

Why has the EU become interested?

North Korean Ballistic Missile Range

Now, you're thinking of Europe as Germany and France. I don't think that's old Europe. If you look at the entire NATO Europe today, the center of gravity is shifting to the east. (Donald Rumsfeld)

Europe in the range of the DPRK missiles & could be sucked in a conflict (remember Iraq war, via NATO...)



"EUSKOR"

Europe, the United States and the Crisis on the Korean Peninsula: Between a Rock and a Hard Place

What (diplomatic) role can the EU play on North Korea?

EU as A Multilateral Negotiator AND Guarantor - short term or a long-haul?

EU experience in negotiating multilateral deals (with Iran, but also the Paris Accord, EU accession...)

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EU as a multilateral "guarantor" should Donald Trump (or his, even Democratic, successor) decide to pull out from a deal (see Iran)

Why the EU?

Europe as a "middle man" between the US and the Koreans... see the Olympics Opening Ceremony

Why does the EU matter for the Koreans?

- EU has always been an economic and free trade power and is increasingly more so in Asia
- EU is becoming a military (hard power) actor
- EU has been a humanitarian and human rights actor
- EU has been and remains diplomatic multilateral negotiator (on Iran but others as well)

Where does North Korea fit into it?

Why the EU? 1) Global Perspective

Why the EU? 2) North Korean perspective

Why the EU? 3) The US perspective

DPRK cares about the EU (e.g. visits by the EP delegation, Sigmar Gabriel, HRVP Mogherini & MFA Ri meeting at the margins of ASEAN); EU assets: 7 EU MS embassies in Pyongyang, DPRK missions in Europe; similar experiences btw the DPRK & "new" MS EU can offer to the US: funding, international mobilization (not only for sanctions but also "targeted de-sanctioning") and negotiating skills

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Summary

The "EUSKOR" is a two-year (2018-2020) Marie Skłodowska-Curie project funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 797977). The EUSKOR examines the EU's foreign policy towards North Korea and the EU's role in North East (NE) Asia. The EUSKOR project is based at the Center for European Integration at Free University Berlin which is chaired by Prof. Tanja Börzel.

First part of the EUSKOR project

Firstly, the "EUSKOR" project explores whether and how the EU could play a more significant role in the DPRK through its increased strategic engagement, particularly by using diplomacy, mediation and verification expertise. The "EUSKOR" project analyzes whether there are any "out-of-the-box" approaches, both at high and lower levels, that have not been employed yet and whether there are any policy options that the EU can bring to the negotiating table in order to help reach denuclearization on the Korean peninsula and peace settlement between the US and DPRK.

Second part of the EUSKOR project

Secondly, the EUSKOR project explores why the EU has so far been incapable of becoming a credible political and security actor in North East (NE) Asia despite its declared intentions, trade power and experiences applicable to the region. The second part of the EUSKOR project examines new ways in which the EU (with its Member States) could "upload" its strategic priorities to NE Asia by "downloading" the EU's policy preferences to the North Korean issue, using the Korean peninsula as the geopolitical gateway for "upgrading" its standing in NE Asia.

Given the EU's push for free trade, particularly at the time of a growing American protectionism, the EUSKOR project also investigates whether and how the EU could better link its political and security interests with its trade leverage.

Theory-building and methodology

The "The EUSKOR project's highly topical empirical findings, particularly with the view of an upcoming new leadership in Brussels, are complemented by theory-building through looking at who/what drives EU foreign policy and why and whether diffusion of European ideas and policies could 'travel' beyond Europe, hence making the link between EU internal governance and EU foreign policy.

Drawing on extensive series of semi-structured interviews conducted in Berlin, Brussels and during short visits to NE Asian capitals, including several trip to the DPRK, the EUSKOR project is cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary, informing at least three fields of social sciences (international relations, comparative politics and political economy).

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7 steps that the EU can offer

- Resume dialogue
 - including on "easy" human rights (e.g. labor, of the disabled)
 - and/or nominate a "Special Envoy for Peace on the Korean Peninsula"
- Offer verification expertise
- Open a Pyongyang EU Mission
 - and let the DPRK move their mission from London to Brussels in relation to Brexit
- Resume humanitarian aid
- Promote EU as a convening point
 - including a high-level conference on North Korea
- Drop (some of) the EU's autonomous sanctions
 - as an example of a step-by-step approach
- Promote educational (& cultural) exchanges

How can the EU's role on the Korea look in the future?

- EU as a (counter)-balance to the US
- EU as "the best friend" of South Korea (but also a link to China, Japan - perhaps Russia)
- EU as an independent mediator and/or guarantor vis-à-vis North Korea
- EU as a payer (but also sayer)

EU's "own pivot/rebalancing" to North East Asia?

First publication

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists
 3 May 2019
<https://thebulletin.org/2019/05/donald-trump-and-kim-jong-un-need-the-european-union/>