforms. His previous projects and publications include political and security developments in the Arctic, EU's role in the G20, EU's Asia policy, Europeanization of foreign policy, and Finland's EU policy. Previously he has worked in the EUISS as a Senior Associated Analyst and Senior Visiting Research Fellow, Advisor in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and Research Fellow and Director of the Network for European Studies in the University of Helsinki. Dr. Jokela holds a PhD from the University of Bristol (UK).