

## Editors' word

The previous year could be described as turbulent, with many unexpected events and decisions. Certainly, two 'central' events were the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union and the election of Donald Trump as the forty-fifth president of the United States of America. During the referendum campaign in the UK numerous issues have been raised, by opponents and supporters of the EU membership alike, as crucial for the final decision on the future of the country. During the presidential campaign in the USA a similar situation has exposed deep cleavages and a multi-dimensional division of the American electoral body. Future relations with the Russian Federation, the isolationist position of the incumbent US administration and its stand on gender equality, as well as skepticism in the UK on the effectiveness of common European policies have all been very prominent among the topics discussed. Accordingly, the current issue of the Journal of Regional Security is scrutinising how these issues reflect on the regional security context. By using the case study of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, David Erkomaishvili is analysing security integrations in the post-Soviet region and the role of the Russian Federation in pursuing its 'bloc policy'. Considering its recent presence in the Middle East, understanding the mechanisms applied by the Russian Federation to attain regional dominance is proving increasingly important. In line with this is the contribution of Matt Millard on how non-liberal states are making use of liberal institutions in pursuing their foreign policy agendas. By showing how non-liberal actors are employing a variety of approaches in dealing with the liberal institutional framework, the author is clearly demonstrating that the Western liberal project can be used for purposes other than those intended, adding to the crisis of its legitimacy. Similarly, Ludwig Gelot's analysis is indicative as it shows the problem of legitimacy in the implementation of peacekeeping operations, both on the international and domestic levels. By proposing an alternative standard of legitimacy centred on the UN Charter, the author is trying to find middle ground between the two abovementioned standards and reconcile the needs of people in conflict-affected regions (locals) with the interest of those who intervene (internationals). Finally, the text of Laura Sjoberg discusses the role of gender in security studies, offering a much needed, different, perspective exemplified in the formation of the feminist security studies. Her analysis is an excellent demonstration of how much a gender perspective has contributed to the discipline of international studies by enriching the debate and challenging prevailing ontologies, epistemologies, and methodologies.

Nemanja Džuverović  
Filip Ejđus

Co-Editors in Chief