Europe: Player or Loser?

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After recent elections, European Union institutions are now newly staffed and ready to operate. However, their incoming leadership has been immediately presented with a host of challenges, both internal and external. While the conflict in Ukraine tests the EU’s relations with Russia, the question arises about whether or not Europe might be entering a new Cold War. Recent developments in the Middle East have become an ever-growing concern for European policymakers, especially as increasing numbers of European fighters with jihadist political agendas have joined ranks of armed factions in Syria and in Iraq. Closer to home, the EU is confronted with the instability of its internal financial system, which has become a cause for concern as Europe competes with Asian economies that are increasingly growing stronger.

As the EU and its transatlantic allies are both individually and collectively faced with these challenges, they must move forward with a sustainable course of action. However, will Europe be able to maintain a leading role within this community of shared values?

Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering is a German politician (CDU, European People's Party) and was president of the European Parliament from January 2007 to July 2009. He has served as president of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung since January 2010 and as a member of the European Parliament since its first elections in 1979. A former chairman of the European People's Party-European Democrats, he is also a member of the Reconciliation of European Histories group.

Thursday, October 9, 2014
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
City View Room
1957 E Street NW, 7th floor
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/poettering
This event is on the record.