



The Foreign Policy of the EU

Chapter 11

The EU, Multilateralism and Competition with Structural Powers

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1. EU and multilateral organizations

a. effective multilateralism

- Main supporter of global order based on international organizations and rules
 - EU member states ratified most core international treaties
 - Vertical and horizontal consistency to push ratifications from third countries
- multilateral EU foreign policy

1. EU and multilateral organizations

b. legal status and coordination

- EC/EU as member of international organizations?
 - No status in most powerful international organizations
 - Yet, exceptions, or ‘observer’ status
- Member states remain central players
 - Consultation and coordination (Art. 19 TEU)
- EC policies
 - Representation and coordination depends on nature of competences

1. EU and multilateral organizations

c. EU and UN

- Important political and financial support to UN
 - Increasing effective coordination mechanisms
 - Convergence in voting behaviour in General Assembly
 - Yet: 30 à 20 % ‘split votes’
- ineffective structural power
- struggle in relation to UN reform process

1. EU and multilateral organizations

d. International financial institutions

- EU internal divisions regarding EMU
- Limited EU multilateral activism in IFIs
- EU structural foreign policy without overarching far-reaching structural strategies with IFIs
 - member states reluctance to abdicate from national representation
 - weight in global trade vs. weight in global finance



2. EU and United States

- European integration as result of US structural foreign policy
- Cooperation
 - 1990 Transatlantic Declaration
 - 1995 ‘New Transatlantic Agenda’
 - Cooperation on security issues after terrorist attacks
 - US prefers bilateral relations with member states
 - divisive Atlantic factor
- Convergences and divergences
 - Structural principles, energy, terrorism,...
 - Approach to multilateralism, global governance



3. EU and Russia

- Since 2000: assertiveness and ‘de-democratization’
- 1997: Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- Four ‘Common Spaces’ in PCA framework (2003):
 - Common economic space
 - Common space of freedom, security and justice
 - Common space of external security
 - Common space of research, education and cultural aspects
- Assessment
 - EU failed to assert its values and norms
 - EU dependence on Russian energy
 - confrontational vs. strategic partnership



4. EU and China

- Economically: global structural power
- Politically: ambiguous global structures
- Economic attractiveness
 - Exportation of own structures and rules of the game
 - Subregional and regional institution-building
- Challenges
 - China's largest trading partner
 - Common international goals
 - Competitor in energy resources
 - Alternative development model
 - undermining EU foreign policy



4. EU and China

■ Response

- ‘Constructive engagement’
 - Strong trading relationship
 - Biannual human rights dialogue (since 1998)
 - 2006 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- Yet, member states’ differing bilateral political relations

■ Assessment

- strategic (economic) objectives vs. political concerns
- ineffective in translating economic capital into political leverage



5. EU and Islamism

■ Islamism

- Answer to political, economic, social and identity crises
- Different ways of organizing society
- Multifaceted phenomenon on various levels
- Growing influence

■ EU foreign policy response

- Focus on limited governmental actors and elites
 - Yet, grass-root movements and transnational networks
 - Disregards Islamist ‘soft power’ on populations
- Ignoring structural power emanating from Islamism

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