

## Call for papers for the **2. Student Conference on International Relations.**

Student Association for International Relations Globallis, in partnership with the Chair and Centre for International Relations, is organizing the second Student Conference on International Relations. The conference will be held during Europe Week, on the **fourth of May 2022** in the Great Hall of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. We invite students to participate.

Students that wish to participate should submit their work in two waves, until **30. of January 2022**, or at the latest until **30. of March 2022**, with an email to the following address: **[konferenca@globalis.org](mailto:konferenca@globalis.org)**. The email should include: **name and surname of the student; university, faculty, field of study, year of study; the selected conference topic; title of the paper/contribution; an abstract with a maximum length of 300 words (including 3-5 keywords)**. The abstract should be in **Word or pdf format**, with the title ***Surname\_2.SCIR***.

The academic committee will until the 11. 4. 2022 check the quality of the abstracts, accepting the appropriate ones, rejecting the inappropriate ones, or offering a possibility for improvement. According to the submitted abstracts, the conference organizers will then form the appropriate presentation panels, moderated by a student of senior years of IR study. For every conference contribution, the author will have 15 minutes for an oral presentation. After the presentations, each presenter will receive short feedback from each of the two committee members participating in the panel. At the end of each panel, the moderator will open up the debate for questions for the audience.



The conference topics are as follow.

### **A. Crisis of Liberal World Order**

In his article on the liberal world order in *International Affairs* (2018), G. John Ikenberry invited to a discussion on the crisis of the international liberal order. His discussion could be interpreted as follows. The liberal world order is undoubtedly in crisis. For the first time since the end of the Cold War, the United States has elected a president, Donald Trump, who has proven to be openly hostile to liberal internationalism. Free trade, multilateralism, democracy, human rights etc.; on all these issues, Trump expressed views that signify the decline of the liberal world order in general, not just the leading role of the United States. The Brexit and authoritarian tendencies in Central and Eastern Europe, to which Trumpism only gives an additional impetus signify in their own right the end of the post-war project of European unification. Europe's role as one of the pillars of the liberal international order is diminishing. Worryingly, populist, nationalist and xenophobic regimes no longer have only regional significance – they spread globally. As the crisis of the world liberal order is therefore happening in front of our eyes, and the question we are asking is: how deep is this crisis? Can it actually lead to the complete decline of the liberal world order?

### **B. World politics in times of global pandemic**

The pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus has affected all countries of the world, and the response has shown the different willingness and ability of countries to cope with such a crisis. Despite numerous calls from the United Nations, in particular from the World Health Organization, to the highest degree of solidarity in dealing with the pandemic, the last two years have clearly shown how poorly we understand this concept. This panel will deal with questions such as: What kind of policies to cope with the pandemic have been designed by developed countries? How did they take into account the problems of those less developed? How successful were the various global actions (providing vaccines to developing countries, increasing official development assistance, debt write-off or moratorium on debt repayment, etc.)?



### **C. Current global issues in International law and human rights**

A vast number of issues have been in the limelight in the field of International Law. An increasing number of various issues go beyond one's national boundaries and cannot be solved by the individual countries that act alone in the time of crisis. Climate change is an important issue at hand, and human beings are currently at a very defining moment because of this. Another issue which falls within the ambit of International law is the humanitarian issue. Many international hotspots and crises have emerged, raising manifold international legal issues and challenges, such as migration and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, right to healthy environment, etc. Thus, all contributions identifying, addressing and analyzing current and global issues in international law and human rights, are welcome.

### **D. The Rise of China**

With the extensive use of industrial policy, especially the selective treatment of foreign direct investment and the systematic transfer of technology and knowledge to domestic firms, China managed to catch up in certain sectors of its economy and greatly expanded its domestic production capacity. On the one hand, this enabled China to establish itself as a regional and global superpower and, under its leadership, to create new international financial institutions, international investment initiatives and free trade agreements. On the other hand, rapid growth led to a change in the relative balance of economic power, resulting in a political and economic response by the old hegemon, the United States, and its allies, aimed primarily at preventing a new technological revolution in China. The panel welcomes all contributions dealing with the process of Chinese economic development and its international economic, political and legal dimensions.



## **E. Challenges of European Integration**

The European integration (EI) project has long been viewed as a way for participating countries to magnify their political and economic clout. Nevertheless, a series of different crises have affected the EI to the extent that both the ideas of an "ever closer union" and intergovernmentalism that resulted in various "opt outs" of certain aspects of integration, are under great challenge. The most discussed and scrutinised consequences of such trajectories are Euroscepticism and enlargement fatigue, which will be in the forefront of this section. The latter will thus address the questions regarding the effects of both the Euroscepticism and enlargement fatigue on the European integration as such. Have previous crises constituted a "make or break" moment for the EU, one of the most important powers in the world? How Euroscepticism and "Sovereign Europe" challenging the idea of European integration? Is the enlargement fatigue a part of the 'solution' for the future of European integration or a part of 'problem'?

## **F. Western Balkans / post-Yugoslav space**

The thematic section addresses the Western Balkans or the post-Yugoslav space as either a subject or an object of the analysis. In 2014, when the then EC President Jean-Claude Juncker announced that "there will be no enlargement", the EU was faced both with the challenge of maintaining its credibility vis-à-vis the region and competing with big powers (Russia, China, Turkey) to maintain leadership in the region. The panel will address the extent to which the influence of big powers has "paralyzed" EU action and role in the region. Has the EU lost its (decisive) influence in the region due to enlargement fatigue? How has enlargement fatigue strengthened the role of China, Russia and Turkey in the region? Is the future of the Western Balkans a consolidation of its own subjectivity and regional (economic) integration modelled on the EU?



## **G. Slovenian and Croatian Presidency to the Council of the European Union**

Presidency to the main decision-making and executive institution of the European Union is a periodic obligation of a member state. The section will address the question of how much this can also be an opportunity for a presiding state for its own foreign policy goals. What kind of help or constraint is offered by the country size, diplomatic proficiency, quality of the programme, participation in the presiding trio or its general positioning within like-minded groups of states? What influence on presidency implementation bare external shocks?

## **H. Slovenian Foreign Policy and Diplomacy**

This thematic section addresses foreign policy of Slovenia as well as diplomacy – either as a foreign policy instrument or institution of cooperation and peaceful settlement of disputes in international relations. After having entered into the European Union and NATO, Slovenia did not update its foreign policy strategy, which repositioned the country from one of the most reputable in the Central and Eastern Europe to a stagnating and comparatively regressionist one. The current government's more piercing foreign policy in Europe and the world (UN SC 2024–2025 mandate candidacy) however, has made a 180 degrees turn on value-basis and thus seems to be instrumentalizing foreign policy for domestic fight for power.



## **G. Environmental problems in the international community**

Issues of environmental protection are becoming increasingly pressing in the international community. In the contemporary world with no ‘world government’ international norms and standards for environmental protection are not ‘imposed from above’, rather they are based on the consensus of countries. However, to achieve a consensus on issues related to international protection of environment is very difficult to accomplish, for several reasons. Thus, the panel invites contributions tackling diverse questions related to international protection of environment, such as: why international environmental protection? Why it is that countries find it so difficult to adhere to international environmental norms and standards? What are these standards or norms in the first place? Once adopted, are there problems with the interpretation and implementation of accepted norms and standards and if so why? What are the current and future challenges to accomplish measures to improve international protection of the environment?

## **H. European Green Deal in turbulent times**

At the heart of the agenda of the European Commission, which took office at the end of 2019, the European Green Deal aims to implement a programme of structural transformation of the European economy to achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. While its first elements were unveiled at the beginning of 2020, the Covid-19 crisis struck, posing unprecedented challenges and raising questions about the need to adapt the Green Deal to take into account this new context. What are the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis on the agenda of the European Green Deal and the climate ambition of the EU? What role for the EU and the Member States to combine ecological transition policies and the revival of the European economy? How to make the Green Deal a key component of the reconstruction of European economies?

