



**Federation of Young European
Greens**

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EU External Relations after the Lisbon Treaty

This Treaty-Agreement is not a Substitute for a new Convention

With the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon at 13.12.2007 and the probable ratification by the EU member states does the European Union step into a new era of European integration, as well in terms of its Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Nevertheless, the Federation of Young European Greens disagrees with the intransparent and hardly democratic processes by which this agreement on the treaty was reached. After the two No votes during the referenda in France and the Netherlands in 2005, it would have been more honest and comprehensible for the citizens of the European Union to ensure a maximum of participation and public debate. The constitutional convention 2002-2003 was a step into the right direction. FYEG strongly criticises the undemocratic and intransparent patchwork of parts of the refused constitution that was now agreed within the Treaty of Lisbon.

Furthermore, FYEG condemns the plans of most of the members of European Union to ratify this Treaty of Lisbon just by resolutions of the governments and parliaments without directly asking the EU citizens. Only the citizens of Ireland will have the possibility to decide about this treaty in June. This is a dubious democratic process and, thus, FYEG still calls for referenda in all of the EU member states! These referenda should be held on the same date as this might provoke a transnational debate about the treaty between the member states of the European Union and especially, among the European citizens.

The original claim for an improvement in coherence, transparency and efficiency within the structure of the European Union are – if at all – just partly fulfilled. This counts especially also for the EU Foreign and Security Policy.

Who will speak for European Foreign Policies?

The creation of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (who will be also vice president of the commission at the same time) brings in a third player who feels him/herself responsible for speaking on foreign policies: Besides her/him there will be also the new elected President of the European Council and the already existing President of the European Commission. But Europe needs to speak – at least sometimes – with one voice. The treaty shall be in power on 1.1.2009. Up to that date it will be necessary to agree on clear descriptions of the positions and on the share of power. Otherwise the formation of the new High Representative will lie just in the hand of its first officeholder which would be very undemocratic and can lead to fundamental misleading implementations. This would damage both the outer and inner reputation of the EU in terms of her Foreign Policies.

Federation of Young European Greens - AISBL
31 Rue Wiertz - B 1050 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 4 951 29 601 - Fax: +32 2 6260729
Email: office@fyeg.org
IBAN: BE11 3101 0766 6248 - BIC: BBRUBEBB
ING: 310-1076662-48

How to implement the External Action Service?

Decided as in the Lisbon Treaty is the implementation of an External Action Service which will constitute the external representation of the European Union. The leadership is based both within the Commission and the Council. But the real design of this institution has been left open in the Lisbon Treaty and is now being negotiated silently between the European Council and the Commission. Yet, this is contradictory to the claim of transparency and democratic control. There is a need to allow the parliament for more political participation also both in the implementation of this institution and in the design of the future work. Merely a democratic control through the budget is no real democracy. Otherwise the political legitimacy for representing Europe's citizens of this new important institution will be in danger.

Given that a large part of current and future EU external relations revolve around development cooperation, it must be ensured that development experts from the Directorate General for Development and the Member State ministries are adequately represented both in the process of designing the external action service and in the service as such.

Maintaining the Independence of the EU Development Policy

With the Treaty of Lisbon, the future role of the European development policy is absolutely unclear. Up to now both the relations to the External Action Service and to the other Directorates-General are not decided. Development policy which has the focus on the fight against poverty and the ensuring of the basic needs (food sovereignty, access to health, education and water etc), is in danger to be an instrument for other EU interests on geopolitics, energy security and the openness of markets for the European foreign economies. This needs to be avoided, an independent European development politics must be ensured: it includes a separate Commissioner, even when the number of the commissioners in 2014 will be reduced from 27 to 15. This independence is essential for this politics as it needs to be very sensitive in working on the fight against poverty and thus the redistribution of resources.

During the last years, the European Parliament received already an improvement in terms of political participation within the new Development Cooperation Instrument which coordinates the the development cooperation with the countries from Asia, Latin America and South Africa. But this principle of political participation also needs to be included into the cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (under the Treaty of Cotonou).

Less Militarisation Instead of More

On the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) there is just one new new instrument regarding the military cooperation: "Permanent Structural Cooperation". FYEG is very critical about these processes as they might lead to a stronger militarisation of the whole European Union. The Treaty of Lisbon also left the question open who is to join this closer cooperation and how it is conceptualised. The Treaty only asks its Member States only to "improve their military capacities", not to develop and increase their tools for conflict prevention. The phrase "If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all means in their power" may even indicate a duty to military assistance. Nevertheless FYEG supports this creation of European forces in a short term perspective, but only based on the following principles:

- Submission to the international law by the UN Security Council



- Demilitarization and finally abolishment of all national armies of the EU member states
- Disarmament and declining expenses on military, which includes as well a denial for the US missile shield in the European Union because it doesn't contribute to global disarmament at all
- Prevalence of civil conflict prevention and therefore establishment of a new instrument on the European level for civil conflict prevention
- Adequate resources to make conflict prevention a sustainable instrument for European Security and Defense Policy

In a long term perspective, European forces will need to be included into the structures of the United Nations.

Not burying one's head in the sand, but keeping up political participation

As shown above, the Lisbon Treaty still leaves some major issues unclear. FYEG considers this a fundamental problem, as the issues will probably be settled in an intransparent way between the heads of states and governments. Therefore, it is necessary to follow these processes and to participate in public debates! FYEG needs to be in integral part and ambitiously pursue its aim to make Europe's Common Foreign Security Policy much greener, sustainable, democratically controlled and coherent than it is at the moment!