

28. Institutionalising European Cooperation in the Area of Internal Security

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In response to an increasing number of perceived threats to European security, there is a growing emphasis on transnational cooperation among national and supranational actors in Europe. Threats such as avian influenza, natural disasters, terrorism, failed states, and organized crime are seen as transnational in reach and cross-sectoral in scope, revealing the limitations of unilateral state action in a complex security environment. This explains why governments are reaching out across national borders to improve coordination in such matters.

In Europe, much of this cooperation is taking place within the institutional framework of the European Union (EU), a trend which underlines two new realities: first, that the EU's security identity is changing rapidly if we account for the full range of its old and new security initiatives; and second, that European integration is moving forward even after enlargement and the difficulties witnessed in the context of treaty reform. Cooperation may be taking place at the low politics and technical levels, but it is taking place nonetheless. It may even represent the 'new face' of European integration.

Scholars have yet to take systematic account of institutionalisation processes and emerging cooperation patterns in Europe's transnational internal security environment. Such processes and patterns take many and varied forms, some familiar to scholars of European integration, others novel and innovative in nature.

The objective of this workshop is to attract papers from junior as well as established scholars to address the following issues:

- What kind of institutional mechanisms and capacities are being put in place in order to deal with today's "all hazards" internal security concerns?
- How can the nature of new forms of cooperation in today's European security environment be explained?
- In which areas and under what conditions can governance arrangements for security cooperation be found, and how effective, efficient and accountable are such solutions?

We look forward to receiving paper proposals that promise to examine cooperation in different empirical areas of European internal security and we welcome contributions from a diverse range of theoretical perspectives.