

### **EU-NATO relations after the Cold War**

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For EU-NATO relations, the end of the Cold War really was an important turning point. The two were in fact brought together by the end of the Cold War, by the need to find new missions for the cold-war defence alliance and by the newly discovered task of crisis management – as well as by the increasingly shared membership that was to result from the twin enlargement processes. Increasingly, the two were dealing with similar questions and undertaking similar tasks in the field of security, in time also defence. Thus, there was an increasing need to look for an appropriate division of labour between them and to explore the possibilities of cooperation.

From here, this paper proceeds to delineating, on a more abstract level, the emerging dynamics of inter-institutional relations: how do two organisations get from a stage of no contact between them to both cooperation, imitation and, arguably, rivalry? The paper also considers the claim that the relations between the two work in practice but not in theory. Finally, it looks at possible future directions: what would make one of these become irrelevant? Will their nature as organisations grow even more apart, the one being a defence alliance and the other a political union? Finally, what options are there for the institutionalisation of the transatlantic relationship – EU-US relations, ESDP-NATO relations? Are the 1940s-1950s’ organisational structures perhaps together able to renew themselves and develop in time enough to be continuously relevant, and be seen as legitimate?