

Alexander Izotov

Evolution of the EU and Russia-EU relation in the studies in Russia

The problems of the evolution and further development of the European Union, which can be determined either by some important but unplanned events (e.g., financial or migration crises) or by the decisions of the European Union leadership (e.g., the enlargement of the EU or the deepening of European integration, adoption of the new treaties) have got much interests by the Russian academic community. At the same time, not so many studies have been devoted directly to the relationship between the evolution of the EU and the development of its relations with third countries including Russia.

Yet, a number of researches that have been devoted to the comprehensive analysis of the relations between Russia and the European Union have discussed the impact of some aspects of the EU internal evolution on the development of the Russia-EU interactions as well. Among them one can single out the studies devoted to the problems of economic relations (trade, investment and, in particular, energy), international security issues, as well as "soft security" (migration, visa issues, cooperation in law, justice and home affairs), the relations in the fields of education and science. The other group of studies has focused on the problems of the perceptions and implementation of several key unilateral or joint EU-Russia initiatives (the concept of "strategic partnership", "common spaces", "partnership for modernization", development of legal relations and the negotiations on the conclusion of a new basic agreement) where some aspects of the EU evolution and developments that have been relevant for the EU approaches for these initiatives have been explored. As well Russia-EU interactions in the adjacent regions (e.g. Baltic and Black Sea regions, the common neighborhood) and its impacts on the developments within the EU and its foreign policies and external relations approaches have been studied.

Also, a number of studies have analyzed the various aspects of the bilateral relations between Russia and the individual member-states of the European Union and its implications for the common EU policy towards Russia and the development of the EU external actorness. In this respect the most of attention has been paid to the bilateral relations between Russia and the largest EU members-states.