



# ENGAGE

ENVISIONING A NEW  
GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE  
FOR A GLOBAL EUROPE

## “The EU’s future influence will depend on its capacity to deliver now”

- Josep Borrell Fontelles at the ENGAGE Kick-off Conference

**June 16, 2021** – “The most striking thing about the world today is speed. In a world of threats and power politics, the EU needs to stick together and go faster. Our future influence will depend on our capacity to deliver now, and for this we need a common strategic culture in Europe, a common assessment of threats and a shared understanding of the world,” said **Josep Borrell Fontelles**, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, during his speech at the kick-off conference of the EU-funded ENGAGE consortium, titled *A New Governance Architecture for a Global Europe?*. Similarly, **Javier Solana**, president of the EsadeGeo Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics and former EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said, “the EU is already a global actor, but needs to become a better one. Therefore, we need to adapt governance structures to today’s uncertain world, and consider not only the classical spheres of external action.”

To help strengthen the EU as a global actor and advance the European Commission’s goal of giving Europe a more united voice in the world, top-level researchers and experts of nine universities and four think tanks from across Europe met in this virtual conference for the public launch of the [ENGAGE project](#) – ‘Envisioning a New Governance Architecture for a Global Europe’ – which is funded by the European Commission’s prestigious H2020 research programme.

According to **Angel Saz-Carranza**, coordinator of ENGAGE and director of EsadeGeo, “in a world mired in political instability and facing multiple collective threats, the EU cannot be a bystander; we must be able to speak and act.” As for the EU’s role in the international arena, he said: “the Union should find ways to act more cohesively, interact with other actors more decisively and counteract the current collective threats more effectively. A ‘global Europe’ should be our goal – and it is within reach.”



### *A new governance architecture for a global Europe*

ENGAGE, which will run over the course of three and a half years, will advance goals that are aligned with the European Commission's push to have a stronger and more united European voice in the world. The project will focus on how the EU – both the institutions and its member states – can effectively and sustainably harness all of its tools in joined-up external action alongside the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), meet key strategic challenges and become a stronger global actor.

ENGAGE will identify key challenges that the EU's external action faces, from the rise of nationalism, the contestation of multilateralism to climate change and conflicts in the EU's neighbourhood to the acceptability of EU external action from the perspective of citizens and national decisionmakers. With these challenges in mind, the project will assess existing governance structures, treaties and strategic objectives – engaging with strategic partners, neighbouring regions, and conflict scenarios – to provide policymakers with concrete recommendations and tools. The work of the project will ultimately lead to a White Paper for joined-up, coherent, sustainable and effective external action, to inspire an inclusive and representative EU-wide conversation.

ENGAGE is coordinated by Esade Business & Law School (Spain) and brings together a consortium of nine universities and four think tanks from across Europe, including Carnegie Europe Foundation (Belgium); College of Europe, Natolin (Poland); GLOBSEC (Slovakia); Hertie School Centre for International Security (Germany); Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (Spain); Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (France); International Institute for Strategic Studies (Germany and United Kingdom); Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (Belgium); Sabanci University (Turkey); Tampere University (Finland); The University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom); and the University of Groningen (The Netherlands).

### *About ENGAGE*

*ENGAGE is a three-and-a-half-year EU-funded Horizon 2020 project led by Esade Business and Law School. The project, titled 'Envisioning a New Governance Architecture for a Global Europe' in full, brings together the first-class interdisciplinary expertise of scholars from nine academic institutions and four think tanks from across Europe to examine how the EU can effectively and sustainably meet strategic challenges by harnessing all of its tools to become a more assertive global actor. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 962533.*



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