What EU Foreign Policy in a more contested World?

November 25th 2021, 18:00-20:00
Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona
Organised by: CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) in the framework of the JOINT project

The European Union’s ambition to become a normative power and contribute to the expansion of liberal and democratic norms, rule of law and multilateralism appears more contested than ever. The Western hegemony of the post-Cold War period has been replaced by a multipolar system characterised by great power rivalry. Re-emerging powers such as China and Russia compete with the United States in the military, trade, health, and energy sectors, and to influence or conquer other regions, oceans and the space. European Union member states are also persistently divided over foreign and security policy issues, particularly after the rise of populist narratives. Moreover, regions to the south and east of the European Union appear fragmented, unstable, and affected by conflicts and crises, whose effects (from economic disruptions to humanitarian and mobility crises) spill over into neighbouring states. What is the role of the EU in such a fragmented and contested world? How norms should be spread in a geopolitical world? Is the need for a joined-up and strategic union the way to become a normative power?

This roundtable aims to understand what kind of actor the European Union is becoming in a world characterised by multipolar contestation and regional fragmentation. The session is part of the JOINT project which assesses the challenges to a more joined-up foreign and security policy of the European Union.

Thursday, November 25th
Roundtable 18:00-20:00
Chair: Pol Morillas, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

Panelists:
Riccardo Alcaro, Senior Researcher, IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali)
Pol Bargués, Research Fellow, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)
Adam Holesch, Research Fellow, IBEI (Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals)
Kristina Kausch, Senior Researcher, German Marshall Fund of the United States
Zachary Paikin, Researcher, CEPS, (Centre for European Policy Studies)
Kristi Raik, Director, ICDS (International Centre for Defence and Security)
Pernille Rieker, Research Professor, NUPI (Norwegian Institute for International Affairs)

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 959143
Participating Institutes:

- **CEPS**, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
- **CIDOB**, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, Barcelona
- **GMF**, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels
- **IAI**, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome
- **IBEI**, Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals, Barcelona
- **ICDS**, International Centre for Defence and Security, Tallinn
- **NUPI**, Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, Oslo