

EU Member States and the Ukrainian Crisis: Fragmentation or Unity?

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The Russo-Ukrainian Crisis
and the Consequences for
the EU

CERI-CEFRES-IIR

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Narrative I: Russia as a divisive issue



- ▶ Fragmentation as the keyword
- ▶ Fears of the Russian „fifth column“ in the EU
- ▶ The alliance of populists/ extremists with the Kremlin
- ▶ Typical for the CR too: The absence of FP consensus

A REGION DISUNITED?	
CENTRAL EUROPEAN RESPONSES TO THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS	
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Narrative II: The conflict as a unifying issue



- ▶ Expansionist Russia as the constitutive other
- ▶ A dramatic shift in Germany, The Netherlands and the Nordic countries
- ▶ Surprises
 - ▶ Sanctions imposed
 - ▶ Sanctions gradually strengthened
 - ▶ Sanction in place for 14 months
- ▶ Russia Today: sanctions cannot survive long
 - ➡ lack of EU unity will prevent new sanctions

How to explain the persistence of sanctions?



	Hawks	Multilateralists	Pragmatists	Friends of Russia
Sanctions	Good	Unfortunate, but necessary	Unfortunate, but necessary	Bad
Military aid	Yes	No	No	No
EU coordination	Not necessary	Yes	Yes	Not necessary
EU doing	Not enough	Well	Well	Badly
Russia as	Enemy	Rival	Market	Potential ally
Czech Rep.	TOP09, ODS	MFA, KDU-ČSL, Greens	PM, MoF, ČSSD, ANO	President, Communists, Dawn

How to explain the persistence of sanctions?



Two processes

1. Strong domestic polarization + EU-wide visibility of domestic debates
 2. Trans-national alliances of both supporters and opponents of the Kremlin
- ▶ The typical outcome: pro-sanction majority vs. a vocal pro-Kremlin minority (F, UK, G: 30-40-20-10)
 - ▶ Emergence of a thin European public sphere?
 - ▶ Similar topics, identical timing, similar argumentation and framing
 - ▶ Overall belief that EU-wide action has to be taken

Thank you for your attention.

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