

# *Globalisation and the End of Atlantism: a cosmopolitan path for Europe*

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For decades, Western European security was based on what we might call, as a cliché, Atlantism. From the European perspective, the defence of the West and the stability of the Atlantic Alliance relied upon the unconditional support to the US. Despite the crises of Suez, Vietnam, and others, the transatlantic alliance became an end in itself.

The world that has followed the Cold war and 9-11 has witnessed rapid, unprecedented changes in world security, both at the conceptual and the practical levels. These changes have dismantled the foundations of the Atlantic Alliance. All the elements that once configured the so-called "Atlantist" view of the world are almost gone. Contrary to the Cold war era, there is not a "Western" security anymore - as, paradoxically, NATO out of area missions and Eastern enlargement demonstrates - but a truly "Global" one. Neither the new global threats (such as asymmetrical terrorism, massive immigration or contagious diseases) nor the new economic challenges posed by the EU enlargement to the East, can be managed with the traditional, Atlantist tools.

Today, the EU claims for a more balanced transatlantic relation according to its global status, while facing a double-edge geopolitical and normative challenge. For Europe, the redesigning of the geopolitical chessboard implies the need for a new, more comprehensive paradigm of security. Three options can be envisaged on the horizon: a new atlantism, gaullisme, and cosmopolitanism.

A deeper analysis reveals that the cosmopolitan is the most plausible according to the principles, interests and possibilities of the EU.

Multilateralism and multipolarity would be the cornerstones of this new global order characterized no longer by a "balance of power", but by a "balanced power". This would mean taking further steps towards a complementarity of NATO with the EFSP and not a subordination.

Yet, many questions remain. Would the cosmopolitan model be acceptable for all the EU member states? Southern European countries like Spain face quite different challenges to those of Eastern and Baltic countries. The central question, then, is how to reconcile the different views in a single, consistent cosmopolitan EU perspective.