

# Strategic Partnership in New Multipolar World Order: European Union's 'Three-Step Strategy'. Theory and Empirical Evidence in the European Union from a multidimensional approach.

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## Abstract

The EU has developed a 'three-step strategy', which pre-supposes strategic partnerships, firstly, with traditional post-Second World War Western partners, secondly, with the anticipated advantage of regional and inter-regional organization, and, thirdly, with the involvement of emerging powers in a new multipolar world order. However, there are some uncertainties with regard to the relationship between bilateral 'strategic partnerships' and the EU's regional and inter-regional 'strategies'.

The present paper aims to investigate the role of strategic partnership and international institutions in new multipolar world order, to compare these concepts of strategic partnership with the realities of regional integration, and to match the bilateral and multilateral approaches toward strategic partnership. At the same time, the paper will offer an analysis of the six regional organizations in order to compare bilateral 'strategic partnerships' and the EU's regional 'strategies', simultaneously applying both techniques: the binary logistic model and the synthetic index of strategic partner suitability.

Key words: strategic partnership, multilateralism, regional integration, binary logistic model, synthetic index.

Thematic area: E1

## Resumen

La UE ha desarrollado una "estrategia de tres pasos", que presupone asociaciones estratégicas, en primer lugar, con los socios occidentales tradicionales posteriores a la Segunda Guerra Mundial, en segundo lugar, con la ventaja prevista de la organización regional e interregional, y, en tercer lugar, con la participación de las potencias emergentes en un nuevo orden mundial multipolar. Sin embargo, existen algunas incertidumbres con respecto a la relación entre las "asociaciones estratégicas" bilaterales y las "estrategias" regionales e interregionales de la UE.

El presente documento tiene como objetivo investigar el papel de la asociación estratégica y las instituciones internacionales en el nuevo orden mundial multipolar, comparar estos conceptos de asociación estratégica con las realidades de la integración regional y unir los enfoques bilaterales y multilaterales con la asociación estratégica. Al mismo tiempo, el documento ofrecerá un análisis de las seis organizaciones regionales para comparar las 'asociaciones estratégicas' bilaterales y las 'estrategias' regionales de la UE, aplicando simultáneamente dos técnicas: el modelo logístico binario y el índice sintético de idoneidad del socio estratégico.

Área temática: E1