



The Foreign Policy of the EU

Chapter 5

EU Foreign Policy and National Foreign Policies

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1. Foreign policy-making in the member states

a. Constitutional design

- Nature of government
 - Mostly proportional representation & coalition governments
 - Head of State or Government - other governmental actors
 - Different countries, different designs
- Increasing dependence of the Foreign Minister
 - European Council
 - Implementation by specialized ministers
- Other actors
 - Subnational governments (e.g. Spain, Germany, Belgium)
 - Weak parliamentary oversight

1. Foreign policy-making in the member states

b. Diplomatic and bureaucratic level

- Internal structure of national Foreign Ministries
 - Different departments
 - Growing role of other ministries
 - impact on coherence and consistency
- Differences between member states
 - impact on effective participation of smaller member states

2. Power, interests and identity

a. Power and capabilities

- Ingredients of power
 - geography, demography, economic power, military power, diplomatic power
 - Cleavage UK/France vs. other member states
 - Diverging representations in third countries
 - obstacle to development of common foreign policy
- Nuances
 - EU reliance on greatest member states
 - Gap UK/France/Germany vs. US/Russia/China
 - Immaterial power assets

2. Power, interests and identity

b. Interests

- Complex pattern of converging and diverging interests
 - Collective interests
 - Common interests
 - Converging interests but competing member states
 - Diverging and incompatible interests
 - Absence of interest
- divergence in timing, prioritization & methods



2. Power, interests and identity


c. World view, role conception and identity

- ‘World view’
 - About the nature of the international system and interhuman relations
 - ‘Role conception’
 - Identification with specific values, objectives or role
 - ‘Identity’
 - Core characteristics of a nation by which it identifies itself
- Impact on tensions in EU foreign policy

2. Power, interests and identity

d. Strategic culture and political will

- ‘Strategy’
 - Plan of action to achieve some end
 - Weakly developed national strategic cultures
 - Absence of ‘common’ strategic culture
- ‘Will’
 - Determination to implement a strategy and to accept the costs of this policy
 - ‘lack of political will’



3. Europeanization

a. National adaptation

- Of national policy-making structures and processes
 - Of national foreign policies
 - Of world view and identity
- overcome resistance to change
- hide or adopt policies not fitting in traditional national contours



3. Europeanization

b. National projection

- Project national foreign policy objectives, priorities and approaches
- Obtaining support (EU institutions & member states)
- Expansion of foreign policy objectives
 - *positive-sum game*
 - if unsuccessful: search for other fora

A globe showing the Americas is partially visible on the left side of the slide, overlaid with the blue European Union flag featuring yellow stars.

3. Europeanization

c. Multilateralization

- EU framework vs. other international fora
- EU foreign policy is part of broader multilateral foreign policy



3. Europeanization

d. Socialization

- Thinking in European rather than national terms
- Major role in identity construction
- Nuances
 - Increasing involvement of first pillar
 - Difficult with 27 member states
 - Differences in member states
 - Differences between CFSP insiders and Foreign Ministry officials

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