



THE ROLE OF THE EU IN THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS. THE LIMITS OF THE EUROPEAN FOREIGN REPRESENTATION SYSTEM

The situation in Ukraine came to the attention of the international community in 2014, when the Russian annexation of Crimea and military support of Moscow to the separatists in Eastern Ukrainian region of Donbass demonstrated Russia's aggressive policy towards Ukraine.

In response to these events, the European Union adopts four distinct regimes of restrictive measures, though leaving political and diplomatic reaction to a limited number of EU member States (notably France and Germany). Those States, even if apparently speaking for the Union, have been in fact not always working towards the attainment of the EU's interest. This situation reveals the difficulties of the EU to elaborate an effective European Foreign Policy. Nevertheless, it may be considered compatible with the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) provided that member States - which are under a legal obligation to loyally cooperate with the EU institutions - do not obstruct (but rather support) the EU action in the international arena.