

**Natalia Zaslavskaya**

## **The EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and the EU relations with Russia in studies abroad**

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was created only in the early 90's. It still remains a rather weak European policy as major foreign policy issues belong to the competence of national authorities. However, the researchers perceive it as a high-profile policy and examine different aspects of it, including relations with the third countries like Russia. Taking into account special nature of the EU as an international actor, its activities on the international arena and interaction with different states are very interesting from the theoretical point of view.

This review of non-Russian studies on the problems of security cooperation between Russia and the European Union is based on publications in academic journals (for example, *European Security*, *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, *The International Spectator* ), publications of research centers and academic institutions (for example, the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and the Finnish Institute of International Relations (FIIA)), reports from academic conferences, etc.

The review of publications devoted to security cooperation demonstrates that researchers are mainly interested in several topics. First of all, there are publications on the development of the European Union's foreign policy activities, the formation of the CFSP, efforts to harmonize the foreign policy activities of various member states that affect the EU's policy towards Russia. Some researchers publish materials on the special nature of the European Union as an

international actor, but they also touch upon the plots associated with the EU's influence on Russia.

Many foreign scholars examine development of political cooperation between the European Union and Russia. Some of them consider political cooperation in the general context of relations between the EU, Europe, the West, on the one hand, and the Russian Federation, on the other. Others study theoretical aspects of cooperation of the European Union and Russia in the field of security. Some scholars try to concentrate on key issues of the EU-Russia political and security cooperation and to examine particular cases of security cooperation. Special mention should be made of authors who emphasize the security problems caused by the contradictions between the EU and Russia.

It is also necessary to mention that special attention is given to the connection between post-Soviet context and the EU-Russia relations. Foreign scholars refer to the issues of EU-Russia security relations in publications examining the EU's policy towards the Eastern neighbors and the EU's relations with various post-Soviet states.

Of course, political and security cooperation between Russia and the European Union is a very important and popular research area. The list of publications analyzed in this review is not exhaustive, but it allows us to draw conclusions about the key issues studies by the non-Russian scholars.