

**Human Security and Coherence within the EU:  
The case of the 2006 UN Small Arms Conference**

Javier Alcalde  
Caroline Bouchard

**Abstract**

The EU has presented itself as an important actor in the promotion of concrete international initiatives in the area of human security. This paper examines whether coherence issues affected the EU's effectiveness in a specific case of human security negotiation: the 2006 UN Small Arms Review Conference. The issue of coherence of the EU in international policy-making being complex and multifaceted, the paper suggests an analytical framework which identifies different types of coherence in two dimensions: horizontal/vertical and content/representation. It also utilizes a multilevel game approach to examine the factors affecting the EU's effectiveness at the 2006 Small Arms Review Conference. It explores the ways in which a complex web of actors and institutions interact at three different levels: EU, UN and domestic. This paper suggests that although the EU appeared to show some overall coherence, it suffered from some vertical consistency problems and incoherence due to pillar competition. This had a direct impact on the ability of the EU to be an effective actor during the Review Conference and affected the EU's capacity to convince other states to support its objectives.