



The Foreign Policy of the EU

Chapter 3 Actors

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1. Institutional framework

- 1 institutional framework (art. 3 TEU)
- 2 policy-making regimes:
 - Community method: 1^o pillar
 - Intergovernmental method: 2^o & 3^o pillar
- Continuum: intergovernmentalism - supranationalism
 - pillars and methods are blurred



2. The European Council

- Composition
 - locus of power in the EU
- Defines impetus and general political guidelines
 - defines principles and general guidelines
 - decides on ‘common strategies’
- High external visibility of meetings

3. The Council of Ministers

a. Losing control

- Configurations and composition
 - GAERC
 - 27 Foreign Ministers + High Representative + Commission
- Competences:
 - CFSP/ESDP: sole decision-making body
 - Community: main place in ‘institutional triangle’
 - no strict division
- Undermining factors
 - 27 member states
 - Overloaded agenda

3. The Council of Ministers

b. Substructure

→ preparing GAERC

■ COREPER II

- first pillar external competences

■ Political and Security Committee (or COPS)

- CFSP/ESDP aspects

■ Working groups and European Correspondents

- Geographical and thematic working groups

- Coreu telex network



3. The Council of Ministers

c. 'Common' actors

- Presidency
 - Chair: European Council and Council + bodies
 - Representation of the Union
 - 'Troika'
- High Representative
 - Assists Presidency and Council in CFSP
 - Supported by Council General Secretariat
 - Special and Personal Representatives
 - But: Council mandate and instruments?
- 'operationalization', 'commonization', 'Brusselization'



4. The European Commission

- Boundary problem: EC vs. CFSP/ESDP
- Internal organisation
 - Directly involved DGs + Other sectoral DGs
 - Implementation: EuropeAid Cooperation Office
 - Worldwide network of delegations



4. The European Commission

- Community competences
 - Right of initiative
 - Agreements with third states and IO's
 - Budgetary function
 - Executive powers
- CFSP competences
 - Ambiguous position
 - Use of EC instruments for implementation



5. The European Parliament

- Internal organisation
 - Committee on Foreign Affairs + subcommittees
 - Committee on Constitutional Affairs
 - Interparliamentary Delegations, Joint Parliamentary Committees, Parliamentary Cooperation Committees



5. The European Parliament

■ Power

■ Role in CFSP:

- Formally: Consultation and ‘regularly informed’
- Own-initiative reports, resolutions and questions

■ Role through EC framework

- Budgetary procedure
- Assent procedure

■ Impact: human rights and democracy dimensions

6. The European Court of Justice

- EC-framework: through jurisdiction
 - AETR-case: principle of the ‘parallelism’
 - CFSP: no jurisdiction
 - Yet, no clear distribution of powers
- role of arbitrator in the grey zone

7. Reforms in the Lisbon Treaty

- President of the European Council
 - 2,5 years
 - Coordination of European Council activities
- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
 - External representation ‘triple hatted’: CFSP, Foreign Affairs Council, Commission
- External Action Service
 - Assists High Representative
 - Diplomats from: Commission, Member States and Council’s General Secretariat

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