MOMENT OF REFLECTION, COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Based on the discussions of an EU/U.S.-EU working group composed of leading experts on the European Union and transatlantic relations, which met for a pair of two-day seminars at CSIS in spring 2006, this paper written by Simon Serfaty puts forward key recommendations for the future of the EU and its relations with the United States. As excerpted below, "Moment of Reflection, Commitment to Action" outlines crucial steps to be taken on both sides of the Atlantic in five main areas:

GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE EU AND THE EU-U.S. PARTNERSHIP

More must be done to explain the historic achievements of European policies that permitted the rise of the EU with a decisive assist from the United States. EU leaders must develop new inclusive ways to involve citizens in their institutional process, and unlike many of their predecessors newly elected national leaders need to adopt positive narratives about what the EU institutions do for and with their countries...More—much more—must also be done in the United States to explain past gains from, and current need for, the visionary policies that produced Europe's postwar transformation.

ABOUT THE EU...

The constitutional treaty is dead. Attempts to renegotiate it or revive it would raise serious questions of democratic legitimacy in some of the 16 countries that have already approved the treaty, or in the two countries that rejected it, or even in some of the seven countries whose response is still pending. Elements of the treaty can be salvaged, however—some informally and without much deliberation, and others within a new institutional treaty—including a slimmed down Commission and new voting rules, as well as a foreign minister and a thorough revision of the rotating Council presidency.

...AND WITH THE U.S.

In March 2007, the fiftieth anniversary of the Rome Treaty will offer an historic opportunity to sign a new Euro-Atlantic Partnership Agreement designed to elevate the partnership from a community of converging concerns, compatible values, and overlapping interests into a community of action for cooperation on behalf of global prosperity and security.

IS BIGGER BETTER?

History, as well as geography, gives the 25 EU members a responsibility in extending their Union in Europe as far as it can go while respecting the will of its people, the identity of its members, and the efficacy of its institutions...Enlargement to the East has been the most significant and successful EU foreign policy since the Cold War. For the EU to close the door on further enlargement permanently would waste or at least dilute its influence.

ABOUT THE EU AND WITH THE U.S.

At a time of considerable volatility, joint contingency planning on a wide range of issues is essential. Single events are not predictable, but the broad consequences of these events can be anticipated and planned accordingly—major terrorist attacks, natural disasters, severe energy shortages, territorial conflicts, and more (or worse)...Cooperation between the U.S. and the EU is necessary but it can rarely be sufficient. Depending on the issue, U.S.-EU cooperation will therefore be reinforced by engaging other multilateral institutions like the G-8 (for example, to address jointly the threat of weapons of mass destruction), or the G-20, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the OECD and the OSCE.

"Moment of Reflection, Commitment to Action" can be downloaded in full at: http://www.csis.org/zbc/
(http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/csiseurope_aug_01_06.pdf)

A parallel working group composed of leading experts on NATO and its relations with the European Union will meet twice in the second half of 2006.
Aiming to generate ideas and recommendations ahead of the Riga NATO Summit taking place in late November 2006, the group's initial meeting will take place in Riga, Latvia on September 15-17, 2006.

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Atlantic Alliance:
The United States,
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**Edited by
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A Challenged and Challenging Europe:
Impact on NATO-EU-US Relations

In a recent article appearing in The International Spectator (volume 1/2006), Simon Serfaty examines the transitions shaping the 'delicate moment' faced over the next several years by the European Union and its members, NATO and the Alliance, and the transatlantic partnership. He writes:

"The US renewed interest in a united and strong Europe was acknowledged by President Bush upon his re-election in November 2004 after the limits of US military power had been shown in Iraq and the fallacies of Europe's weaknesses revealed with an impressive display of EU influence in Ukraine and elsewhere. There is now more to the US vision of a new and recast Europe than the cultural affinities, economic interests and political similarities achieved during the Cold War. Indeed, the case-against-the-case-against-Europe is most convincing when the alternative – a weak and fragmented Europe, however defined – exposes America's loneliness in a visibly dangerous and explicitly hostile world.

That the EU might prove unable to respond to America's discovery of its capabilities and relevance not for a lack of will among its members but for lack of coherence within the Union is, therefore, ironic. During the Atlantic crisis over Iraq, US bilateral relations with some EU countries within NATO were closer than bilateral relations among EU countries, not only because the Bush administration wished for such a condition but because EU heads of state and government themselves sought it as they took position for or in opposition to the United States. So long as the EU and its members cannot speak with one reliable voice they will find it difficult to offer a credible alternative to the United States and NATO.

Thus challenged by America to contribute to the transformation of the Alliance with a stronger and ever closer Union, Europe faces questions over which its members are still divided and which, therefore, they usually avoid: questions over Europe's relations with the United States and the "finality" of Euro-Atlantic relations; questions over Europe's role in the world; and the most effective ways to play that role; and even questions over the impact of the world on Europe, including that part of the world it used to rule, and the extent to which Europe should accommodate or deny that impact."

Read the full article at http://www.iai.it/pdf/articles/serfaty_2.pdf

Selected Recent Activities and Outreach of
the Brzezinski Chair

→ **"From Reflection to Action: A Road to Euro-Atlantic Finality,"** *EuroFuture*, **Summer 2006.**

→ **"U.S.-France Bilateral Dialogue on the Middle East,"** *CSIS & Forum du Futur*, **Paris, France, July 10-11, 2006.**

→ **"Iran, capacités nucléaires et dissuasion française,"** *Club CEIS-strat & L'essentiel des relations internationales*, **Paris, France, July 3, 2006.**

→ **"US effort to rehab image falls short,"** *Christian Science Monitor*, **June 21, 2006.**

→ **"Being Jacques Chirac,"** *Insight – CNN International*, **June 15, 2006.**

About the Zbigniew Brzezinksi Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy

CSIS established the Brzezinski Chair in July 2003 to advance understanding in the fields of geostrategy, international security, European affairs, and global politics. Reflecting Zbigniew Brzezinski's achievements during a career including public service, teaching, and writing, the chair is awarded to a leading scholar in the fields of geostrategy, international security, and global politics. Simon Serfaty, Brzezinski Chair holder, also remains a Senior Advisor to the Europe Program at CSIS, where he was director from 1994-2004.