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EU drugs policy narratives in the internal security space:
discourses of 'threat', protection, and civil society

Abstract

This paper examines the EU policy narratives on illicit drugs and argues that the EU uses the drugs policy in making the objectives of the 'area of freedom, security and justice' more visible in the lives of Europeans. One of these goals is 'bringing the EU closer to citizens'. The EU seeks to address the European civil society directly through the drugs policy. Embedding different drugs policy fields, namely health protection and fight against drugs-related fight, into the internal security framework emphasizes the 'drugs threat' and consequently highlights the urgency for the EU-level action. Thus, drugs policy gains its importance for the EU from its ability to involve the civil society into EU framework which is a crucial part in the political integration project.

This paper is a first and rough draft of an ongoing project and thus for limited circulation only. The full paper is available upon request.