

Maximilian RASCH
GARNET Junior Mobility Fellow

Home Institution: University of Essex, Department of Government

Host Institution: Comparative Regional Integration Studies Programme of the United Nations University (UNU-CRIS)

Supervisor at Host Institution: Dr. Luk Van Langenhoven, Director UNU-CRIS

Period of mobility: 5 March 2007 – 5 September 2007

Research Statement for GARNET mobility package to UNU-CRIS

During his six-months stay as Visiting Researcher at UNU-CRIS, Maximilian Rasch will participate in the work of UNU-CRIS's research theme 3, which deals with interlinkages between regional integration and peace and human security issues. More specifically, he will be involved in the work of the sub-project "Regional Security and Global Governance: A study of Interaction between Regional Organizations and the UN Security Council", overseen by Tânia Felício, Rodrigo Tavares and Kennedy Graham.

The project aims to explore the interaction between Regional Organizations (ROs) and the UN Security Council (UNSC) in the common pursuit of maintaining international peace and security. The departing premise is the recognition during the 1990s that the potential role of ROs for dealing with current and potential conflict situations, as envisaged in the Charter, had not been fully realised. The project therefore analyses the theoretical constitutional provisions of the UN and the related ROs for handling conflict, including their relative areas of co-responsibility. It then reviews the historical development in this respect, through both policy-formulation based on the UNSC-RO dialogue, and selected regional case studies. Conclusions and prescriptive recommendations are drawn, aiming to highlight the relationship between a global approach and a regional approach to differing levels of conflict.

With his research at UNU-CRIS Mr. Rasch will contribute to the analysis of UNSC policy making and the impact of ROs by conducting an institutional analysis in case-study format. He will focus on the role of the European Union (EU) in security policies at the UN, namely within the framework of the EU Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

The ESDP has been an oft-discussed and well-researched subject of political study. The implementation of ESDP-policies through international organisations, however, remains a relatively superficially investigated topic. This is particularly true for the United Nations, even though a truly effective and credible ESDP with a global dimension seems to be difficult

to achieve without an effective representation of interests in the World Organisation, most notably in the UNSC.

Within the research project, Mr. Rasch will examine the EU-internal mechanisms and structures, as well as the regime and the institutional foundations in place to harmonise EU member states (MS) policies at the UN in New York concerning the various UN bodies relevant for the implementation of ESDP-policies, such as the UNSC, the Military Staff Committee and the First Main Committee of the UN General Assembly. Questions to be answered are: Is the Union a unitary actor at the UN in security matters? What are the costs and benefits for the EU MS of cooperating at the UN? And how is the ESDP functioning *in praxi* in the intergovernmental environment of a multilateral organisation, whose character is very much shaped by the assumption that membership in the international community is based on the concept of statehood?

In addition, the project will focus on the external dimension of ESDP-influence at the UN, i.e. the degree to which the EU can have an impact in order to direct decisions in the Organisation or even to 'utilise' its institutional framework for European interests. That will be done through the analysis of specific UN entities and examples of relevant issue areas. Furthermore the EU and the UN are close partners in security questions. But whether the outcomes of this cooperation bear positive outcomes for both entities equally requires again further scrutiny.

By analysing the ESDP through an institutional analysis, its general quality and coherence will be illustrated. But also the institutional and political deficits, which stand in the way of an EU actorness in global security, will be unveiled. At the same time it will be clarified how the UN can benefit from the most powerful RO's influence, expertise and resources in order to pursue the aims as outlined in the UN Charter and other guiding policy documents.

This research project will do justice to the orientation of GARNET towards EU-related research. At the same time, due to its UN-element, the research will be placed optimally within UNU-CRIS, making use of the exceptional expertise in place.

Envisaged specific outcomes of Mr. Rasch's mobility are a working paper on his findings, which would be turned into a published journal article later on. In view of the practical political approach taken, the findings of the research are likely to be of interest to practitioners within EU member states administrations and EU institutions, both in New York and in Brussels, but also for people within the UN Secretariat. Therefore the aim is to present the findings within the policy-making community of both sides, and also within academic circles.