

Call for Papers

CFSP institutional machinery and decision-making procedures at a crossroad: towards a stronger EU role in international relations?

A workshop organised by

Prof. Fabien Terpan

Jean Monnet Chair, Sciences Po Grenoble-UGA, CESICE

Prof. Juan Santos Vara

Jean Monnet Chair in EU External Action, University of Salamanca

Scientific Committee: Sabine Saurugger, Delphine Deschaux-Dutard, Luis Norberto González Alonso, Fabien Terpan, Juan Santos Vara.

Location: Grenoble - Sciences Po Grenoble-UGA

Thursday 6 November 2025 afternoon

Friday 7 November 2025 morning

The EU is facing unprecedented external challenges. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, the war in Gaza, the new situation in Syria and the return to power of Donald Trump in the U.S. are some of the most important challenges for the EU's influence on the international stage. In this context many call for the EU to strengthen its geopolitical influence through well-designed actions in several key policy areas, including the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

The CFSP institutional machinery and decision-making procedures are often presented as suffering from severe limitations. Although the full potential of the Treaties has probably not been fully exploited, the current CFSP legal framework has been overwhelmed by practice and by the increasingly complex challenges facing the EU in this field. Over the last two decades, there has been a remarkable process of "normalisation" of CFSP, in particular as a result of the role played by the Court of Justice. However, this development is not incompatible with its high degree of dependence on the political will of the Member States.

In recent years, we have witnessed a debate on the relevance of addressing the weaknesses of CFSP through a reform of the Treaties. While a large group of Member States considers this inappropriate at this stage, others are much more in favour of introducing substantive changes to the Treaties in order to strengthen the effectiveness of CFSP.

This workshop will examine the institutional and legal machinery of the CFSP to see whether and to what extent it limits or hinders the CFSP. The workshop will analyse the options available for reforming CFSP. The activity is part of the research project EURORPREF (PID2022-140194NB-100, financed by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/1100011033/FEDER.EU).

All contributions to the workshop should focus on those elements of the CFSP's legal architecture that could play a key role in enhancing the effectiveness of CFSP in the future. We thus invite papers on various topics related to CFSP including:

- change in the powers of an institution,
- evolution of the European External Action Service
- CFSP decision-making procedures
- differentiated integration in CFSP
- provisions dealing specific types of actions (CSDP operations, rapid response, comprehensive approach)
- strategic autonomy in security and defence...

Submission and selection of potential contributions

Interested researchers (at any stage of their careers) should submit an abstract of around 500 words (approximately one page) written in English and addressing the conference theme to:

fabien.terpan@sciencespo-grenoble.fr and savajuan@usal.es

no later than 30 June 2025.

Please include your name, email and affiliation along with your abstract.

As we are aiming at the publication of a book or a journal special issue, paper proposals will be subject to a rigorous selection process. The selection of the papers will be communicated to the speakers by 17 July 2025.

Confirmed participants will be expected to submit full drafts of their papers of approximately 8000 words by 27 October 2025.

30 June 2025: abstract submission deadline

17 July 2025: letter of acceptance deadline

27 October 2025: draft papers sent

6 November 2025 afternoon : first workshop session

7 November 2025 morning : second workshop session

Travel costs and accommodation

The organisers will cover accommodation costs (up to two nights) and travel costs (in accordance with our transport policy).

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