Established in 1970, the European Economic Community (EEC), also known as the Common Market, had a primary focus on regulating European economic and trade relations. It was not initially envisaged to create a political union.

In 1991, with the Maastricht Treaty, the European Union (EU) was established. The Single European Act (SEA) of 1987 had already paved the way for the single market by harmonising national laws. The Maastricht Treaty went further, introducing the euro as a new currency and setting up a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) along with a European Council and European Parliament. The Treaty also created a European Commission, a European Council, and the European Parliament.

In 1992, the Single European Act (SEA) was signed, which aimed to complete the single market by 1992. This meant that there would be free movement of goods, services, people, and capital within the European Union.

The Single European Act (SEA) of 1992 included several key provisions, such as the establishment of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the introduction of the euro as the single currency for participating member states. Additionally, it laid the groundwork for the establishment of a European Information Society, which aimed to create a digital single market and promote the development of e-commerce and e-government.

The Single European Act (SEA) was followed by the Single European Act (SEA) of 1997, which further developed the European Union’s internal market policies. These acts, along with the Maastricht Treaty, were foundational in shaping the European Union’s future development.

Since the Single European Act (SEA) of 1992, the European Union has undergone significant changes, with the introduction of the euro, the enlargement of the European Union, and the expansion of its policies into new areas such as climate change and migration. The European Union continues to evolve, driven by the needs of its citizens and the challenges of the modern world.
As part of its mission to foster a common security culture for the EU, EUISS (the European Union Institute for Security Studies) follows and tracks key security issues, events and actors, and is a leader in the field of security think tanks. EUISS is owned and operated by the European Union.

The EU’s political institutions are located in Strasbourg, while its principal administrative structures are based in Brussels.

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The EU and its member states combined have an annual official development assistance budget of €56.6 billion, making them the world’s biggest public aid donor.

The EU has signed strategic partnerships with 10 countries, which together account for around half of world GDP.

The EU had imposed sanctions against 36 countries as of February 2015.

The EU has provided more than €65 million in humanitarian aid to address the most urgent needs in countries struck by the Ebola epidemic.

The deal on Iran’s nuclear programme and the historic agreement between Serbia and Kosovo were brokered under the auspices of the European Union.

There are 25 CFSP working groups and parties with 10 countries, which together account for around half of world GDP.

The EU had 5,400 staff members working in 139 delegations as of 2015.

What’s new after the Lisbon Treaty?

Since 2009, the Union has witnessed many changes. One is a new institutional figure, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs (HR), who is also Vice-President of the European Commission. The HR is a high-level political decision-maker, who advises the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament on the conduct of CFSP and is accountable to the former body. The HR is also the EU’s diplomatic representative to the United Nations, and for the purposes of international representation, he or she holds the rank of ambassador and is designated as the Union’s representative in that capacity. The HR is also the Union’s representative in international organisations with a budget of more than €100 million.

What’s the difference between CFSP and ESDP?

CFSP refers to the common foreign and security policy, while ESDP covers the common security and defence policy. It is a hybrid mission that combines the functions of the two policies, which together underpin the further development of the CFSP/CSDP.

Preparatory and follow-up measures

Support to non-proliferation and disarmament

European Union Special Representatives

CFSP missions

CFSP budget

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The EU has a broad range of foreign and security instruments at its disposal to promote international peace and security. Some fall within its jurisdiction: the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the European Development Fund (EDF), aid in response to humanitarian crises, and civilian and military security and police missions. Others include trade, development, enlargement and humanitarian aid.

The CFSP is a part of the European Union’s foreign policy framework which is guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, based on respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, the indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, the universality and inalienability of human rights, the promotion of sustainable development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in all countries with which it interacts. They are based on the principles of multilateralism, non-interference in the domestic affairs of others and respect for international law.

The Union’s action on the international scene shall be based on the rule of law, in its relations with all other countries and in its dealings with international institutions. The Union shall respect the principle of sovereign equality of all its members. It shall strive for the gradual establishment of an international economic order which is based on the rule of law and which is fair and advantageous to all.

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The EU had imposed sanctions against Serbia and Kosovo were broken under the auspices of the European Union’s actions to promote international peace and security.

The EU has more than 560 staff members working in 38 delegations in 2015, more than €65 million in humanitarian aid to address the most urgent needs in countries struck by Ebola epidemic.

There are 25 CFSP working groups and parties with 10 countries, which account for around half of world GDP.

The EU has signed strategic partnerships with 10 countries.

At the start of 2015, more than 25 CFSP working groups and parties are active in 10 countries.

The EU has more than 560 staff members working in 38 delegations.

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The EU is a global player on the international stage, playing a key role in shaping the world order. It is committed to promoting peace, prosperity, and stability, guided by the principles which have inspired its creation.

The EU's foreign and security policy is characterized by a broad range of tools and instruments at its disposal to promote international peace and security. Some fall within the traditional realm of common diplomacy (such as EU delegations). Others include trade, development, enlargement and humanitarian aid. The CFSP is a part of a broader EU foreign policy framework which also includes multilateral diplomacy (through its participation in fora for discussion that can be of use and relevance to the formulation of EU policy). In carrying out that mission, it acts as an interface between European experts and decision-makers at all levels.

The political and security committee (PSC) exercises political supervision - without prejudice to the intellectual and financial responsibility within the CFSP/CSDP.

At the start of 2015, more than 5,400 staff members working in 139 EU delegations (some of them, as far as we are aware, are carrying out the tasks assigned to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR) by the Treaty), which, as part of the EU’s diplomatic corps and supports the HR in conducting the CFSP.

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The European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) is the EU’s agency dealing with the analysis of foreign, security and defence trends and issues.

The EUISS was set up in January 2002 as an autonomous agency of the European Commission (Security Policy). It fulfills its objectives, formulated by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR), through the production of high-quality intelligence, analysis and foresight reports and event-related products, as well as through the implementation of research projects and training activities. It is also acting as a forum for discussion that can be of use and relevance to the formulation of EU policy. In carrying out that mission, it acts as an interface between European experts and decision-makers at all levels.

The CFSP budget for 2014 was €304.66 million, of which €273.31 million was dedicated to non-proliferation and disarmament. The EU has provided more than €65 million in humanitarian aid to address the most urgent needs in countries struck by the Ebola epidemic. The EU has imposed sanctions against 36 countries as of February 2015. The deal between Serbia and Kosovo was brokered without the assent of the HR/VP in 2013.
Federica Mogherini takes office

EU’s neighbours to the east and south. 16 countries have thus far political association and economic integration possible with the Union when tackling external conflicts and crises.

The Partnership Agreement about issuing a démarche is usually reached in the relevant Council working group.

A démarche is a formal statement of values or preferences issued by an EU delegation under instructions from the High Representative. The use of the wide array of policies, tools and instruments – spanning the diplomatic, security, defence, financial, trade, development and humanitarian aid fields – at the disposal of the Commission and the Member States. The High Representative makes statements under his/her own authority when a common position has already been established or when any new development means that the EU needs to adapt or change its position. The Union is aware of all member states’ positions during this activity.

TARGETED REPORTS

The High Representative advises on political matters from the EU’s neighbours to the east and south, and allows partner nations to strengthen their political, economic and social links with the Union.

AAs are legally-binding bilateral agreements under which the EU agrees to coordinate foreign policy with the other contracting parties (states) agree to move towards EU political, economic and social links with the EU.

In June 1999 Javier Solana, the High Representative of the CFSP, amended the previous concept of Corfu Council conclusions and liaises with third parties such as NATO

The Franco-British declaration on the need for European Political Cooperation (EPC) was introduced whereby members of the European Communities agreed to coordinate foreign policy and security issues, including defence policies. This vision was codified in the Maastricht Treaty (1992), establishing the Union’s common foreign and security policy.

The High Representative may act on behalf of the Union in the event of a crisis and can only be authorized to do so by a decision of the Foreign Affairs Council. The High Representative may act on behalf of the Union in the event of a crisis and can only be authorized to do so by a decision of the Foreign Affairs Council.

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Federica Mogherini takes office

Established in 2003, the ENP aims to foster the greatest degree of political and cultural links with the EU.

The Partnership is grounded in shared values, such as democracy and the rule of law, and allows partner nations to strengthen their political, economic, and civilian population at large. The Partnership

The High Representative takes decisions under his own responsibility when a common position has already been established or when it is unfeasible or unnecessary to consult the member states before doing so.

The High Representative makes declarations on behalf of the Union to the United Nations and to other international organisations and institutions.

As the 'diplomatic' arm of the EU, the EEAS defines and implements the CFSP, including through the adoption of Association Agreements (AA) and Othering and evaluates the imposition of sanctions. The PMG is responsible for the political aspects of military and civilian crisis management and for the coordination of the activity of the working groups.

Composed of the member state's permanent representatives to the EU (CPR), EU Special Representatives work on troubled regions (e.g. Darfur), and EU Special Representatives (EUSRs) work on troubled regions (e.g. Darfur).

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The Institute was set up in January 2002 as an autonomous body of the European Union in Stavanger. Its core mission is to provide analyses and recommendations on security and defence policy issues.

The EUISS is now an integral part of the new structures that bring the three main bodies together: the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union. The EUISS is co-financed by the European Commission and the member states of the EU.

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