

Saint-Petersburg 2016 Research Brief No 5

Natalia Zaslavskaya

The EU-Russia justice and home affairs cooperation in the publications of Russian researchers

The issues of justice and home affairs cooperation between Russia and the European Union were reflected in the multiple publications of Russian researchers. However, it should be noted that these issues attract less research interest than issues of energy cooperation, economic relations or external security cooperation. Nevertheless, justice and home affairs also involve extremely topical issues: the implementation of a common space in the field of internal security, control of migration flows, combating crime, in particular, measures to combat terrorism, and prospects for a visa-free regime.

The priorities of the researchers were influenced by two factors: (1) the general logic of the development of relations between Russia and the European Union, new initiatives and frameworks for cooperation, including initiatives and frameworks covering internal security agenda; (2) transnational nature of problems related to the sphere of internal security, which determined necessity of joint activities of the EU and Russian authorities to address these problems. The decision of the leaders of Russia and the EU to extend the concept of the common economic space to other areas, including internal security and justice, has contributed to the growth of the research interest in the negotiations on the common space, the road map, the main tasks and the content of the common space in the area of freedom, security and justice. Moreover, negotiations on visa regime facilitation and preparation for a visa-free regime will also stimulate researchers'

interest and publications about the visa-free regime negotiation process, the positions of the parties and the basic conditions for this regime required for implementation. At the same time, transnational problems, including migration and international crime, started to influence overall climate of the EU-Russia cooperation and negotiations agenda and as a result transnational problems became an important part of the research agenda.

The review of Russian studies on the problems of cooperation between Russia and the European Union in the area of internal security, justice and home affairs is based on publications in academic journals (for example, Contemporary Europe, World Economy and International Relations), publications of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Science, MGIMO (U), Tomsk State University, various books and volumes, academic conferences volumes, etc.

This review enables to determine key issues studied by the Russian scholars dealing with internal security, justice and home affairs. Some scholars concentrated on the development of a common space of freedom, security and justice, preparation and implementation of the road map. Others decided to examine particular aspects of the common space like the problems of cooperation to deal with migration, prospects for transition to a visa-free regime between Russia and the European Union, and cooperation in combating crime, in particular, measures to combat terrorism.

Of course, the interaction of Russia and the European Union in the field of internal security is a relevant and important area of academic research. The list of publications analyzed in this review is not exhaustive, but it allows us to draw conclusions about the research priorities of Russian scholars.