

Public lecture by

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FUNCTIONALITY OF THE EU MULTI-LEVEL ARRANGEMENTS: EVIDENCE FROM THE RUSSIAN CASE

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Faculty of Social Sciences and Education
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The question of practical functionality of multi-level arrangements in the EU has long aroused skeptical assessments with regard to the Union's ability to act decisively in foreign affairs and with an eye to enacting unified and effective common foreign policy. The sanctions imposed by the EU on Russia in 2014–2015 suggest that these multi-level institutional arrangements may be acquiring greater functionality and robustness and are better suited than previously thought to pursuing decisive EU foreign policy. A recent paper, co-authored by Irina Busygina and Mikhail Filippov, claims that the Ukrainian crisis revealed the priority of the all-Union decision-making institutions over bilateral relations. While political leaders of many member states expressed desire to sustain amiable relationships with Putin, at the EU level (European Council, Council of Ministers) leaders of all 28 nations supported united actions against Russia. The Ukrainian crisis has also created new opportunities for strengthening the EU institutions of common foreign policy.

IRINA BUSYGINA is Professor of Comparative Politics at Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University). She also heads the Center for Regional Political Studies. She works and publishes on Russia-EU relations, European integration, comparative federalism, regional development in Russia and Europe. She is also engaged in expert work at the Russian International Affairs Council and at the Committee of Civil Initiatives. Her most recent book is *Political Modernization of the State in Russia*, published in 2012 by Liberal Mission Foundation, the most recent academic publication: Irina Busygina & Mikhail Filippov (2015) *The Calculus of Non-Protest in Russia: Redistributive Expectations from Political Reforms*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 67:2, 209–223.



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