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CRS Issue Statement on Europe: Regional Policy, Bilateral Relations, and Key Issues

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January 27, 2014

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

www.crs.gov

R43375

Europe and U.S.-European relations continue to undergo a long-term process of evolution. Numerous regional concerns persist, but U.S. policymakers now tend to view Europe mainly as a potential counterpart in addressing common challenges, and less as an object of attention in and of itself. Overall regional policy is set in the context of overlapping institutions, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). At the same time, the United States maintains strong interests and active bilateral relations with the individual countries of Europe. National developments and bilateral cooperation are therefore of frequent interest to the U.S. Congress. Members of Congress also frequently engage in a range of key issues that have implications within Europe and for the transatlantic partnership.

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