

administration seems to have embraced multilateralism. At the same time there is a greater willingness abroad to allow the U.S. to defend itself. While the Russian government has no intention to involve itself in another quagmire in Afghanistan, it has supported U.S. military action. One of the reasons for this is the fear that Taliban-sponsored activities and regimes may spread into Central Asia and to Russia. Nonetheless, the question remains whether the U.S. and Russia will be able to find compromise on longer-term policy issues, including NATO expansion, the accession of Russia to the WTO, and building a Ballistic Missile Defence. The future of Caspian Sea oil is also undetermined – raising concern in Moscow over the presence of U.S. troops in the area.

2.3. Europe – Frank Schuchat (Consul of Belgium)

Frank Schuchat said that the relationship between the U.S. and Europe is of enormous economic importance. However, the priorities of the European Union (EU) may not necessarily correspond to the interests of the U.S. and *vice versa* – a situation which may lead to tensions (and even conflict).

The EU priorities include:

- The stated goal of developing the most dynamic knowledge based economy in the world – a position occupied by the U.S. at the present: The U.S. government may feel threatened by the European efforts to usurp U.S. leadership of the global economy. This tension may be a basis for a potential conflict.
- Creating a common asylum and refugee policy: European immigration and refugee issues directly affect U.S. security. For instance, terrorists have a much easier time setting up and operating cells in Europe than in the U.S.
- Introducing the Euro.
- Enlargement of the European Union: The U.S. government should ensure that enlargement does not disrupt established bilateral relations between the U.S., EU and other countries.

Among the U.S. priorities are:

- addressing the EU Common Agricultural Policy and
- harnessing EU support for the expansion of the WTO.

The post-September 11 recession has tested U.S. – Europe relations, especially on the immigration and refugee issue. A new protectionist trend has emerged in the U.S. in the aftermath of the attacks. It is yet to be determined whether U.S. – Europe relations will be negatively affected by this trend.

2.4. Discussion

Participants speculated on the longevity of the Coalition against terrorism. Some asked how viable it was to build a Coalition with authoritarian and semi-authoritarian governments and