

Organization and activity of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security: cooperation and competition with the EU

Abstract

The United Nations Organization is the most important actor in international relations focusing on maintaining peace and establishing peacekeeping operations in the world. But in a globalized world with new regional actors, such as the European Union, also the responsiveness to crises and conflicts needs to be adapted. This work is based on the conceptual framework of international relations by covering national and international contributions on the underlying concepts of peace, security, competition and cooperation. It provides an overview of the cooperation in peacekeeping operations between UN and EU and seeks to answer how this cooperation can be improved to respond more efficient and effective to new future crisis. History has shown that both organizations improved their actions regarding peace and security and have adopted to the new concept of human security by focusing on the security of the individual. However, their cooperation is limited by differing objectives, missing communication and varying operational strategies. For improvement different initiatives were started, the Independent High-level Panel on Peace Operations initiatives by the UN, and by the EU the Global Strategy and the Action Plan. The implementation of these initiatives will determine the future success of UN-EU cooperation in peacekeeping and gives direction for future research.

Keywords: Security-Defense, Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, Peace Operations, United Nations, European Union.