



# Brzezinski Chair Update

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## THE FUTURE OF THE EU AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

*On February 27-28, 2006, a new task force on the EU and U.S.-EU relations, launched by the Brzezinski Chair in cooperation with the CSIS Europe Program, held its first meeting at CSIS. With over thirty senior scholars of Europe and transatlantic relations participating, discussion focused on analytical assessment of the theme "Europe Stalled – A Crisis, What Crisis?" The event featured a luncheon keynote address by Austrian Ambassador Eva Nowotny and a closing luncheon with a visiting delegation of Members of the European Parliament. The background paper prepared for the meeting by Desmond Dinan, Jean Monnet Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University, is excerpted below:*

The decisiveness of the French and Dutch rejections of the Constitutional Treaty was a clear signal to the EU's political establishment that citizens care little about ambitious constitutional initiatives and want politicians at all levels of government to focus instead on pervasive worries about social welfare, employment, public health, the environment, immigration, organized crime, and terrorism. Improving the institutional efficiency of the EU—one of the objectives of the Constitutional Treaty—would not make much difference without a resolve on the part of the member states, the Commission, and the European Parliament to realize the EU's potential and try, at least, to deliver the goods.

There are a number of ways in which the EU could improve its institutional efficiency and policy delivery, and maybe even its public appeal, despite the generally inauspicious political climate, and without undertaking politically costly treaty reform. These include:

- **Fewer and better legislative proposals:** ...Rather than legislating for the sake of doing so, the Commission increasingly justifies its proposals on the basis of subsidiarity and relevance. The Commission could improve the quality of its legislative proposals even more if it improved the nature of the pre-proposal consultative process...
- **More emphasis on research and development, strengthening the sciences, and improving the quality of third-level education:** ...The EU does not need to launch ambitious new initiatives, but should concentrate instead on maximizing existing opportunities...
- **Devising an energy strategy:** With rising oil prices and Russia's unpredictability as a supplier of natural gas from Russia, the EU badly needs a comprehensive energy strategy covering everything from new technologies to better power distribution and conservation...
- **Closer cooperation on internal security and foreign policy:** Eurobarometer and other public opinion polls consistently show that Europeans want more trans-national cooperation and integration in the areas of internal security (notably counter-terrorism and the fight against organized crime) and foreign policy (notably promoting international development and security, mediating in the Middle East, and dealing with China, Russia, and the United States)...
- **More transparency:** Transparency is a hallmark of good governance, yet the EU decision-making process is notoriously opaque...more transparency, in principle if not always in practice, would signal national governments' appreciation of the need to adhere to well-established norms of democratic governance in their conduct of EU affairs.

Whatever the EU does, it is up to national governments, primarily, to take the initiative and, in the process, mobilize latent public support for European integration. Nevertheless the reinvigoration of European integration may have to await a better political climate and new political leaders. In the meantime, the EU is not in danger of collapsing or fading away. At worst, the EU will muddle through, as it has so often in the past. That may not be an elegant or uplifting scenario, but it accords with the political realities in Europe today.

*Read Ambassador Nowotny's remarks and Desmond Dinan's background paper, and see a list of participants at: <http://www.csis.org/zbc/> ([http://www.csis.org/component/option,com\\_csis\\_events/task,view/id,917/](http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_events/task,view/id,917/))*

*The second meeting of the EU/U.S.-EU task force, focusing on actionable ideas and recommendations—"About the EU and With the U.S.: What Next?"—will take place at CSIS on May 15-16, 2006.*

## Visions of the Atlantic Alliance: The United States, the European Union, and NATO

Edited by Simon Serfaty



“...essential reading for policymakers and the informed public on both sides of the Atlantic who believe, as I do, that the Atlantic Alliance remains the bedrock of America’s national security interests.”

-Stuart E. Eizenstat

former U.S. ambassador to the European Union and former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

Foreword by John Bruton with praise by Richard Burt, Stuart Eizenstat, Charles Grant, and Daniel S. Hamilton.

Available online at <http://csis.zoovy.com/product/0892064765>

## Italy & Europe: Focus on the Italian Election

In two recent articles published in *U.S.-Italia Weekly*, Simon Serfaty looks at the significance of the Italian general election which took place on April 9-10, 2006.

Previewing the election in “Focus on Structure, Not Personality,” published March 5, he writes:

“...explaining Italy’s diminished influence as Berlusconi’s personal responsibility would be excessive. Like the unfolding crisis in the E.U., the crisis within the Atlantic alliance cannot be reduced to it personal or bilateral or even circumstantial dimensions. The crisis was, and remains, a structural crisis of strategic relevance—structural because the organization of the alliance needed to be adapted to the new conditions in Europe and strategic because its military organization had to be adjusted to provide for the capabilities to address the new conflicts if faced in a twice-changed world. Failure to address that crisis effectively is widely shared on both sides of the Atlantic. Berlusconi is hardly the only head of state or government who contributed to that failure.”

[Read the article at http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/03\\_06\\_06\\_usitalia.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/03_06_06_usitalia.pdf)

In “The Worst Possible Outcome,” published April 23, Serfaty writes:

“There could not have been any worse possible outcome to last week’s election in Italy than the political tie that leaves Romano Prodi with a plausible claim of victory, but a clear inability to govern. Such conditions had already been seen in Germany last September. They may well be seen next in France next spring—and in Spain the year after that. Everywhere, weak governments are getting weaker, making out their passivity to be a virtue and their flexibility to be a strength. That is certainly not to the benefit of the U.S., where the prospect of a weak and stalled Europe is worrisome.”

[Read the article at http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/italia\\_april2006.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/italia_april2006.pdf)

### Selected Recent Activities and Media Outreach of the Brzezinski Chair

- “Finestra sull’America,” *La Stampa*, April 11, 2006.
- “Italy: What Determined Berlusconi’s Fate?” *Radio Free Europe*, April 10, 2006.
- “Aux Etats-Unis, perplexité sur la situation en France,” *Agence France Presse*, March 25, 2006
- “EU Enlargement and its Transatlantic Implications,” *University Club*, Washington, DC, March 21, 2006.
- “France, the U.S., and Europe,” *World Affairs Council Lecture Series*, Richmond, Virginia, March 14, 2006.

*About the Zbigniew Brzezinski 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.