

"Germany and Visegrad 4 in time of German hegemony in the Eurozone"

The post-Lisbon decision making presupposes coalition building of like-minded countries. More recently, German reluctant leadership of the EU (increasingly split along the north-south divide) requires backing by the Northern group countries. The CEE countries, linked with Germany in many ways represent an obvious base of co-operation. There have been limitations to the co-operation: the CEE countries are differentiated when it comes to the deepening of the EU and Germany kept relatively low profile in military and defence co-operation so far. The situation may be changing with the austerity and the new international constellation (decreasing US presence in Europe) and transformation of the EU.