5 Reasons Why Mark Rutte is Not the Right One to Lead NATO

3 JUNE 2024

Antonia Pup



It is no longer news that when it comes to the selection of the next NATO Secretary General, indicators such as the percentage of GDP allocated by his country to the defence sector and the support for Ukraine are essential. What I want to prove with this analysis is that these are not the only indicators we should consider when it comes to assessing Mark Rutte, who is in pole position to take over as NATO Secretary General at the much-anticipated summit in Washington in July this year.

There are at least 5 reasons the Dutch leader is not fit to lead the transatlantic alliance in these turbulent times, and they all refer to Rutte's political

profile, as it was shaped during 16 years of leadership. I plead for a global assessment of his political profile, beyond the U-turn of recent years, when he has branched out from a supporter of Nord Stream into one of the most vocal advocates of supporting Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

Why is Mark Rutte not the right one to lead NATO?

With no vision or entrepreneurial vocation, a track record for emotional judgments on the European level and a legacy of participating in initiatives that gave rise to Europe's strategic interdependence from its greatest enemy (Russia), Mark Rutte cannot be leading NATO in its most complex geopolitical era since its founding 75 years ago.

EPIS