

*DigiDem-EU WP3: Democracy, Participation and Europeanisation*

## **Global implications of the war in Ukraine and challenges for a new security order**

**Barcelona, 25 April, 2025**

CIDOB, Elisabets, 12, 08001 Barcelona

*Organised by: CIDOB, with the support of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Commission.*

The seminar *Global implications of the war in Ukraine and challenges for a new security order* is part of a larger project entitled “Post-war Europe: How can we rebuild our security architecture?” co-managed by BIGS (Germany), CIDOB (Spain), Egmont (Belgium), IEP (Germany), Ifri (France), KEW (Poland), oiiip (Austria), and SFPA (Slovakia). The year 2025 marks the 35th anniversary of the Paris Charter and the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords. In the run-up to these anniversaries, European governments will examine the achievements and failures of the European security architecture and look for solutions to overcome the deep rifts that characterize this architecture.

After having explored the sources of tension between Russia and the West (Vienna), learnt and examined lessons from the Balkans (Bratislava), discussed human security and societal resilience (Berlin), analysed the war in Ukraine as a game-changer (Paris) and delved into the question of security guarantees for Ukraine and arms control (Brussels), the project conveys in Barcelona to discuss the global implications of the war in Ukraine and the challenges it poses for a new security order.

As the world order is becoming increasingly multipolar and power rivalry dominates international relations, the EU is struggling to challenge Russian and Chinese rhetoric. Moscow and Beijing portray the invasion of Ukraine as an act of self-defence by Russia and claim that unjustified western sanctions have exacerbated global inflation, food supply concerns and geopolitical instability. In fact, in the so-called global south, countries have increasingly been opposed to framing the conflict as a global, rather than a European war. Instead, they approach the conflict from a different perspective that may include pondering the relationship they have with great powers, avoiding engaging in great-power rivalries and demanding to re-write the post 1945 world order by, for example, restructuring of the UN Security Council.

The seminar, held in accordance with Chatham House rules, will address three issues. First, how great powers perceive a potentially new security order in the light of the war in Ukraine; second, what does the crisis of the liberal order mean for the global south, while the west is being accused of holding double standards; and, third, how can the EU build a stronger and equal relation with the global south that helps building a post-war new security order.

## Agenda

- 09.30 – 09.35 **Opening Remarks**  
**Pol Morillas**, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)
- 09.35 – 10.00 **Keynote speech: Global implications of the war in Ukraine and challenges for a new security order**  
**Arancha González Laya**, Dean Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po
- 10.00 – 11.15 **Great powers and a new security order after the war in Ukraine**  
**Sven Biscop**, Director of the programme “Europe in the world”, Egmont Institute  
**Yan Shaohua**, Associate Professor & Deputy Director, Center for China-Europe Relations, Fudan University  
**Katariina Leinonen**, Head of Division, Integrated Approach for Peace and Security, EEAS  
*Moderated by* **Pol Bargañés**, Senior Research Fellow and Research Coordinator, CIDOB
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Coffee break**
- 11.45 – 13.00 **Is a rules-based order still possible? Addressing double standards**  
**Len Ishmael**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South  
**Philani Mthembu**, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD)  
**Erika María Rodríguez Pinzón**, Director, Fundación Carolina  
*Moderated by* **Javier Borràs**, Researcher, CIDOB
- 13.00 – 14.15 **EU and the global south: a role for Spain in building stronger partnerships?**  
**Alberto José Ucelay Urech**, Director General for Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation *tbc*  
**Ilke Toygür**, Director, Global Policy Center (GPC) and Professor of Geopolitics of Europe, School of Politics, Economics & Global Affairs (SPEGA), IE University  
**Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, IEMed  
*Moderated by* **Marie Krpata**, Research Fellow at the Study Committee on Franco-German Relations, IFRI
- 14.15 – 14.30 **Concluding remarks**  
**Héctor Sánchez Margalef**, Researcher, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)
- 14.30 – 16.00 **Working lunch**



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