



# EUNPACK

A CONFLICT SENSITIVE UNPACKING OF  
THE EU COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH  
TO CONFLICT AND CRISES MECHANISM

## UNPACKING THE EU'S INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EXTERNAL CONFLICTS AND CRISES

**EUNPACK Final Conference  
Brussels, March 18-19, 2019**

As the Horizon 2020-funded EUNPACK project nears its end, this final conference will provide an opportunity to look back at three years of research and fieldwork and to consider the policy implications of its findings. How has EU crisis response been shaped by the two gaps the projects analysed – between intentions and implementation and between implementation and local reception/perceptions? How did these gaps determine the EU's ability to contribute more effectively to problem-solving on the ground? To answer these questions, EUNPACK combines bottom-up perspectives with an institutional approach in order to deepen our understanding of how EU crisis responses function and are received on the ground in crisis areas. This entails exploring local agencies and perceptions in target countries without losing sight of the EU's institutions, their expectations and ambitions. It also entails examining the whole crisis cycle.

The final conference will bring together EUNPACK researchers and their peers with policymakers, civil society representatives and other practitioners, drawn from universities, think tanks, the EU institutions, and diplomatic missions in Brussels.

### **Day 1**

09:00-10:30 Governing Council Meeting 7 (D9)

10:30-12:30 General Assembly Meeting 3 (D9)

12:30-13:15 Registration and light lunch

13:15-13:30 **WELCOME: HOW CONFLICT-SENSITIVE IS EU CRISIS RESPONSE?**

The welcoming speech sets the scene, looks back at 3 years of project implementation, and suggests some of the key policy recommendations.

*Morten Bøas, NUPI and Principal Investigator of the EUNPACK project*

13:30-14:00 **KEYNOTE: HOW TO INCREASE EU CONFLICT SENSITIVITY?**  
*Hilde Hardeman, Head of Service, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments,  
European Commission*

14:00-15:30 **PANEL 1 – Concepts and policy planning**  
Moderator: *Pernille Rieker, NUPI*

**The EU's Integrated Approach to Crisis Response: Learning from NATO, UN and OSCE**  
*Loes Debuysere, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)*

Discussants:

*Ruben-Erik Diaz-Plaja, Policy Planning Unit, Office of the Secretary General, NATO*  
*Melis-Sandrine Alguadis, PRISM, EEAS*

15:30-16:00 Coffee/tea

16:00-17:30 **PANEL 2 – The EU in Eastern Europe**  
Moderator: *Jozef Batora, Comenius University, Bratislava*

**Ten years of EULEX mission in Kosovo**

*Mateja Peter, University of St. Andrews, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)*  
*Sonja Stojanović Gajić, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP)*

**The EU's crisis response in Ukraine**

*Roman Petrov, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv*

Discussants:

*Katja Lenzing, Support Group for Ukraine/DG NEAR*  
*Xavier Denis, CMPD, EEAS*  
*Isabelle Ioannides, EPRS*

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## Day 2

08:45-09:15 Registration and coffee

09:15-09:30 **WARM-UP: Key drivers for conflict-sensitive EU approach**  
*Ingo Peters, Freie University in Berlin*

09:30-11:00 **PANEL 3 – The EU in the Wider Neighbourhood**  
Moderator: *Kari Osland, NUPI*

**Crisis Response and Border Management in Libya**

*Francesco Strazzari, Sant'Anna University, Pisa*

## **The European Union in Mali – Five Years to Little Avail?**

*Abdoul Wahab Cissé, Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA)*

## **The EU in Afghanistan**

*Orzala A. Nemat, Afghanistan Research & Evaluation Unit (AREU)*

Discussants:

*tbc*

11:00-11:30 Coffee/tea

### **11:30-13:00 WRAP-UP: WHAT LESSONS FOR EU POLICYMAKERS? / EU CRISIS RESPONSE: THE WAY AHEAD**

This panel will explore the policy recommendations that emerge from EUNPACK research, and the prospects for their implementation.

Moderator: *Steven Blockmans, CEPS*

*Morten Bøas, NUPI and Principal Investigator of the EUNPACK project*

*Pernille Rieker, NUPI*

13:00-14:30 Farewell lunch

14:00-18:00 Review meeting

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## **Day 3**

Venue: Norway House

08:30-09:00 Coffee and registration

10:00–12:00 Session I

### **Assessing the EU's Toolbox in Handling Internal and External Challenges**

When the EU launched its Global Strategy in June 2016, it stated that “We need a stronger Europe. This is what our citizens deserve, this is what the wider world expects.” However, in an already fragile world, a range of challenges emerged like beads on a string: Brexit, the election of US President Trump, and the proliferation of authoritarianism, populism, nationalism and xenophobia in the EU's immediate and wider neighbourhood. Many have argued that the liberal world order, including areas such as trade, international law, and multilateral institutions, is in decline. Furthermore, new and protracted crises in Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel, and continuing uncertainties in the Balkans, are of no less concern. Moreover, it is becoming increasingly challenging for the EU to balance its autonomy and interests with those of other key stakeholders both on a national, regional and international level. How can the EU deliver on the vision outlined in its Global Strategy? In other words, which parts of the EU's foreign and security policy repertoire are effective when facing a changing world? Equally as important, which

ones are not? To highlight these crucial questions, we discuss findings from four, international and interdisciplinary H2020-funded research projects: EUNPACK, EU-STRAT, FEUTURE, and INFORM.

Chair: Pernille Rieker (NUPI/EUNPACK)

Speakers:

- Morten Bøås (NUPI/EUNPACK)
- Kyriacos Charalambous (Member of Cabinet of Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations)
- Antoaneta L. Dimitrova (Leiden Uni/EU-STRAT)
- Eric Gordy (University College London/INFORM)
- Eduard Soler (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs/FEUTURE)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 *Session II*

### **The EU, Migrants and Refugees: Building Walls, Fuelling Global Crisis?**

The summer of 2015 was a turning point in the history of the EU. The massive influx of migrants not only manifested a global refugee crisis, but was also a huge challenge for Europe; the EU apparatus proved unable to respond sufficiently. Since then, the political debate on migration in Europe has been polarizing, heated, and even dangerous. For European decision-makers to find a joint policy on migration has been an extremely difficult task, eventually leading the EU to harden its approach by boosting its frontier and coastguard. This has led to a decrease in the number of arrivals, even though in 2018, 68,5 million people were displaced, nearly 3 million more than the year before. A key issue in this regard is that closing the borders may force people to take refuge in weak or vulnerable states, leading to increased pressure on systems that are already struggling to stay afloat. This may potentially lead to more conflict, radicalization, and eventually also more refugees. It should be recognized that the current refugee and migration crisis is not just a local or European problem – it is global. Building a “Fortress Europe” might be necessary as a short-term solution. However, a long-term solution would require different approach. At this event, we will discuss the EU’s crisis response towards the countries in the Middle East and the Sahel where migrants and refugees comes from or are important transit countries – is it helping, or is it counterproductive?

Chair: Kari M. Osland (NUPI)

Speakers:

- Morten Bøås (NUPI)
- Roger MacGinty (University of Manchester)
- Sandra Pogodda (University of Manchester)
- Luca Raineri (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies)
- Edouard Rodier (Director, Norwegian Refugee Council Europe – Brussels)



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