

In search of a new role in world politics. The common European foreign, security and defence policies (CFSP/ESDP) in the light of identity-debates in the member states' mass media

The End of the Cold War brought about a strategic shift in the field of foreign, security and defence policies in Europe. In particular, critical events like wars, humanitarian catastrophes or terrorist attacks provoked public debates in the European member states about the future role of the European Union in world politics. This study traces these collective debates on “who-we-are” and “who-we-want-to-be” in terms of foreign, security and defence policy matters. Also, the project focuses on whether these debates lead to a common construction of a European identity in the media. The empirical part of this study is an analysis of newspapers in three European member states, namely Great Britain, France and Germany, and of one non-European control case, namely the U.S. In sum, the study analyses the media discourse on military and humanitarian intervention within a period of fifteen years (1990-2004). The central question of this project is, if something like a common self-understanding and a set of shared normative convictions has developed in the field of common European foreign, security and defence policies since the end of the Cold War. Further, we ask – in case the search proves successful – how these findings can be explained.

link to the project homepage: www.eu-newgov.org