Europe’s Foreign, Security and Defence policy (CFSP/ESDP) has developed in recent years with speed of light (Solana). Two contributions of the book analyse the present state of the European Union’s capacities to act on the international stage.

With the 2004 enlargement, however, new countries with new external priorities and orientations have joined the EU. In order to evaluate their possible influence on the future of CFSP and ESDP, experts from some of the new member states discuss their countries’ commitment to the integration project of strengthening the EU’s external role.

The impression prevails that the newcomers favour a “pro European Atlanticism” in order to meet the European as well as the American expectations. Furthermore, their major concerns in Foreign policy are addressing Russia. Will these options weaken the EU’s Foreign, Security and Defence policy or rather lead to new chances and strength?