

Preparation for the Hungarian EU Presidency in 2011

The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy under the Lisbon Treaty

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Main themes

- Background and Context : how did we get to where we are today?
- A brief look at the process of negotiating the Lisbon Treaty
- The main changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty
- The CFSP under the Lisbon Treaty
- Implementing the Treaty and the future

Background and Context

- Origins of EU were trade / economic
- But the overall aim was primarily political
- Cold war ensured that security issues were outside scope of EU

Background and Context

- End of Cold War led to two challenges:
 - Policy expansion
 - Geographical expansion
- These challenges led to realisation that EU needed to adapt in the longer term

Process of negotiating the Lisbon Treaty

- EU is law-based system, based on treaties
- Serious adaptation requires changes to the treaties (agreed by unanimity)
- Difficulties of institutional change in late 1990's

Process of negotiating the Lisbon Treaty

- These difficulties led to a new approach
⇒ Convention
- New approach led to a new outcome
⇒ Constitution
- Failure of Constitution
⇒ Lisbon Treaty

Main changes of Lisbon Treaty - overview

- In general, Lisbon Treaty confers relatively few new powers on EU
- Two main areas of change :
 - increased powers of European Parliament – primarily through extension of co-decision
 - institutional changes – notably creation of post of High Representative + permanent President of European Council
- Other issues : Single Legal Personality, role of National Parliaments

CFSP under the Lisbon Treaty

- Basic powers of EU in foreign policy remain unchanged
- CFSP remains under control of institution where Member States are most directly represented
- Key aims of Lisbon Treaty – greater coherence and consistency. Led to creation of High Representative

CFSP under the Lisbon Treaty

- Role of High Representative :
 - Conducts the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy
 - Presides over the Foreign Affairs Council
 - As one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission coordinates external relations within Commission
 - Represents the Union and conducts political dialogue

CFSP under the Lisbon Treaty

- Support for the High Representative :
 - External Action Service
 - network of EU delegations
 - amended provisions on security and defence

Implementing the Lisbon Treaty – the future

General

- Further treaty change unlikely / flexibility build in
- Time needed to implement

In CFSP

- Transitional arrangements
- Procedures for establishing the External Action Service