



Embajada  
de la República de Polonia  
ante el Reino de España



***Beyond East-West, North-South paradigms: Polish and Spanish perspectives on the European Parliament elections and the crisis in the Eastern Neighbourhood***

**Madrid, 24 March 2014**

**16:30 a 19:45**

Sede de las instituciones europeas en España  
Paseo de la Castellana, 46  
E-28046, Madrid

Whilst the EU is absorbed with its manifold crises and as illiberal forces besiege it in the run-off to May's European Parliament elections, its neighbourhood East and South is unravelling, turning core foreign policy assumptions on their head. May 2014 also marks the 10th anniversary of the successful Eastern enlargement. Overall, European political unity, prosperity and stability are questioned by internal and external challenges.

On the one hand, the Eurozone crisis, in which the new EU Member States were mostly by-standers, brought about a silent revolution of the EU political system: a deepening of the democratic deficit, changes in the internal balance of power between institutions and Member States, as well as in the relationship between Eurozone 'outs' and 'ins'. The coming EP elections are risky and their outcome might impact the very proposals on the table to strengthen Europe and make it fitting for a new, non-European world. Europe needs its own [reinvention](#).

But perhaps so do its foreign policy. The [European Foreign Scorecard 2014](#) underlined that, whereas Europe's strategic persistence contributed to successes with negotiations with Iran and the Serbia-Kosovo agreement, increasing instability defined Europe's neighbourhood. As testified by the crisis in Ukraine, Europe's soft power is limited, particularly without the incentive of enlargement and in the face of geopolitics and classic power dynamics.

In order to go beyond self-defeating North-South, East-West narratives, the **European Council on Foreign Relations' Madrid Office**, in partnership with the **Embassy of Poland in Spain** and the **Representation of the European Commission in Spain**, organize a seminar focused on two topics pressing for the future of Europe: the aftermath of the European elections and foreign and security policy options in the Eastern Neighbourhood.

## Programme

**16.30-16.45. Opening remarks.** Tomasz Arabski (Ambassador of Poland to Spain), Francisco Fonseca Morillo (Director, European Commission Representation in Spain) and Francisco de Borja Lasheras (Associate Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations' Madrid Office).

**16.45-18.15. After the European Parliament Elections: what next?** How could the EP elections impact current proposals towards banking, fiscal, economic and political union? What are the priorities, concerns and expectations in both countries, from within and without the eurozone? What possible synergies could be designed to bridge different positions and interests within and between the Union's "ins" and "outs"?

José Ignacio Torreblanca (Head of the European Council on Foreign Relations' Madrid Office) and Piotr Buras (Head of the European Council on Foreign Relations' Warsaw Office).

Moderator: Berna González Harbour (Deputy Director, *El País*).

**18.15-19.45. The vengeance of geopolitics in the East: lessons learned from the crisis in Ukraine and options for the EU's foreign and security policy**

Ignacio Ybáñez Rubio (General Director on Foreign Policy and Multilateral, Global and Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain); Jarosław Bratkiewicz (Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland); Francisco de Borja Lasheras (Associate Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations' Madrid Office) and Elina Viilup (Research Fellow, CIDOB).

Moderator: Cristina Manzano (Director of Esglobal).

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