



The Foreign Policy of the EU

Chapter 1

Concept and Nature of EU Foreign Policy

Keukeleire, S. and MacNaughtan, J. (2008)

The Foreign Policy of the European Union,

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.



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1. The concept of foreign policy
2. Conventional and structural foreign policy
3. The nature of EU foreign policy



1. The concept of foreign policy

- Definition -

- Directed at the external environment
 - Aims to influence that environment and behaviour of other actors
 - In order to pursue interests, values and goals
- Dominant vs. other (neglected) dimensions of foreign policy
- Conventional vs. structural understanding of foreign policy



1. The concept of foreign policy - 5 dimensions -

■ Actors

- Conventional foreign policy state actors
- Other governmental actors
- Non-state actors: NGO's, MNC's, criminal organizations/networks

■ Interests and objectives

- Conventional self-regarding interests
- Collective and other-regarding interests
- Far-sighted self-interests
- Possession goals vs. milieu goals



1. The concept of foreign policy - 5 dimensions -

■ Security

- Conventional military security
- Global security
- Societal insecurity
- Human security
- Desecuritization ↔ securitization



1. The concept of foreign policy

- 5 dimensions -

- Power and capabilities
 - Conventional military and diplomatic power and instruments
 - Hard power vs. soft power
 - Relational power and structural power
- Focus
 - Conventional ‘actor’, ‘conflict’ and ‘event’
 - ‘process’, ‘structure’ and ‘context’



2. Conventional and structural foreign policy

- Conventional foreign policy
 - Orientated towards states, military security, crises and conflicts
 - ‘Dominant’ dimensions
- Structural foreign policy
 - Influencing *sustainable* political, legal, socio-economic, security and mental structures
 - These *structures* characterize interstate relations, as well as societies, the position of individuals, state-society relations and the international system
 - only effective when *comprehensive*



3. The nature of EU foreign policy

- Multipillar
 - 3 pillars
 - Functional indivisibility leads to cross-pillar politics
- Multilevel
 - Mutually dependent actors across different policy *levels*
- Multilocation
 - EU only one among various relevant *locations*



3. The nature of EU foreign policy

- EU foreign policy as a *zero-sum game*
 - EU foreign policy as a substitute of national foreign policy
- As a *positive-sum game*
 - EU foreign policy as a complement of national foreign policies

Exploring EU Foreign Policy

See the Website Companion and Online Resource Guide:

<http://www.exploring-europe.eu/foreignpolicy>

- Guide to the maze of information sources on EU foreign policy for researchers, students and practitioners
- EU-Documents
- Official EU-links
- Links to sources from international organisations
- Links to information from non-governmental organisations, research centres and think tanks
- Latest online news on EU Foreign Policy
- Updated tables and PowerPoint presentations
- References to recent literature