

European Union participates recently in a great number of global affairs and its presence could be felt in many spheres of political and business life. It is thus often referred to as a *global actor* or *global power*, and its influence is widely praised.

The goal of this paper is to determine, if the European Union in its current state really constitutes a *global actor*. This fact is examined in theoretical as well as in practical circumstances. This paper further aims to establish, whether this position is constant, or develops in time.

As the European Union is neither a state, nor an international organisation, it is firstly set within the framework of the predominant international relations theories. Having taken this enlistment into consideration, it is then established, what kind of unit it actually is in the international system, and if it is hence in fact possible that such an entity could be a *global actor*. Subsequently, the leading actorness theories are applied to establish what kind of actorness it could perform. In the end of this part, it is assessed what kind of role the European Union actually plays in the theoretical field.

Consequently, this allegation is examined in the practical terms. On the basis of facts, examples and actual events, it is thus evaluated, if the practical actions of the European Union correspond with the theoretical conclusions. The aim of the chapters, dealing with the practical outcomes of the EU's actions, is to show their real impact in the global arena and the relation between the intentions and the power to perform. This subsequently shows the ability of the European Union to be a *global actor* not only theoretically, but also practically.

Having established the real type and course of the EU global actorness, it is then speculated about its sustainability. Based on the current development, statistics and scientific research, it is further established, whether the current state of affairs is constant or dynamic, and to what extent it develops in time. This consequently leads to a conclusion on the conditions necessary to preserve or improve the position of the European Union on the global stage.