



Chronology: The Evolution of a Common EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy

March 1948: Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the UK sign the **Brussels Treaty** of mutual defence.

April 1949: The US, Canada and ten West European countries sign the **North Atlantic Treaty**.

May 1952: The **European Defence Community** treaty is agreed by the six ECSC member states. It would have created a common European army, and permitted West Germany's rearmament. In August 1954, the French National Assembly rejects the treaty.

October 1954: The **Western European Union (WEU)** is created on the basis of the Brussels Treaty, and expanded to include Italy and West Germany. West Germany joins NATO.

December 1969: At their **summit in The Hague**, the EC heads of state or government ask the foreign ministers to study ways to achieve progress in political unification.

October 1970: The foreign ministers approve the **Luxembourg Report**, setting up European Political Cooperation. They will meet every six months, to coordinate their positions on international problems and agree common actions. They will be aided by a committee of the directors of political affairs (the **Political Committee**).

July 1973: The foreign ministers agree to improve EPC procedures in the **Copenhagen Report**. They will meet at least four times a year; the Political Committee can meet as often as necessary. **European Correspondents** and **working groups** will help prepare the Political Committee's work. The Commission can contribute its views to proceedings.

October 1981: Measures approved in the **London Report** include the crisis consultation mechanism: any three foreign ministers can convene an emergency EPC meeting within 48 hours. In meetings with third country representatives, the presidency can be accompanied by the preceding and succeeding presidencies (the **troika**). The Commission is 'fully associated with EPC'.

October 1984: The **WEU is reactivated**, as WEU foreign and defence ministers agree to meet regularly.

February 1986: The **Single European Act (SEA)** is signed, and contains Title III on EPC. EPC can discuss the 'political and economic aspects of security'. EPC and the EC's external relations must be consistent. A small EPC secretariat, based in Brussels, will

help the presidency.

February 1992: The **Maastricht Treaty** is signed, replacing EPC with the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The Council of foreign ministers will decide **Common Positions** and **Joint Actions**, and QMV can be used to implement the latter. The Commission can initiate proposals. CFSP activities can be financed by the EC budget. The EU can request the WEU to implement decisions that have defence implications.

June 1992: The **Petersberg Declaration** states that the WEU will engage in humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping, and crisis management tasks, including peacemaking ('**Petersberg Tasks**'). Three forms of WEU membership (full, associate and observer) are created.

January 1994: NATO summit agrees that NATO assets can be used by the WEU and endorses the concept of '**Combined Joint Task Forces**' (the details are approved in June 1996); US approval is needed for the use of its assets.

October 1997: The **Amsterdam Treaty** is signed, and contains several reforms of the CFSP pillar. QMV is to be used to implement the European Council's **Common Strategies**, and member states can abstain from decisions. A **High Representative for the CFSP** is created, and replaces the past presidency in the troika. The High Representative also heads a new **Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit**. The EU can launch the **Petersberg Tasks**, which are to be implemented by the WEU.

December 1998: Franco-British declaration on EU military capability at **St Malo**.

June 1999: The **Cologne European Council** agrees that the EU should be able to undertake the Petersberg Tasks, replacing the WEU.

December 1999: The **Helsinki European Council** sets the **headline goal** for the common European security and defence policy. By 2003, the EU will be able to deploy within 60 days and for at least one year, military forces of up to 50,000-60,000 persons capable of the full range of Petersberg Tasks. It establishes interim committees to run it: the Political and Security Committee, the EU Military Committee and the EU Military Staff. In December 2000, the **Nice European Council** formalises the new committees.

July 2001: European Union Satellite Centre is established, in order to support early warning and crisis monitoring functions of the CFSP and CSDP. The Centre becomes operational on 1 January 2002.

March 2002 – June 2003: Convention on the Future of Europe drafts a **constitutional treaty** creating a European foreign minister; a European external action service (EEAS); a European armaments, research and military capabilities agency.

November 2003: EU foreign ministers reach agreement on permanent structured cooperation in defence (battle groups); a mutual assistance clause; creation of an EU civil and military planning cell within the EU military staff.

June 2004: The provisions agreed since 2002 are incorporated in the **draft constitutional treaty**, and many are implemented without treaty ratification (but not the foreign minister or EEAS).

June 2007: The European Council agrees a negotiating mandate for a new **reform treaty**, which retains the constitutional treaty's provisions on foreign relations (though the post of foreign minister is renamed High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy). In December, the treaty is signed in Lisbon. In June 2008, the Irish rejected the Lisbon Treaty in a referendum. In October 2009, they approved the Treaty in a second referendum.

December 2009: The **Lisbon Treaty** enters into force. Catherine Ashton fills the new post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

April 2010: The Council of the EU approves in principle the High Representative's proposal on the structure of the European External Action Service. In July, the European Parliament approves the proposal. The EEAS was formally launched on 1 December 2010.

March 2012: For the first time, the Foreign Affairs Council activates the **EU Operations Centre** to coordinate the three on-going CSDP missions in the Horn of Africa. The Centre was first established in January 2007 to act as ad hoc headquarters for joint, autonomous EU operations, especially when no national HQ is available.

August 2014: The foreign minister of Italy, Federica Mogherini, is appointed to succeed Catherine Ashton as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.