

## **Conflict management inside EAEU to preserved its forum**

### **Abstract**

#### **Eurasian Economic Union members**

The Eurasian Economic Union consists of five member states: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia.

What is the Eurasian Economic Union?

The Eurasian Economic Union (EEU or EAEU is a project for economic integration for the former Soviet region. Its formal objectives are to create a common market much like the European Union (EU). There are four targets of this forum, i.e:1) coordinating economic policy, 2.) eliminating non-tariff trade barriers,3) harmonizing regulations, and 4).modernizing the economies of its five member states. While whole populations of EEU member states is estimated 180 millions people.

The EEU has its some institutions inside it, i.e : the Eurasian Economic Commission in Moscow as its regulatory body, and a Court of the Eurasian Economic Union based in Minsk. The Commission's power is limited. Member states disagreeing with its judgements can appeal to other bodies, and the Commission has no power to bring a member state before the Court in a case of non-compliance. Disputes are often resolved bilaterally rather than via EAEU institutions.

Bureaucratic forms of EU has not fully copied by EAEU, seems a slow phase of its development so far. This is might be caused by EAEU GDP in 2019 is majority Russian economy (87%). Russia is by far the largest member state and dominates the Union. This domination means that Russia is easily able to act unilaterally within the union. (websites of chatamhouse.org/ august 2022)

#### **Keywords:**

**EAEU- CIS- free movement of goods- competitiveness---cooperation---**

### **Introduction**

#### **A short history of the EAEU**

After the separation of the USSR in 1991, Russia has tried to re-kindled some of its satellites states into CIS (Commonwealth of the Independent States). Some CIS member states were interested in closer cooperation with Russia but others were not. In Ukraine, many people perceived the organization as a mechanism purely to facilitate a civilized divorce from Russia. Other initiatives were set up outside the CIS, including the Eurasian Economic Community of 2000 with Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, and the Common Economic Space of 2003.

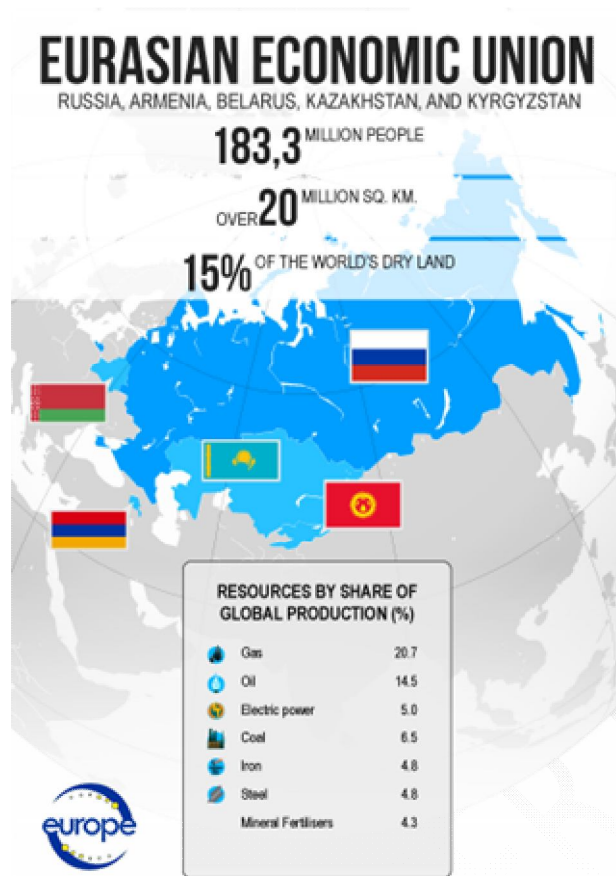
The treaty establishing the EAEU was signed on 29 May 2014 in Astana (now Nur-Sultan) and came into force on 1 January 2015. Armenia was admitted to the Union the day after it came into force. Kyrgyzstan also acceded to the Eurasian Economic Union in August 2015, motivated by its close economic ties to Kazakhstan and by the labor mobility provided by the EAEU.

The EAEU provided legalized forms of labor migration for Kyrgyzstan's workers, easing the opportunities to find work in Russia and send remittances to family at home. This labour mobility has been a relative success story of the Union.

Recently, discussions took place about Uzbekistan joining the EAEU but these have not really progressed. Since the increased Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022, Azerbaijan has also discussed joining the EEU as the war has forced the country to acknowledge Russia as its most important geopolitical partner.

Countries such as Kazakhstan have been capable bypass sanctions and import restricted goods.

Figure 1 : EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION



This cooperative Union between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia developed from previous, smaller-scale international agreements, but it has since become much more.

The EAEU was built in order to achieve: 1) free movement of goods, services, capital and labor, and 2) pursues an upgrade in competitiveness and cooperation amongst its national economies, in order to raise living standards. (Eleonora Di Franco, April 7, 2021, *The Other European Union: Why the EAEU Is a Threat on the Rise :How Russia is re-building an empire, and why the EU should be afraid, www.mycountryeurope.com*)

### Russian dominance in energy sector

Moscow's dominance over energy supplies; especially to Western Europe is benefited by the EAEU existence. The EU has long been trying to reduce its dependence from Russia' oil and gas, Russia on the other had, using energy as its main leverage against sanctions from the West..

The Eurasian Economic Union maintain is fundamental for Russia, because its role as the engine for its superpower is energy dominance. Russia produces 20.7% of the worlds' natural

gas and 14.6% of the world's oil and gas condensate. It also the third and fourth producer of electrical energy and coals. Development of EAEU happened very slowly towards modernization though Putin has his own ambitions to boost this forum of economic activities to further the member's monetary, political and military union; based on his own beliefs.

**Altyn**, an Eurasian Central Bank and current common currencies, targeted to be built at the latest of the year of 2025 would be handled all currencies of EAEU countries 'currencies and so said to compete with "Euro". Steps to establish a parliament inside EAEU apparently started inside EAEU, eventhough still under the domination of Kremlin.

[https:// www.mycountryeurope.com](https://www.mycountryeurope.com)

Table 1 : Facts & figures

<b>EAEU: Economic indicators</b>
• <b>Total GDP:</b> \$1.74 trillion (3.2% of world GDP)
• <b>Total population:</b> 184 million (2.4% of global population)
• <b>Economically active people:</b> 93.6 million (2.7% of global total)
• <b>Unemployment:</b> 4.8%
• <b>External trade with third countries (2020):</b> \$731 billion (2.4% of global export)
• <b>Population with internet access:</b> 83.7% (3.9% of total internet users globally)
• <b>Agricultural production:</b> \$114.5 billion (2.6% of global production)
• <b>Industrial production (2020):</b> 2.2% of global industrial production
• <b>Oil production:</b> 600 million tons (14.4% of global production)
• <b>Gas production:</b> 750 million cubic meters (19.5% of global production)
• <b>Power generation:</b> 1,256.3 million kilowatt-hours (4.7% of global production)
• <b>Steel production:</b> 84.3 million tons (4.2% of global production)
• <b>Mineral fertilizers production:</b> 17 million tons (35.7% of global production)
• <b>Rail mileage:</b> 145,500 km (10.3% of global rail mileage)
• <b>Roads:</b> 1.76 million km (4.5% of global)

Source: Eurasian Economic Union

#### *Russia's ambition*

*Russia wants to achieve from this project can't be simply described as nostalgic **empire-building**. While it is undoubted that the Kremlin is slowly reassembling the vestiges of the USSR under its thumb, it is also expanding its influence outside of the traditional territories. Russia benefits such as :1)being the **bridge** between Europe and Asia, in particular the New Silk Road economic belt. Facing off against powers such as the EU, India, the US, and China, a*

union of countries serves to maintain the Kremlin's relevance as a fundamental international actor. 2) administering a federation which has an appalling lack of job **diversification** and is facing a sharp economic decline.

Putin has specific challenges to face. Having a free market to feed its few exports into, and having the opportunity to get a variety of imports from its partners without tariffs is a way to keep the economy afloat while the process of diversification takes place. (<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/eurasian-economic-union>, A closer look at the Eurasian Economic Union by Evgeny Gontmakher:Consequences for the countries of the Eurasian Union)

## Methodological Analysis of EAEU seen from international relations theories

### Subjects of analysis

All of this means that if Russia continues to push so hard to restore and strengthen its sphere of influence in the post-Soviet space, EAEU member states will begin to resist integration within the framework. That tension will put an end to the EAEU's recent attempts to conduct relations with the EU on equal footing. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia are already trying to establish bilateral economic relations with other parts of the world without the participation of the EAEU.

Another scenario would see Russia adjust its foreign policy agenda to **focus more on the pan-European space**, with less strong-arming of its neighbors. If that were to occur, other EAEU members would likely lose interest in the organization and look toward potential partnerships with the EU, or even membership. Something like this occurred in the late 1980s with the democratic transformations that were taking place as the USSR was winding down. Despite the attempts at integration described above, most of the 15 former Soviet states distanced themselves from Russia to some degree. What is happening with the EAEU is the final stage of this trend. In order to get some inside views, writer will like to use the Conflict Management Styles Theory, below:

### Five Major Conflict Management Styles\*

Knowing when and how to use each style can help control conflict and lead to an improved working environment, resulting in a better bottom line.

- 1. Collaborating Style:** A combination of being assertive and cooperative, those who collaborate attempt to work with others to identify a solution that fully satisfies everyone's concerns. In this style, which is the opposite of avoiding, both sides can get what they want and negative feelings are minimized. "Collaborating works best when the long-term relationship and outcome are important—for example, planning for integrating two departments into one, where you want the best of both in the newly formed department," Dr. Benoliel says.
- 2. Competing Style:** Those who compete are assertive and uncooperative and willing to pursue one's own concerns at another person's expense. Dr. Benoliel explains using this style works when you don't care about the relationship but the outcome is important,

such as when competing with another company for a new client. But, she cautions, "Don't use competing inside your organization; it doesn't build relationships."

3. **Avoiding Style:** Those who avoid conflict tend to be unassertive and uncooperative while diplomatically sidestepping an issue or simply withdrawing from a threatening situation. "Use this when it is safer to postpone dealing with the situation or you don't have as great a concern about the outcome, such as if you have a conflict with a co-worker about their ethics of using FaceTime on the job."
4. **Accommodating Style:** The opposite of competing, there is an element of self-sacrifice when accommodating to satisfy the other person. While it may seem generous, it could take advantage of the weak and cause resentment. "You can use accommodating when you really don't care a lot about the outcome but do want to preserve or build the relationship," Dr. Benoliel says, "such as going out for lunch with the boss and agreeing, 'If you want to go for Thai food for lunch, that's OK with me.'"
5. **Compromising Style:** This style aims to find an expedient, mutually acceptable solution that partially satisfies both parties in the conflict while maintaining some assertiveness and cooperativeness. "This style is best to use when the outcome is not crucial and you are losing time; for example, when you want to just make a decision and move on to more important things and are willing to give a little to get the decision made," Dr. Benoliel says. "However," she adds, "be aware that no one is really satisfied." "It's incredibly important to not be afraid when conflict arises because there are things you can do, such as becoming more skilled and qualified by building a repertoire for responding to reduce conflict," says Dr. Benoliel.

Walden University Websites :Graduate Certificate in Conflict Management and Negotiation for professionals across all industries.*Discover your default conflict management style with this online assessment.*

<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/eurasian-economic-union>, A closer look at the Eurasian Economic Union by Evgeny Gontmakher:Consequences for the countries of the Eurasian Union

## Conclusion

- All the five major conflict management styles been seen inside the EAEU forum, for examples:
  - 1. Assertive and cooperative: for the Russian and the members of the EAEU to accommodate the problem of Russia' s economy since the sanction from the American and European.
  - 2. Competing style: being a forum of regional economic , it seems that EAEU exercising a complete competition with EU so far
  - 3. Avoiding style: since the crisis in Ukraine'war with Russia, there is some avoidance from the other members of the EAEU to get involved in the war, namely to protect their own economic

- 4. Accomodating style: conflict could became a turning point for parties to start to learn for self-deterrence , just to avoid the more of the harm produced in the war itself
- 5. Compromising style: there were many statements hindering around the forum that many compromising actions, in order to save the member's own economic activities from the impact of the war ( exchange og goods, exchanged of personals and proffesionals, and the likes).

## References :

1. websites of chatamhouse.org/ august 2022
2. Eleonora Di Franco, April 7, 2021, The Other European Union: Why the EAEU Is a Threat on the Rise: **How Russia is re-building an empire, and why the EU should be afraid**, [www.mycountryeurope.com](http://www.mycountryeurope.com)
3. [https:// www.mycountryeurope.com](https://www.mycountryeurope.com)
4. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/eurasian-economic-union>, A closer look at the Eurasian Economic Union by Evgeny Gontmakher:Consequences for the countries of the Eurasian Union)
5. Walden University Websites: Conflict Management and Negotiation as well as a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Management and Negotiation for professionals across all industries.*Discover your default conflict management style with this online assessment*
6. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/eurasian-economic-union>, A closer look at the Eurasian Economic Union by Evgeny Gontmakher:Consequences for the countries of Eurasian Union Community
7. Eurasian Economic Union