

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S
EXTERNAL ACTION

#CFSPBASICS



ISS

European
Union
Institute for
Security Studies

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION

#CFSPBASICS



A GLOSSARY FOR EU EXTERNAL ACTION

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (AA)

AAs are legally-binding bilateral agreements under which contracting parties (states) agree to move towards EU political, economic and legal norms. They are not necessarily a prerequisite to full EU membership.

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

The comprehensive approach refers to the strategically coherent use of the wide array of policies, tools and instruments – spanning the diplomatic, security, defence, financial, trade, development cooperation and humanitarian aid fields – at the disposal of the Union when tackling external conflicts and crises.

CFSP DECISIONS

The Foreign Affairs Council can make decisions necessary for defining and implementing the CFSP, including through the adoption of actions and positions; decisions on international agreements with third actors; and on procedural questions. As a general rule, the Council takes decisions by a unanimous vote.

DÉMARCHE

A démarche is a formal statement of values or preferences issued by an EU delegation under instructions from the High Representative. Agreement about issuing a démarche is usually reached in the relevant Council working group.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EAP)

Established in 2009, the EaP was launched between the EU and six countries in eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. 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 cultural links with the EU.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (ENP)

Established in 2003, the ENP aims to foster the greatest degree of political association and economic integration possible with the EU's neighbours to the east and south. 16 countries have thus far signed up to the ENP and 12 have agreed on ENP action plans.

GYMNICH

Gymnich is an informal meeting of foreign ministers designed to foster in-depth discussions on the strategic challenges faced by the EU. It is named after the location of the first ever such meeting, held in Germany in 1974.

HR DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF THE EU

The High Representative makes declarations on behalf of the Union when any new development means that the EU needs to adapt or change its position. The HR seeks agreement from all EU member states before doing so.

HR STATEMENT

The High Representative makes statements under his/her own authority when a common position has already been established or when it is unfeasible or unnecessary to consult the member states.

INSTRUMENT CONTRIBUTING TO STABILITY AND PEACE (ICSP)

ICSP is a financial instrument used when preventing or responding to crises around the world. It provides for urgent, short-term actions undertaken in response to a crisis and longer-term measures designed to help organisations respond more effectively.

SANCTIONS/RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

The Council imposes sanctions on third parties as part of a comprehensive foreign policy designed to promote peace, democracy, respect for the rule of law and human rights. They are designed to target individuals or entities and thereby spare the civilian population at large.

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UFM)

The UfM brings together 43 countries in an effort to promote economic integration and democratic reform in North Africa and the Middle East. An heir to the previous Barcelona Process (1995), the UfM was launched in 2008.

EXTERNAL ACTION AT A GLANCE



3.2 million
Schengen visas

were issued to citizens from
ENP countries in 2012

The EU and its member
states combined have an annual
official development assistance
budget of **€55.6 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



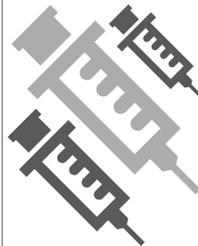
At the start of 2015, more than  
5,400 staff members working
in **139 EU delegations**



serve as the eyes, ears and voice
of the European Union



There are **25**
CFSP working
groups and
working parties



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 **HR/VP in 2013**



COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP)

What is it?

The CFSP is a part of a broader EU foreign policy framework which includes trade, development, enlargement and humanitarian aid. It equips the European Union with the tools to become a foreign policy actor on the global stage.

What is it for?

The Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law (Article 21 Lisbon Treaty).

What's new after the Lisbon Treaty?

Since 2009, the EU has witnessed many changes. One is a new institutional figure, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR), who is also Vice-President of the European Commission. The second is the European External Action Service (EEAS), which acts as the European Union's diplomatic corps and supports the HR in conducting the CFSP.

What are its tools?

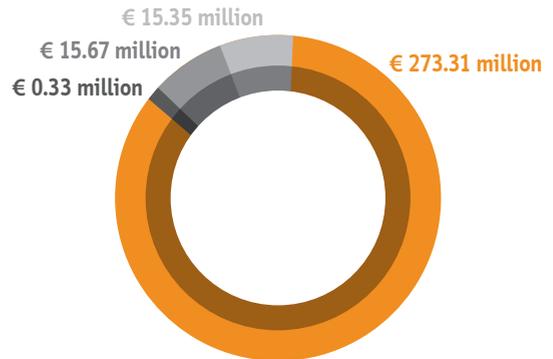
The EU has a broad range of foreign and security instruments at its disposal to promote international peace and security. Some fall within the traditional realm of common diplomacy (such as EU Special Representatives) and conflict prevention. Others include CSDP civilian missions (22 to date) and military operations (11) – as well as one hybrid mission – in support of broader political goals.

What results so far?

The Union participates in broad diplomatic and crisis management efforts, within its neighbourhood and beyond. The EU has, for example, played a central role in the establishment of sustainable peace in Kosovo and the Western Balkans, as well as in the negotiations on nuclear non-proliferation with Iran. Through its economic and political strength, it has increasingly contributed to stability, good governance and development in fragile states.

CFSP BUDGET

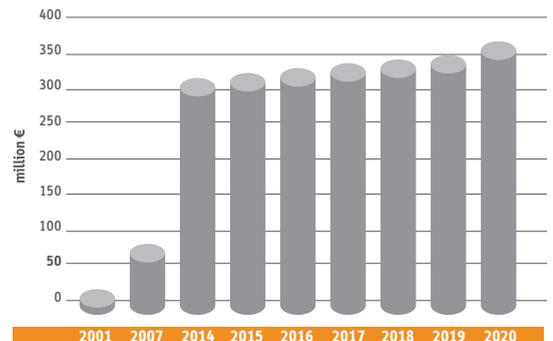
CFSP 2014 BUDGET BREAKDOWN (€304.66 MILLION)



- CFSP missions
- European Union Special Representatives
- Support to non-proliferation and disarmament
- Preparatory and follow-up measures

Source: European Commission – CFSP Budget Report 2014 (8 December 2014)

CFSP BUDGET TRENDS



Sources: 2001: EU Financial Report 2001. 2007: EU Budget Financial Report 2013. 2014-2020: Multiannual Financial Framework

EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICES 2015

HR/VP

EUMC

Special Representatives

Foreign Policy Instruments

EUMS

EUISS

Strategic Planning

Policy Coordination

SG

General Affairs StratComm

DG Administration and Finance

EU Delegations

EEAS Management

DSG (Security)

DSG (Global)

DSG (Political)

PSC

Crisis Response

CMPD

CPCC

INTCEN

Security Policy

CFSP Agencies

SATCEN
ESDC
EDA

Commission DGs

NEAR
ECHO
DEVCO
TRADE



Acronyms: **CMPD** Crisis Management & Planning Directorate, **COO** Chief Operating Officer, **CPCC** Civilian Planning & Conduct Capability, **DG** Directorate General, **DSG** Deputy Secretary General, **EDA** European Defence Agency, **EEAS** European External Action Service, **ESDC** European Security and Defence College, **EUISS** EU Institute for Security Studies, **EUMC** EU Military Committee, **EUMS** EU Military Staff, **HR/VP** High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, **INTCEN** Intelligence Analysis Centre, **MENA** Middle East and North Africa, **PSC** Political & Security Committee, **SATCEN** Satellite Centre, **SG** Secretary General.

PEOPLE, INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

COMMITTEE FOR CIVILIAN ASPECTS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT (CIVCOM)

The CivCom is an advisory body composed of member state representatives which focuses on the civilian aspect of the CSDP. The Committee drafts and prepares decisions for the Political and Security Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (AFET)

AFET aims to increase parliamentary oversight of foreign policy and approves assistance programmes and international agreements. It has two sub-committees, one on human rights (DROI) and the other on security and defence (SEDE).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Commission works hand in hand with the EEAS and the Council to promote international stability by administering aid for humanitarian and development purposes and overseeing the European Neighbourhood Policy. It is also an observer in the Political and Security Committee and the various Council working groups.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Made up of the heads of government of the EU's 28 member states, the European Council meets at least twice a year to outline the principles and guidelines of CFSP.

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

As the 'diplomatic' arm of the EU, the EEAS defines and implements EU foreign policy. It has 139 delegations worldwide with its headquarters in Brussels.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The central decision-making body under CFSP, the Foreign Affairs Council is made up of ministers from the member states responsible for foreign/defence policy.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COUNSELLORS (RELEX) WORKING GROUP

RELEX helps to prepare and implement Council decisions, particularly in relation to the institutional, legal, logistical and budgetary dimensions of missions and operations. It also monitors and evaluates the imposition of sanctions.

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE/VICE-PRESIDENT (HR/VP)

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) conducts the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy. He/she contributes to the development of that policy, which he/she carries out as mandated by the Council.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE (COREPER II)

Composed of the member states' permanent ambassadors to the EU, COREPER II prepares work for the Foreign Affairs Council and coordinates the activity of the working groups.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (PSC)

The PSC convenes at ambassadorial level. It monitors the international situation in the areas covered by the CFSP and contributes to the definition of the security policy of the Union.

POLITICO-MILITARY GROUP (PMG)

The PMG is responsible for the political aspects of military and civil-military issues. It gives recommendations to the PSC, prepares Council conclusions and liaises with third parties such as NATO.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES

EU Special Representatives (EUSRs) work on troubled regions (e.g. the Horn of Africa) or on themes (e.g. human rights), unlike EU ambassadors who operate in specific countries. They are appointed by and responsible to the HR/VP without being part of the EEAS.

WORKING GROUPS/PARTIES

CFSP Council groups and parties are focused on a particular theme (e.g. COTER - terrorism), region (e.g. COASI - Asia-Oceania) or organisation (e.g. CONUN - UN), whereas so-called 'merged groups' are responsible not only for CFSP but also for Commission-led matters, such as economic relations. The latter may be geographically-focused (e.g. COLAT - Latin America) or thematic (e.g. COTEL - Communications). Some have elected chairs, others (e.g. RELEX) are chaired by the rotating Council presidency.

THE EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES (EUISS)

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

The Institute was set up in January 2002 as an autonomous agency under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) [Council Joint Action 2001/554, amended by Council Joint Action 2006/1002] to foster a common security culture for the EU, support the elaboration and projection of its foreign policy, and enrich the strategic debate inside and outside Europe. Based in Paris, with a Liaison Office in Brussels, the EUISS is now an integral part of the new structures that underpin the further development of the CFSP/CSDP.

The Institute's core mission is to provide analyses and fora for discussion that can be of use and relevance to the formulation of EU policy. In carrying out that mission, it also acts as an interface between European experts and decision-makers at all levels.

The Institute is funded by the EU member states according to a GNI-based formula. It is governed by a board, chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR), which lays down its budgetary and administrative rules and approves its work programme. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises political supervision – without prejudice to the intellectual independence and operational autonomy of the EUISS.



European Union Institute for Security Studies
100, avenue de Suffren | 75015 Paris | France
www.iss.europa.eu

©European Union Institute for Security Studies, 2015.
QN-04-15-201-EN-N | ISBN 978-92-9198-360-5 | DOI 10.2815/04045



European Political Cooperation (EPC) introduced whereby members of the European Economic Community (EEC) agree to coordinate foreign policy

Maastricht Treaty – Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) launched under the so-called 'second pillar'

Saint-Malo Declaration – Franco-British declaration on the need to grant the EU an autonomous capacity to manage international crises

Nice Treaty – EU gains tools needed to conduct civilian and military crisis management. PSC, EUMC, EUMS, PMG and CIVCOM established

Lisbon Treaty – The High Representative becomes head of a new European External Action Service (EEAS), in addition to becoming Vice President of the European Commission and chairing the Foreign Affairs Council