



The project on Russian Foreign, Defence and Security Policy (RUFSS)

RUFSS News Letter No. 1 November 2009

NEWS and RUFSS BRIEFING from the FOI RUFSS Project

The RUFSS Project at FOI is pleased to offer you the first newsletter and RUFSS Briefing. The newsletter will be sent out a few times a year and will contain a brief analysis of a current event that we are covering within the project. We will also present recent project publications and other events. With an upcoming EU-Russia Summit in Stockholm, we seized on the opportunity to provide the perspective of a small EU member state on EU-Russia relations in this first newsletter. Please visit our website for more information about our project and to download earlier publications.

Carolina Vendil Pallin, head of the RUFSS project at FOI

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EU-Russia summit in Stockholm – relations on hold

The EU-Russia summit in Stockholm on 18 November is a good time to take stock of how Russia's relations with Europe have developed during the past couple of years and where they are heading. In the first RUFSS Briefing Carolina Vendil Pallin discusses the state of EU-Russia relations from the standpoint of a small EU member state. The fact that Russia and the EU do not share common values results in concrete practical difficulties in developing the relationship. And departing from EU values could have dire consequences for the cohesion of the Union. [Read more](#)

[»](#)



The EU-Russian summit will be held in Stockholm.

Russia in perspective – contracting GDP will force Russia to modernize

In his annual Presidential Address to Parliament on 12 November, President Medvedev stressed the need for Russia to modernize to remain a great power. In a recent study, *Russia in Perspective: Scenarios of Russia's Economic Future 10 to 20 Years Ahead*, Susanne Oxenstierna developed three possible scenarios for Russia through studying trends in the most important variables affecting economic growth. The scenarios bear the names and policy characteristics of three Russian rulers: Peter the Great, Batu Khan and Alexander the Third.

[Download the study here:](#)



President Medvedev wants to modernize Russia.

Baltic security challenges – military threat perceptions and dilemmas

On 11 November 2009, Fredrik Westerlund talked at a seminar, “NATO, the EU and the Nordic Countries – Assured Solidarity”, at the Finnish Institute in Stockholm about possible future military threats to the Baltic States. Russia and the Baltic states are all concerned about the lack of strategic depth on their respective sides of the border. Enhanced military capability on the one side increases the perception of threat on the other side. Finding a way out of this vicious circle will be a security challenge in the years to come.

[Read more \(in Swedish\) »](#)

The uncertain future of Ukraine – much at stake in presidential elections

In January 2010 presidential elections will be held in Ukraine. Jakob Hedenskog writes on a blog together with a number of scholars at the Petro Jacyk Program for Study of Ukraine (University of Toronto). Currently, Jakob Hedenskog is Visiting Fellow at the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES) at the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto.

[Read the blog »](#)



Ukraine, photographed by Jacob Hedenskog.

Russia's military victory in Georgia made obvious the need for further reform

In a recently published book about the war in Georgia, Carolina Vendil Pallin and Fredrik Westerlund have contributed with a chapter on the military lessons and consequences of the war. Russia's military was given only a short time to enjoy its victory. Soon the Armed Forces were subjected to heavy criticism as a result of the analyses made of their military performance. In the book, *Crisis in the Caucasus: Russia, Georgia and the West* (Routledge), edited by Paul Rich, the Five Day War is examined from a number of perspectives.

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