

‘The Brussels Pact and its Legacy: A Reappraisal of European Defence and Transatlantic Relations Sixty Years since its Signing’

An International Conference to be held at the University of Rome III and the American University of Rome on 7 and 8 March 2008. The conference is organized by the Department of International Relations at the American University of Rome and by the Department of History, Geography and Anthropology at the University of Rome III.

The sixtieth anniversary of the Brussels Pact, which was signed by six European countries on 17 March 1948, provides an important occasion for a reappraisal of the European achievements in the fields of security and defence and the current state of transatlantic relations. Despite its evident geographical and material limitations, the Brussels Pact, which in 1954 evolved into the Western European Union and whose operational competencies were transferred to the European Union in November 2000, was the first multilateral initiative in the security and defence fields in Western Europe during the Cold War. It also provided a common framework for the opening of the Atlantic talks between the Western Europeans, the United States and Canada that led in April 1949 to the signing of North Atlantic Treaty. The conference, which will feature keynote presentations from former diplomats and scholarly sessions, will aim at presenting the state-of-the-art of academic research on relations between the Brussels Pact, the Western European Union and NATO and its significance for European security and defence.

The conference organisers invite proposals for papers that address the following themes:

The historical origins and significance of the Brussels Pact for European defence

The development of the Brussels Pact and the Western European Union

National perspectives on the Brussels Pact and the Western European Union

The evolution of relations between the Western European Union, the European Union and NATO in the context of European defence

National perspectives on the current state of European defence and transatlantic relations

The conference organizers will make a selection of the received proposals and might provide a limited reimbursement to travel expenses for those invited to present a paper. They will also seek publication of the conference proceedings in the form of an edited volume.

Paper proposals (abstract and c.v.) should be sent, via e-mail or fax, before October 30, 2007 to:

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