

## Key Findings of Europe in the World: Can EU foreign policy make an impact?

The [Europe in the World: Can EU foreign policy make an impact?](#) publication primarily provides information and analysis to develop public understanding of the key issues facing European foreign policy and the development of the European External Action Service (EEAS). However a number of the authors put forward a range of their own, sometimes differing, policy recommendations based on the analysis they provide in the publication<sup>1</sup> that may be of interest to policy-makers, journalists and key stakeholders.

### Summary of authors' policy recommendations

#### Adam Hug believes

- The EEAS should continue to take steps to improve competence and coordination rather than increasing overall EU competences.
- The EEAS should strengthen the role of Heads of Delegation vis-à-vis Commission staff based in the delegation, ensuring they are aware of key developments and can have input into their actions, potentially being able to write performance appraisals for non-EEAS staff. Greater role for HoDs in coordinating between member state embassies. European Parliament could allow delegation of some financial reporting requirements to other senior staff in delegations to free HoD time.
- With strategic partners (BRICS, US) the EEAS needs to triage competing demands into a clear, relatively short list of priorities for its own action, but should play a supportive role to national diplomacy especially re: larger members. The EEAS and EU more generally can take on a greater leadership role in the neighbourhood and perhaps be more willing to use trade and aid leverage to support compliance with EU agreements.
- The EU should aim to achieve more Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) through consent rather than transfer of power. A move to majority voting in more CFSP areas as recommended by 11 Foreign Minister Future of Europe group members is not suitable but there may be scope to develop existing constructive abstention into a non-binding abstention, initially through tacit agreement prior to treaty change. This would allow others to move forward with common positions without restricting national freedom of action.
- Moves should be undertaken to increase the role of the HR/VP in Commission external action areas. More decision-making within the external affairs group and by the HR/VP directly, rather than referring to the college of Commissioners. Explore the potential for the Enlargement and Neighbourhood Commissioner to report to HR/VP directly and other methods to provide a deputy to help spread the HR/VP's workload and cover more ground.

#### Stefan Lehne argues

- That the EU needs to bring together foreign and security policy and the Commission's policy instruments more effectively. Member states need to combine efforts, pool resources and empower strong common institutions to effectively respond to the power shifts caused by the challenges of globalisation.

#### Prof Anand Menon believes

- There is a need for greater integration and a willingness to submit national defence policies to European authority to a greater extent. In long term the EU needs to end the veto when it comes to deciding on military interventions to accelerate decision-making, and bring an end

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<sup>1</sup> These recommendations are those of the authors alone. They do not represent the views of the Foreign Policy Centre or European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

to industrial fragmentation by creating a common European Defence Equipment Market, replacing national agencies.

- In the short-term, national defence ministries should coordinate on implications of budget cuts on capabilities and facilitate pooling and sharing through convergence of views.
- France and Britain should work with and not oppose the actions of the European Defence Agency.

#### **Jacqueline Hale argues**

- That the EU should better define the 'more for more' approach and better differentiate policies to different countries. Also it should apply 'less for less' when partners don't meet their obligations, particularly when related to the EU's values of human rights and democracy. Place the EEAS more clearly at the helm of relations with the neighbourhood.

#### **Dr Neil Winn believes**

- That in relation to the Middle East and North Africa there is a need for improved EU coordination of migration policy and handling of asylum cases. EU democracy promotion would benefit from working with a wider range of actors beyond governments to avoid repeating pre-Arab Spring errors.

#### **Professor John Peterson calls**

- For greater efforts towards a US-EU Economic Partnership Agreement involving significant regulatory harmonisation.

#### **Thiago de Aragão would like**

- To see a more unified EU foreign policy towards both towards the BRICS and more broadly to respond to their geopolitical challenge, showing that the EU is addressing the problems in its model.

#### **William Gumede argues**

- For reform of Economic Partnership Agreements to allow for intra-African trade deals, better access to EU markets for African processed goods and to allow space for development of African industry. The EU needs more consistency in democracy promotion and understanding it is more than just elections that can be rigged and improving civil society engagement.

#### **Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind QC, MP thinks**

- The EU should seek to achieve common positions not a common foreign policy.

#### **Richard Howitt MEP believes**

- There is a need for a new Global European Strategy and that there should be further integration of EU external action under EEAS leadership, pushing for human rights to be a silver thread. The HR/VP should be given space to float her own ideas rather than just speak on behalf of all.

#### **Edward McMillan Scott MEP wants**

- To see greater partnership between the EEAS and the European Parliament. He argues for the action service to pay greater regard to human rights issues, speaking out more and taking action where commitments are breached.