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The EU-Russia political and security cooperation in the publications of Russian researchers

Traditionally, Russian researchers in international relations have paid special attention to foreign policy and security issues. This tradition is determined by the Russian political discourse, in which security issues are recognized as the most important and dominating other policies. So it is easy to understand growing interest of the Russian researchers to the EU security cooperation with Russia, particularly, after creation of CFSP and ESDP/CSDP and strengthening of the EU military capabilities. In fact, there are many publications devoted to political and security cooperation between the EU and Russia. However, in comparison with other European security matters like Russia's role in the European security architecture and Russia's relations with NATO, the EU-Russian security cooperation usually is treated as a marginal topic. Probably, this relatively low interest to the EU is caused by vision of the EU as a weak security actor and a popular perception of European security with dominating role of the United States and NATO. Another reason for relatively low interest of researchers to CFSP is traditional Russia-centric approach of the Russian researchers as they tend to consider all security matters depending on their influence on Russia and its national interests. So they concentrate on the research topics related to Russia's role in European security, Russian initiatives in this field (such as Medvedev's doctrine of a new security architecture) and Russia's participation in European regional organizations, for example, in the OSCE. In comparison with Russia's relations with NATO and participation in the OSCE, Russian researchers pay less attention to security

cooperation with the European Union. The EU and CFSP are treated as part of security environment for Russia.

This review of Russian studies on the problems of security cooperation between Russia and the European Union is based on publications in academic journals (for example, *Contemporary Europe*, *the World Economy and International Relations*, *European Security: events, assessments, forecasts, Russia in global politics*), publications of the Institute Europe of the RAS, MGIMO (U), St. Petersburg State University, volumes published as a result of academic conferences, etc.

The review of publications devoted to security cooperation demonstrates that Russian researchers are mainly interested in several topics. The first such topic is development of relations between Russia and the European Union in the field of political cooperation and security. The second topic is the impact of the EU's intensified security dimension, development of CFSP, ESDP/CSDP and civilian and military capabilities on the EU relations with Russia. The third issue is key contradictions between Russia and the European Union, which undermine political cooperation, and potential solutions to overcome the existing contradictions. It should be noted that researchers' interest the contradictions between Russia and the EU has grown as relations between Russia and the European Union deteriorated, for example, in 2008 because of events in South Ossetia and then due to crisis in Ukraine. Another important topic is specific areas of cooperation, in particular military cooperation and Russia's participation in EU peacekeeping operations. In addition, some issues of political cooperation and cooperation in the field of security are mentioned in studies devoted to the general problems of relations between Russia and the European Union. Finally, some scholars study the modern security system in Europe and its main security institutions, and examine Russia-EU security cooperation in the wider context of European security.

Of course, security cooperation between Russia and the European Union is a highly important area of academic research. The list of publications analyzed in this review is not exhaustive, but it allows us to draw conclusions about key issues studied by Russian researchers dealing with EU-Russia political and security cooperation.