



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

A workshop organised by

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Location: Grenoble - Sciences Po Grenoble-UGA, Amphi F

Thursday 6 November 2025 14h-18h

Friday 7 November 2025 9h-12h30

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-I00, financed by MCIN/AEI/ 10.13039/501100011033/FEDER.EU).

Thursday 6 November 2025

14h – 14h30

Welcome

Introduction by Fabien Terpan (Sciences Po Grenoble – UGA) and
Juan Santos Vara (University of Salamanca) – CFSP in the EU system: from specificity
to normalisation, and reform?

14h30 – 16h

Panel 1 – The normalisation of CFSP

Chair: Ramses Wessel (University of Groningen)

Brice Didier (Sciences Po & University of Geneva) – From a normalisation of the CFSP
to a normalisation of adhocism: EU foreign policy actorness beyond the institutional
machinery

Fabien Terpan (Sciences Po Grenoble – UGA) – Is a reform of the CFSP possible?

Marianne Riddervold (ARENA, University of Oslo) – Are crises triggering the
strengthening of CFSP/CSDP institutional machinery?

Marius Ghincea (European Politics Research Group, ETH Zurich) – The Strategic
Autonomy Paradox: Why Crises Produce a More Capable, yet Still
Constrained, EU Foreign Policy

16h-16h30 Coffee break

16h30 – 18h

Panel 2 – CFSP decision-making procedures

Chair: Juan Santos Vara (University of Salamanca)

Luigi Lonardo (University College Cork) – The Cost of Unanimity

Pernille Lundby Dokkedal (Aarhus University) – The European Parliament and the war
in Ukraine: A time for self-empowerment in EU's security and defense cooperation?

Graham Butler (Linnaeus University) – Institutional Competition over the EU's
Foreign, Security, and Defence Policies

Friday 7 November 2025

8h30 – 9h Coffee

9h – 10h30

Panel 3 – Judicial control in CFSP and sanctions

Chair: Fabien Terpan (Sciences Po Grenoble – UGA)

Juan Santos Vara (University of Salamanca) – The Judicial Control of Foreign Policy: towards a normalisation of CFSP in the EU legal order?

Lorant Havas (Legal adviser, EEAS) & Stephan Marquardt (former legal adviser, EEAS) – Infringement procedures for violation of CFSP decisions? The case of Hungary leaving the International Criminal Court

Clara Portela (University of Valencia) – CFSP and sanctions

10h30 – 11h – Coffee break

11h – 12h30

Panel 4 – Security and Defence

Chair: Delphine Deschaux-Dutard (UGA)

Milena Romano (University of Bath) – The future of the External Action service (EEAS): what role for the CSDP civilian missions?

Ramses Wessel (University of Groningen) – Treaty-Based Options and Legal Obstacles to the Progressive Framing of a Common Defence Policy (Art. 42(2) TEU).

Henri de Waele (Radboud University Nijmegen & University of Antwerp) – Political Opportunities, Legal Pathways, Constitutional Limits: The Fraught and Fractious Development of EU Defence Cooperation

Anna Södersten and Malena Britz (Swedish Defence University) – EU strategic autonomy in security and defence

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