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Title: Russia and the Future Global Order

Over the past decade Russia has demonstrated its willingness to challenge the existing power arrangements and to take advantage of emerging power vacuums. The illegal annexation of Crimea, proxy warfare in Eastern Ukraine, the military campaign in Syria, actions in Libya, ongoing widespread disinformation warfare, and evasion of arms control treaties undermined the foundations of trans-Atlantic security. At the same time both the COVID-19 pandemic and a concurrent collapse of the oil prices have significantly constrained financial resources available to the Kremlin for pursuing its foreign policy objectives while responding to the public health crisis at home. How will the Kremlin balance those competing demands? Will the current crisis affect the Russian government’s foreign policy priorities or its policy tools? What implications will it have for European and trans-Atlantic security?

The sponsor welcomes proposals focusing either on Russian domestic or foreign policies or on EU-Russia relations. All methodological approaches are welcomed, knowledge of Russian is a plus. The research will be conducted on the premises of the Institute for European Studies and Vesalius College, both are part of the VUB.

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