The Role of the Democratic Peace Theory in the Evolution of the European Neighbourhood Policy

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Abstract: The significant effects that the European Union had for its citizens in providing security and prosperity had long been acknowledged. In the last 60 years this construction has managed to offer, for millions of citizens, an incredible amount of improvement in their lives. As a community of democracies, EU aims to interact with its neighbors on the basis of its core values: democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. And even if its democratic deficit, lack of legitimacy and the attacks from the ring-wing populists are major threats, the EU is called to have a more pronounce role in the international affairs through its foreign policy.

Key-words: legitimacy, foreign policy, democratic peace, European Union.