



SORBONNE UNIVERSITY,  
CENTRE UNIVERSITAIRE  
MALESHERBES (ROOM 117),  
108 BOULEVARD  
MALESHERBES, PARIS,  
FRANCE

APRIL 28, 2017,  
15:30-20:00

MORGANE.FERTMALKA@WEBUILDE  
UROPE.EU

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# EU – RUSSIA: OVERCOMING THE ZERO-SUM GAME IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS?

The South Caucasus, with its three republics and three breakaway territories, is a geopolitically critical region where multiple games of influence meet and clash. In addition to the complicated relations between Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and between them and the so-called "de facto states", a number external actors are deploying their own strategies of influence in the region: Russia, the European Union, Turkey, Iran, the United States to some extent and increasingly China.

The Ukraine crisis has demonstrated the limits and the danger of the confrontational logic between the European Union's Eastern Partnership and Russia's "near abroad" or Eurasian policy. The South Caucasus could be the next "hot spot" for an EU-Russia conflict, but it is also ripe with opportunities for cooperation between these two geopolitical actors.

External conditions - increasing tensions between the Euro-Atlantic community and Russia - point to more confrontation and less cooperation. But regional conditions allow for hope. The South Caucasus' many unresolved issues are so many opportunities to find commonly accepted solutions. The region's critical location could be the place where interests meet. Can the "zero-sum" logic be overcome in the South Caucasus? How to raise the region's visibility in the EU-Russian bilateral agenda? And how to create a sustainable multilateral dialogue for the strategic development of the region?

2 PRESENTATIONS

ROUND TABLE WITH  
INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

DISCUSSION WITH THE  
AUDIENCE

CULINARY SPECIALTIES FROM  
THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

ORGANIZED BY



WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

# EU - RUSSIA: OVERCOMING THE ZERO-SUM GAME IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS?

SORBONNE UNIVERSITY, CENTRE UNIVERSITAIRE MALESHERBES (ROOM 117)

PARIS, FRANCE

April 28, 2017 (15:30 - 20:00)

15h30 – 15h45

## **Opening**

Morgane FERT-MALKA, Freelance political analyst, co-Founder of WeBuildEurope.eu

15h50-16h20

## **Academic presentation on:**

### **“Instrumentalisation of refugees in the South Caucasus”**

Sophie DEYON, Analyst in EU Affairs, Migration & Asylum, co-Founder Caucasus Initiative, Europe

16h30-17h30

## **Round table on:**

### **“Old and new geopolitical actors in the South Caucasus: influence, peacekeeping and risk reduction”**

Dr. Randolph Wallace RHEA (Moderator), War and Peace Dynamics/DDR expert, Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø, Norway

Dr. Nicu POPESCU, EU-Russia relations, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), France and Belgium

Dr. Sarah PAGUNG, Germany-Russia Relations, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik eV (DGAP), Germany

Tatevik BIJOYAN, Russian strategic culture and influence in post-Soviet space, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

Dr. Laurent LEYLEKIAN, EU and South Caucasus expert, founder and CEO of Eunoos Public Affairs

17h30-18h00

## **Discussion with the participants**

18h10-18h40

## **Academic presentation on:**

### **“Geopolitical and Legal consequences of the recognition of Abkhazia”**

Sophie CLAMADIEU, Expert in International Law & Armed Conflict Law, co-Founder Caucasus Initiative, Europe

18h45-19h30

## **Networking with culinary specialties from the South Caucasus**

## Speakers

### Dr. Nico POPESCU

#### **EU-Russia relations, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)**

Nicu Popescu has been a Senior Analyst at the EU Institute for Security Studies since July 2013 where he specialises in Russia and the EU's eastern neighbours. He also teaches at Sciences Po Paris. He previously worked as advisor on foreign policy and EU affairs for the prime minister of Moldova (2010, 2012-2013) where he dealt with a wide spectrum of foreign policy issues, as well as domestic reforms such as the visa liberalisation process and Moldova's accession to the European Common Aviation Area. Prior to this, he worked as head of programme and senior research fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations in London (2007-2009, 2011-2012), and as a research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels (2005-2007). He holds a PhD in International Relations from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

### Dr. Randolph Wallace RHEA

#### **War and Peace Dynamics/DDR expert, Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø**

Randolph Wallace Rhea is the acting academic coordinator for the Centre for Peace Studies' (CPS) interdisciplinary Master's of Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT) Program at the University of Tromsø (UiT), Norway. His teaching and research activities are focused on a broad range of topics including the ethics of war, human rights, humanitarian interventions, political economy of violence, gender, peace education, international law, restorative justice, transitional justice, and ex-combatant demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR). Dr. Rhea is a core member of the International Research Group on Reintegration (IRGR) and has collaborated extensively with the World Bank, UN, and International DDR Training Group (IDDRTG).

### Dr. Sarah PAGUNG

#### **Germany-Russia Relations, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik eV (DGAP)**

Sarah Pagung joined the Robert Bosch Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia in December 2013. Her research focuses on **"Russian foreign and information policies and on Moldova"**. In addition to this, she manages the Discussion Group on Russian and the Eastern Partnership and worked on behalf of the Carl Friedrich Goerdeler-Kolleg from 2013 to 2015.

### Sophie CLAMADIEU

#### **Co-Founder and Analyst in International Law, Policy Center "Caucasus Initiative"**

Following her dual Master / LLM at the University of Aix Marseille (France) and the University of Ottawa (Canada), Sophie did an internship at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in the Hague and the Tribunal for the Former-Yugoslavia. She is one of the co-Founder of the Policy Center "Caucasus Initiative" and the Editor in Chief of the **"Journal of Black Sea Studies"**.

## **Sophie DEYON**

### **Co-Founder and Analyst in EU Affairs, Migration & Asylum, Policy Center “Caucasus Initiative”**

Sophie Deyon owns two Masters in International Relations from Sorbonne University (Paris-Sorbonne, France) and in European Politics from the LSE (Great Britain). Following a Research Scholarship at Columbia University (United States), she worked for the IRIS think-tank, the European Commission and as Rapporteur for the French domestic jurisdiction dealing with asylum seekers (CNDA). She is one of the co-Founder of the Policy Center “Caucasus Initiative”.

## **Tatevik BIJOYAN**

### **Political Science Department, National Research University Higher School of Economics**

Tatevik Bijoyan is a PhD. candidate at National Research University Higher School of Economics, working on **“Transformation of the Russian Strategic culture in Post-Soviet period and its influence on the security policy of the Post-Soviet space”**. Her research focuses on the security police of the South Caucasus. She is currently managing the South Caucasus section of the project “Human Faces of Conflicts”.

## **Dr. Laurent LEYLEKIAN**

### **EU and South Caucasus expert, founder and CEO of Eunoos Public Affairs**

Laurent Leylekian is involved in South Caucasus policy analysis, especially in connection with the EU, for nearly two decades. From 2001 to 2010, he served as Executive director of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy, a Brussels-based NGO which advocates to strengthening the role and the positions of European citizens of Armenian descent in various European policies (Liberty & Security, Enlargement, European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership). In 2014, he founded Eunoos Public Affairs, a consultancy office in public affairs, advising policy-makers on South Caucasus and on Minor Asia. For instance, he recently published an article on water management issues in connection with the Azerbaijan-Karabakh dispute.

## With the generous participation from

### Policy Center “Caucasus Initiative”

The “Caucasus Initiative” is a new independent and unaligned European Policy Center committed to dialogue and discovery. The mission of our research team is to analyze contemporary issues related to de facto states and the Black Sea area, enriching perceptions of the region and furthering international understanding. The Center is not taking any institutional policy positions. The research team is publishing a range of views from our members and external contributors, free to express their own view on the issues related to the Caucasus in the “**Journal of Black Sea Studies**”.



Twitter: @CaucasusIn

### WeBuildEurope.eu

WeBuildEurope.eu was founded by a group of students and graduates from Sciences Po Paris, Oxford University, College of Europe, Zeppelin University and University of Graz, to spark and lead the discussion about proactive strategies for the EU. The team brings to the debate a young, creative and academic perspective from outside the current EU establishment and independent from political parties, institutions and companies.



Twitter: @wbeEU

### Human Faces of Conflicts

“Human Faces of Conflicts” is an online video and blog platform with stories of people involved in conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Balkans. The project gathers and shares stories of individuals who have supported people on the “other side” of the conflict as well as similar initiatives promoted by local organisations and provide background information on conflicts in the three areas.

The project was developed by nine European young professionals at the Forum for Young Professionals “Europe Lab” 2016 in Croatia and is one of the four winners of the grant competition “Europe Lab 2016”.



Website: <http://facesofconflicts.org>

## Sciences Po Paris

Sciences Po Paris is an international research university, both selective and open onto the world, ranking among the finest institutions in the fields of humanities and social sciences. For this project, Sciences Po constituted a team of students who participated in WeBuildEurope.eu's future leader programme and wrote a comprehensive report on EU and Russian strategies of influence in the South Caucasus.

**SciencesPo**

Twitter: @sciencespo

## Sorbonne Universités

Sorbonne University, whose campuses are in the heart of Paris, covers all major disciplinary fields and offers new transversal academic and research programs. In 2018, the merger of Paris-Sorbonne and Pierre et Marie Curie universities will transform Sorbonne University into a fully fledged university with three autonomous faculties: Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Medicine.



Twitter: @Sorbonne\_U

## Paris-Sorbonne University, Doctoral School of Modern and Contemporary History

Paris-Sorbonne University is the main inheritor of the old Sorbonne, which dates back to the 13th century. It was one of the first universities in the world. The largest institution in France dedicated to the study of literature, languages, civilizations, arts, humanities and social sciences is located on the original medieval foundations, and now extends to the Latin Quarter and to other areas in Paris.



Twitter: @Paris\_Sorbonne

## Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø

The Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) is part of the University in Tromsø, Norway. Founded in 2002, it emphasises interdisciplinary approaches to peace and conflict studies. It combines a High North perspective with a focus on comparative Global South issues in producing high-quality knowledge and competencies of theoretical and practical value.



UiT / THE ARCTIC UNIVERSITY OF NORWAY

Twitter: @CPS\_UiT

## Organizers

### **Dr. Michael Eric LAMBERT**

Founder and Director of the Policy Center “Caucasus Initiative”

### **Morgane FERT-MALKA**

Freelance political analyst, co-Founder of WeBuildEurope.eu

### **Juliette FAURE**

Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO)

### **Mihail PRESLE**

IÉSEG School of Management

### **Benjamin HIRSCH**

Oxford University