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**POWER, INTEREST AND NORMS – COMPETING
VISIONS OF EU-ASIA PARTNERSHIP**

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What kind of power?

EU as a civilian power?

Francois Duchene's concept of Europe as a civilian power in the 1970s, reflecting the constraints of the Cold War.

"Civilian Power Europe, a civilian group of countries long on economic power and relatively short on armed force' (Duchene, 1973) was in direct opposition to a traditional Military Power – a strong state preferring threats and coercion over economic influence.

Hanns Maull – being a civilian power implies:

The acceptance of the necessity of cooperation with others in the pursuit of international objectives;

The concentration on non-military, primarily economic, means to secure national goals, with military power left as a residual instrument serving essentially to safeguard other means of international interaction; and

A willingness to develop supranational structures to address critical issues of international management.

Ends (international cooperation / solidarity) versus means (persuasion / soft power) – Using civilian means to achieve civilian ends (goals)

What kind of power?

The EU as a normative power (Ian Manners)

EU's development over the last 50 years or more underpinned by five core norms (contained in various document/treaties/declarations):

- The centrality of peace;
- Idea of liberty;
- Democracy;
- Rule of law
- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

Idea grew out of the idealism and constructivist turn following the end of the Cold War.

Accepting the normative basis of the EU does not make it a normative power. Only if these norms are "diffused / exported" can the EU claim to be a normative power

Norms can be spread through, unintentional diffusion, communication, through the institutionalisation of a partnership, during trade/technical assistance, etc.

What about using material power /coercive means to export norms?

What kind of power?

The EU as an ethical power – a "force for good"?

Come about as EU acquires more power capabilities and the growing debate of the strategic role the EU wants to play. Move away from "what it is" to focus on "what it does". The advocates of civilian power and normative power seems to assert that "EU exercises influences and shapes its environment through what it is rather than through what it does.

Using the concept of ethical power also overcomes the distinction between civilian and military instruments. Both civilian and normative powers concepts premised on the idea of the declining utility of military power

Being good versus Doing good

Challenges of ethical power concept – ethics is deeply contested because it is closely associated with worldviews, values, and beliefs in the feasibility of change in the international system.

Ethics can also be intertwined with strategic and instrumental interests

What Roles CAN and SHOULD the EU play?

What are the **Expectations** – internal and external?

Internal – the expectations of the EU member states / citizens

What role do member states want EU to play in the world stage?

There seem to be contradictions between the ambitions of some EU member states to play a larger international role and their reluctance to move beyond an inter-governmental framework for doing so.

SHOULD – normative assessment

CAN – objective assessment of capabilities (instruments in the EU treaties) and resources (made available by the MS)

What role should / can EU play on world stage?

- A replacement of the USSR in the world balance of power?
- A regional pacifier / stabilising force?
- A global mediator of conflicts?
- A bridge between rich and poor?
- A joint supervisor of the world economy

What kind of partnership with Asia?

Global partnership – focus on working with Asia to address common challenges (Emphasis on inter-dependence, on equal partnership, genuine dialogue)

Strategic partnership – driven by EU power and interests calculations (EU as a normal power – like any “normal” state actor it starts with defining what and where are my interests, what should be my foreign policy goals, and how do I go about defending my interests and achieving my goals / objectives)

Competitive partnership – Asia as a challenge to EU's power, interest and norms (return of classic power politics, EU as a closed bloc, fearful and pursuing protectionist policies towards Asia)

Ad hoc partnership – no strategic thinking, mainly reactive and primarily focus on economics and trade issues