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Title page

Title of the introduction: **Setting the scene for alternative futures for European Union's foreign policy 2025.**

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Highlights

- Liberal order based on the rule of law, pluralism and the absence of major conflicts on European territory are not taken for granted any longer
- The EU needs visionary leaders who will be able to deliver anticipatory governance and improve the EU performance both internally and externally.
- The scenarios for EU foreign policy shall contribute to the recalibration of the instruments and policies required to face the challenges ahead
- Brexit and the uncertainties about the transatlantic alliance can be perceived as a window of opportunity to reform the EU's foreign policy
- The cohesiveness of the EU's foreign and security policy has been identified by all papers as decisive for the future of the EU

Abstract

The purpose of this collection is to provide a footing for charting the course of policy actions relating to EU's future role in the world by a comprehensive and systematic analysis of driving forces that will shape the relations between the European Union and its neighbours as well as strategic partners. The included papers offer a far-reaching overview of the EU's external relations in 2025 and allow conclusions to be drawn that can inspire the shaping of its foreign and security policy. The premise of the special issue is the assumption that only by proactively facing challenges ahead, will the European Union have a chance maintain its impact on the global order. Thus, this collection aims at making a contribution to define EU's future-oriented interests and to tackle the question of how these interests can be reconciled with values that the Union attempts to project and protect.

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