



# Proposal for research on Russia's cooperation with Europe

By

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## **Introduction**

As the conflict in Ukraine escalates, relations between Russia and Europe continue to deteriorate. At Global Political Insight, we believe that this is detrimental to global political affairs, as collapse in cooperation between major powers leads to breakdown in security, unnecessary arms race, and ultimately in the failure to tackle urgent global problems, such as climate change and international terrorism. Unfortunately, this perspective is not voiced enough in the media and by influencers, leading decision makers to pursue a policy of isolating Russia, seemingly oblivious of the negative consequences this could have on both sides. As already exemplified by the negative impact of sanctions on the European Union's economy, further isolation of Russia is likely to result in more hardship for both sides.

## **The purpose of this report**

The objective of this report is to examine what role Russia plays in the spheres of politics, economy and culture, focusing specifically on its relationship with Europe. The report will aim to illustrate that Russia is a significant partner to the EU, and how its isolation can be detrimental to Europe's interests. As such, a different approach will be suggested, which urges the EU to work towards re-establishing real channels of communication with Russia. Only through diplomacy can a resolution to the Ukrainian crisis be achieved.

The next page contains preliminary chapter headings for the report. Over the next few weeks, Global Political Insight will work with academics, journalists and think-tanks to conduct the research and deliberate the findings. We aim to host an event to launch the paper at the end of 2014/beginning of 2015. Global Political Insight will invite journalists, politicians, academics, NGO and think-tank representatives to debate the findings.

## **About Global Political Insight**

Global Political Insight (GPI) is a media and research organisation that provides analysis of the latest global political developments. Its aim is to use its research and publications to encourage decision makers to take a more diplomatic and negotiable approach when engaging with other nations, in the effort of limiting the likelihood of conflict in the future.

## Preliminary Content

### 1. Introduction

- The impact of the current Ukrainian crisis
  - Severed relations between Russia and Europe
  - Mutual suspicions and blame on both sides
- The implications so far (damage to both sides)
  - What effect sanctions have had so far
- The likely detrimental effect to both sides if Russia is further isolated
  - Uncertainty over security
  - Damage to the economies
  - Potential arms race

### 2. Chapter One: Political Influence

- Russia's role as an energy supplier
  - Russia supplies Europe with 30% of its gas
  - Rosneft works with British BP
- Cooperation with Russia on civilian nuclear projects
  - Nuclear power projects with Russian participation in Finland, Hungary, and Turkey
- Tackling international terrorism
  - Joint work with Russia on international and regional security, including the fight against the spread of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and organized crime
- Tackling climate change
  - Ukraine is no longer allowed to cooperate with Russia at the UN climate talks
  - Cooperation on emission reduction
  - Implications on Moscow's commitment to be part of a new global climate treaty.
- Nuclear non-proliferation
  - Reduction of nuclear weapons
  - Treaties on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons
- Cyber-warfare
  - Cyber-attacks as a means of warfare
  - Breakdown in cooperation fighting cyber-criminals
- Security in the Middle East/Iranian nuclear issue
  - P5+1 talks on Iran's nuclear issue

- Russia’s role in Afghanistan
- Russia’s role in fighting Islamic State
- Russia-West cooperation over Syria’s chemical weapons

### **3. Chapter Two: Economic influence**

- Mutual financial investments
  - Russia’s economic/trade ties with Europe
  - Europe as a hotspot for long-term investments by Russian residents
- Multinational businesses and Western companies in Russia
  - Western companies have a visible presence in Russia
  - Isolation will make it harder to do business with Russia
- Russian students studying in Europe
  - Isolating Russia will likely result in less students coming to study in Europe
- Tourism
  - Isolating Russia will likely result in less Russian tourists coming to Europe

### **4. Chapter Three: Cultural Influence**

- Russian literature/theatre, etc.

### **5. Chapter Four: Conclusion and Recommendations**

- Isolating Russia is not in anyone’s interest
  - The evidence provided underlines the multitude of detrimental effects brought by the straining of relations between Russia and the EU
  - Further sanctions can lead to more negative outcomes
- Steps need to be taken to rebuild relations between Russia and Europe

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