



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



International
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PROGRAMME

Working with Europe and the EU – A New Context

**Practitioner course organised by the
European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA),
Maastricht,
on behalf of the
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)**

**London,
30 September – 2 October 2024**



Introduction

Description

This three-day course is designed for UK civil servants who are taking up roles working in or on Europe, or who aspire to do so. It assumes a basic knowledge of the EU and international diplomacy but no substantial prior experience.

The objective is:

- to explain the range of different competences and policy processes in the EU;
- to identify the main actors and procedures in EU policy making, both for the adoption of EU internal rules that may affect UK interests, and in the EU's external action;
- to outline how non-EU countries can shape EU policy outcomes, including through non-state and informal channels;
- to summarise the new legal and institutional framework for UK-EU relations, and how they operate in practice
- to consider how the UK may interact and work together with the EU on global issues, in line with the government's Global Britain ambitions.

Trainers

Sabina Lange is Senior Lecturer at EIPA and Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, where she received a doctorate for a thesis on strategy in EU foreign policy, case of Western Balkans. At EIPA she specialises in decision-making in the EU and in interinstitutional relations. Between 2015 and 2017 she was Senior Associate Analyst at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), where she dealt with institutional issues in EU external action and with security and foreign policy issues related to Western Balkans.

Stephen Woolcock is an Associate Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has taught international political economy, trade and economic diplomacy at the LSE since 1999. Before joining the LSE he worked on trade and EU policy at Chatham House and for the private sector. In 1999 he established the International Trade Policy Unit at the LSE to bridge the gap between academic and policy work. His ongoing research has been on the regulation of integrating markets, especially in the context of preferential and multilateral trade and investment agreements. He has served as a consultant to the European Parliament, European Commission, OECD, Commonwealth Secretariat, the UK and other governments.

Wolfgang Koeth is Senior Lecturer at EIPA. He has 25 years of experience working in and for the EU institutions, and brings insights into practical interaction between the EU and other actors in international settings. He was an assistant to an MEP and worked for the Commission in preparing Lithuanian accession. He was deputy head of the EC office in Pristina, in charge of liaison with stakeholders (UN, OSCE, EU Member States). He joined EIPA in 2009, where he trains EU and national officials on different aspects of EU external action, in particular trade, CFSP and enlargement.



Programme

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

HOW DOES THE EU WORK, AND HOW CAN THE UK TRY TO SHAPE ITS POLICIES?

Sabina Lange, EIPA

09.30 **Welcome, explanation of the objectives, and self-presentation of the participants**

09.45 **Introduction**

The day begins with an interactive session covering key points from the preliminary materials. This highlights the different kinds of powers given to the EU and how these may be of relevance for the UK; identifies the main EU actors involved; and introduces the main topics that will be addressed in the course.

10.50 Break

11.00 **Who does what in the EU institutional system?**

Group exercise

We present a simple model of the EU policy cycle, indicating the main roles and functions that are involved. You divide into groups and match schematic outlines with sets of institutional actors and instruments.

The exercise is followed by a debriefing which summarises EU legislative programming, law-making procedures and legal acts.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Worked case study**

The case of Single-Use Plastics is now presented. This will take you round the legislative cycle from initial problem definition to adoption of a directive and implementation. The case shows how different actors influenced the process and highlights points of concern for UK interests. You will discuss questions at each stage regarding next steps with a view to identifying specific moments and actors to address in your own work.

14.30 Break

14.40 **How can non-EU countries try to influence EU policy?**

We will invite you to assess the different options for following and shaping policy in the EU, and consider examples of how other non-EU countries follow and try to influence EU policies, covering both direct contacts and indirect channels.



Canadian and Norwegian experiences and perspectives will be presented (recorded) by:

Jarrett Reckseidler, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Mission of Canada to the EU

Carsten Horn-Hanssen, Counsellor for Transport and Communications, Mission of Norway to the EU

15.20 Break

15.30 **Workshop: How to work with the EU and Europe in practice**

You now discuss how the UK coordinates its policy regarding the EU and Europe, and how you can prepare most effectively for dealing with EU counterparts and other relevant actors. Introductory presentations will be given by:

Nick Heath, Head of European Strategy and Expertise Department, FCDO, London

Catriona Mace, Foreign and Development Policy Director, UK Mission to the EU, Brussels

16.20 Recap of the day

16.30 **End of Day One**

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2024

HOW DOES THE NEW FRAMEWORK OF UK-EU RELATIONS WORK?

Prof. Stephen Woolcock, Associate Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science

09.30 **Overview of arrangements**

We will start the second day by providing an overview of the arrangements that govern the bilateral relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union. This will include the EU Withdrawal Act and concept of 'retained EU law', the Withdrawal Agreement as amended by the Windsor Framework, and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The session will include comments by *Anna Baird, Windsor Framework Team Leader, Economic and Trade Partnership Department, FCDO, London*

10.45 Pause

11.00 **Trade and Cooperation Agreement - Goods**

In this part, we will discuss in greater detail the trade provisions in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. We will start by examining the key aspects of 'Trade in Goods', including the abolition of tariffs, rules of origin, and non-tariff barriers. We will also consider the special arrangements for Northern Ireland.

12.00 *Group exercise*

Identification of the questions to be addressed and the costs and benefits and implementation issues of a possible SPS/veterinary agreement between the UK and the EU.



12.40 *Presentation and Debriefing*

The exercise is followed by the presentation of the findings of the group exercise and discussion

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **Trade and Cooperation Agreement - Services**

In this part we will provide an overview of the Trade in Services provisions in the TCA. We will focus on services of particular interest to the United Kingdom, such as financial and legal services.

Group exercise

Discussion of impact of digitalisation on services trade

15.10 Break

15.20 **Trade and Cooperation Agreement – Governance**

In this part we will examine the governance structures of the Withdrawal Agreement and of the TCA. The session starts with a presentation given by: *Ashleigh Osborne, Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee Policy Officer, ETPD, FCDO, London; Calum Wilson, Energy, Services and IP Policy Officer, ETPD, FCDO, London*

16.20 Recap of the day

16.30 **End of Day Two**

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2024

THE EU IN THE WORLD: HOW CAN THE UK AND THE EU WORK TOGETHER ON GLOBAL ISSUES?

Wolfgang Koeth, EIPA

09.30 **Introductory overview**

09.45 **From peace project to geo-political player**

During the last decade, the EU has reviewed its position on the global stage. Is the EU still the successful peace project for which it received the Nobel prize in 2012? We address the changing self-perception of the EU as a global actor in this session, along with the consequences for the UK.



10.30 **Beyond trade**

Being the biggest trading bloc in the world allows the EU to export its norms and standards beyond its borders – de jure et de facto. Foreign regulators and businesses frequently sign up voluntarily to EU regulatory ‘gold standards’, as this decreases their transaction costs. However, the EU’s position as a regulatory hegemon is increasingly challenged by China. Will the ‘Brussels effect’ give way to a ‘Beijing effect’? What will be the possible impact for the UK?

11.30 Pause

11.45 **EU relations with third countries and impacts on the UK**

This session focuses on the relations that the EU has with other countries and international actors, as well as how this affects the UK. First, we look at the EU’s relations with global and regional powers (China, US, Russia, and Turkey). Second, we examine the regional dimension, discussing the EEA, EFTA, and the EU’s enlargement and neighbourhood policies. Lastly, we cover the EU’s role within multilateral organisations (UN, WTO, WHO, WB, IMF, etc.).

12.45 Lunch

13.30 **Interactive exercise: Identifying your interlocutors - who is in charge of what in the EU’s system of external action?**

This session consists of an interactive exercise in small groups. You will be invited to match schematic outlines with the main actors with which the UK may interact on external affairs, including their roles and powers. This will be followed by a debriefing.

14.50 Pause

15.00 **Towards (open) strategic autonomy?**

We look at the notion of strategic autonomy in the context of security and defence (including the post-2016 drive towards a defence Union and its potential impact on NATO and transatlantic relations), before considering how the notion of strategic autonomy has spilled over to other sectors (like industrial policy), and how this might impact the EU’s partners

CONCLUDING SESSION

15.45 **Thematic review of the three days and general discussion**

Wolfgang Koeth

16.15 Filling in the evaluation sheets

16.30 Concluding words – Europe Faculty Team

End of the course