

# Can the unravelling European security regime be saved?

Licínia Simão (with Maria Raquel Freire) University of Coimbra Ottawa, 18 January 2018



• **Puzzle:** to what extent is the European security regime challenged by tensions in EU-Russia relations and the crisis in Ukraine?



### Regimes

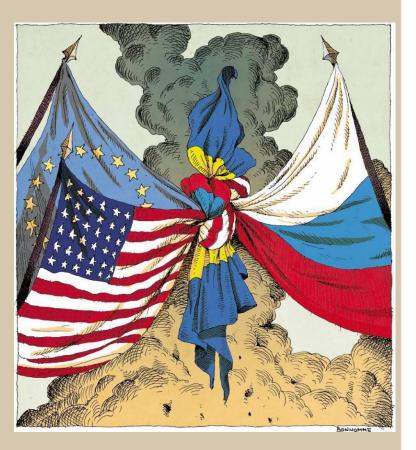
- principles
- -norms
- rules

 decision-making procedures, commonly accepted in specific areas of international society

structured patterns of cooperation



- European Security Regime
  - Helsinki Final Act (1975) and revisions
  - "Common, comprehensive and indivisible security"
  - Decalogue (normative core)
  - Security treaties
  - CSCE/OSCE structures
  - Consensus and cooperation





- Is the European Security Regime challenged in its principles and norms?
- Or are current tensions in EU-Russia relations challenging *only* existing rules and procedures?



### • Argument:

- Oran Young distinguishes <u>negotiated</u> and <u>imposed orders</u>, to explain change
- European security regime was a negotiated order
- But current format resembles an imposed order



- Three elements affect change:
  - 1. Power imbalances
    - post-Cold War enhanced role of EU and NATO, marginalisation of OSCE and Russia
    - Russia's challenge to western normative domination



# 2. Internal contradictions

- Principles of selfdetermination vs. territorial integrity
- Humanitarian and democratic principles vs.
  sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs
- Ex: ratification of CFE Treaty; NATO intervention in Kosovo; frozen conflicts in Eurasia; Platform for Cooperative Security



#### 3. Exogenous Factors

- Post-9/11 Global War on Terror
- Transnational terrorism
- Organised crime
- Migratory pressures



### **EU-RUSSIA AND UKRAINE CONFLICT**



- Divergent understandings of security
- EU
  - Normative conceptions: democracy, HR, RoL, market economy
  - Comprehensive and structural security
  - New hard security tools



- Divergent understandings of security
- Russia
  - Focus on hard security military modernisation
  - Link to domestic stability
  - Medvedev's European Security Treaty



- Ukraine conflict and the European Security Regime
  - Violation of fundamental principles
  - Breach of trust
  - Competitive views of pan-European security:
    - Fundamental principles
    - Leading institutions



## Thank you very much!

Licínia Simão Isimao@fe.uc.pt