

About the authors

Bruno Coppieters is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Recent publications include: *Federalism and Conflict in the Caucasus* (London, Royal Institute of International Affairs, 2001); as co-editor with Michel Huysseune: *Secession, History and the Social Sciences* (Brussels, VUB Brussels University Press, 2002), (also published electronically at the address <http://poli.vub.ac.be/>); as co-editor with Nick Fotion: *Moral Constraints on War: Principles and Cases* (Lanham, MD, Lexington Books, 2002) and as co-editor with Richard Sakwa: *Contextualizing Secession. Normative Studies in Comparative Perspective* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Michael Emerson is a graduate of Balliol College, Oxford. In 1973 he joined the European Commission, serving as economic adviser to the President, and from 1991-1996 as EU Ambassador in Moscow. From 1996-1998 at the London School of Economics he prepared *Redrawing the Map of Europe* (London, Macmillan, 1998). At the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels, since 1998 as Senior Research Fellow, he has produced with co-authors several books under the Wider Europe programme, including *The CEPS Plan for the Balkans* (1999), *A Stability Pact for the Caucasus* (2000), *The Rubik Cube of the Wider Middle East* (2003), and *The Wider Europe Matrix* (2004).

Michel Huysseune is a senior researcher at the Centre for Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium). His main field of interest is the relation between intellectual and political discourses, with a focus on nationalist movements and in particular the Lega Nord in Italy. He has published numerous articles on this subject in international journals and essay collections. He is the author of *Modernità e secessione. Le scienze sociali e il discorso politico della Lega Nord* (Rome, Carocci, 2004) and co-editor (with Bruno Coppieters) of the book *Secession, History and the Social Sciences* (Brussels, VUB Brussels University Press, 2002).

Tamara Kovziridze obtained her PhD in Political Science at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Her research interests include, among others: comparative federalism, Europeanization, multi-level governance, the foreign policies of federated entities and ethno-national conflicts. Her recent publications include (with Bruno Coppieters and Uwe Leonardy): 'Federalization of Foreign Relations: Discussing Alternatives for the Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict', John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Caspian Studies Programs's Working Paper Series, No. 2, and 'Europeanization of Federal Institutional Relationships in Belgium, Germany and Austria', *Regional and Federal Studies* Vol. 12, No. 3, 2002. After her return to her home country, Georgia, in 2004, she became Deputy Minister for Economics.

Ghia Nodia is Chairman of the Board of the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development in Tbilisi and Professor of political science at the Ilya Chavchavadze University of Language and Culture. He is on the editorial board of the Journal of Democracy, where his article 'Debating the Transition Paradigm: The Democratic Path' was published in 2002.

Gergana Noutcheva is a PhD candidate in International Relations at the University of Pittsburgh, USA. She is currently a research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, and a political analyst on South-East Europe. Her doctoral dissertation examines the EU's conditionality policy and the compliance responses of Balkan governments in the

context of the gradations of sovereignty observed in the region. Her principal research interests are EU foreign policy and the role of the EU in international relations.

Nicu Popescu is research fellow at the Centre for European Studies in Chisinau (Moldova), editor of Eurojournal.org and a PhD candidate in International Relations and European Studies at the Central European University in Budapest. His research interests include European Security and Defence Policy, crises management and conflict resolution, Russian foreign and domestic policies, theories of European integration and Europeanization. His recent publications include “Towards a Sustainable Solution of the Transnistria Problem: A Role for the European Union; Working Paper 141, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Geneva, July 2004; “EU’s foreign policy change towards Moldova”, Strategic Issues Review Nr. 4, NATO Studies Center-SNSPA, Bucharest 2003.

Nathalie Tocci received her PhD in International Relations from the LSE. She was a research fellow at the CEPS from 1999 to 2003. She is currently based at the Schuman Centre, European University Institute. Her recent publications include (with Michael Emerson), *The Rubik Cube of the Wider Middle East* (CEPS, Brussels, 2003); 'Incentives and disincentives for reunification and EU Accession in Cyprus', *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring 2003) and 'Self-determination in Cyprus – Future options within a European order', in Bruno Coppieters and Richard Sakwa (eds), *Contextualizing Secession: Normative Studies in Comparative Perspective* (OUP, Oxford, 2003).

Marius Vahl is a Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels and a PhD candidate at the Catholic University of Leuven. His most recent publication is 'The EU and Moldova: A Neglected Relationship' in Ann Lewis (ed.): *The EU and Moldova* (Federal Trust, London, 2004).