

Description for general public

High Representative as policy entrepreneur. The dynamics of EU foreign policy decision making after 2009

The results of the Eurobarometer, European opinion pool, show a clear trend for many decades: EU citizens want more integration in the field of foreign, security and defence policy – in a survey published in June 2018, 75% of respondents were in favour for more integration of the defence and 66% of respondents of the foreign policy. Moreover, the growing global challenges such as international terrorism, Russia's aggressive policy, the war in Syria and Ukraine and the undermining of transatlantic relations by Donald Trump mean that none of the EU countries is able to face them effectively on its own. In order to be able to actively influence the international arena, the countries of the European Union must represent a common position.

However, political reality makes it difficult to reach a common position on foreign and security policy. The right to take decisions remains in the hands of the Member States, which are reticent in transferring their competences in these areas to the EU level. At the same time, while recognizing the need for change, politicians, through successive treaties and, above all, the Treaty of Lisbon, have led to a significant institutionalisation of foreign and security policy by creating the interinstitutional position of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR) and the European External Action Service. Hence, there now are many actors involved in shaping of foreign and security policy, and their relations have not been systematically researched, even though they are the key to understanding the EU's decision making process in this field and Union's effectiveness on the international arena.

The aim of this project is to analyse the dynamics and interdependencies between the EU institutions and the Member States during the decision-making processes and during the implementation of foreign and security policy. Particular attention is paid to the position of the HR, which was established precisely in order to ensure better coordination of foreign and security policy and to streamline the process of developing common positions. Due to its interinstitutional legitimacy, this position has, on the one hand, a great potential to influence this policy area and, on the other hand, it has not been equipped with decision-making powers, which remain the responsibility of the Member States. In order to take a closer look at the HR's strategies and the process of gaining greater discretion in relation to the actual decision-makers, the project uses the category of *policy entrepreneur*. Contrasting this category with the *principal-agent approach*, the project examines to what extent the HR, acting as a political entrepreneur, is able to contribute to a better coordination of decision-making process and thus to an increase in the effectiveness of the European Union's external action. The case studies analysed in the project will concern the activities of Federica Mogherini, who held the HR office since November 2014 and whose term will end in October 2019. The hypotheses generated in the project will then be tested on one case study which will involve Mogherini's successor and will be selected during the project.

The results of the project will contribute to a better understanding of the foreign and security policy decision-making process and the role of its actors - Member States and EU institutions - which, in the face of the increasing unpredictability of the international environment, is crucial for the security of the Union and its citizens.