

EU-North Korea relations

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The nuclear question tends to dominate 'all things North Korean'. While the issue is also (and inevitably) of concern to the European Union, its strategy towards the DPRK has tended to be more multi-faceted, seeking to de-link 'high politics' from humanitarian issues.

This paper examines the development of EU-North Korean (NK) relations. First, it begins by exploring the EU's involvement in the conflict resolution efforts on the Korean peninsula. Here the EU has clearly remained at the margins. What remains wanting in this regard is a clearer coordination between the EU and the US in dealing with North Korea. Next the paper considers non-traditional security challenges, an area where EU involvement has been more marked and where the potential for a greater EU impact appears more promising. Here development and humanitarian assistance, as well as the EU's stance on human rights are especially considered. Possible conditions that would allow a more prominent EU involvement in security matters on the Korean Peninsula are finally considered. It adds comparative views of EU- NK policies and South Korea- NK policies.