



International
Academy
Europe Faculty

Working with Europe and the EU – *A New Context*

3.2

Practitioner training for UK civil servants
organised by the European Institute of Public Administration
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the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

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EU external competences (interactive exercise)

From peace project to geo-political player

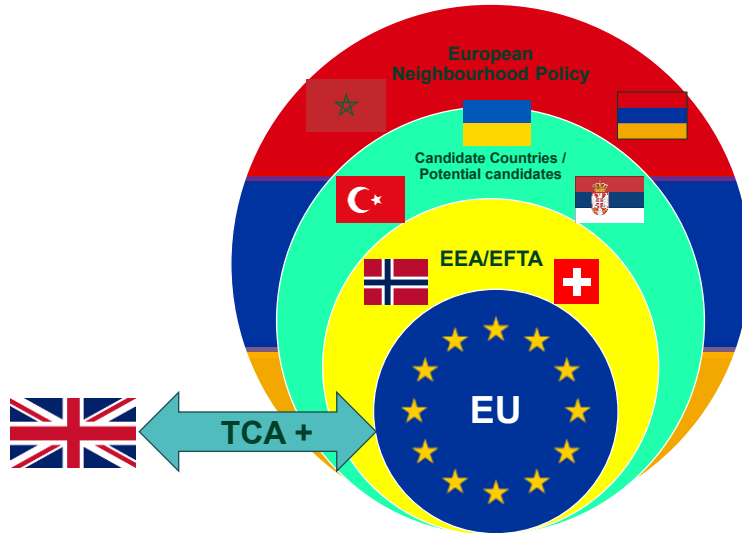
EU relations with third countries and their side effects on the UK

Beyond trade



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The Neighbours



EU – China relations



- Relations EEC - PRC established in 1975
- 1985 Trade and Cooperation Agreement
- Trade volume multiplied by 10 since 1989
(EUR 180bn in 2020), both sides now each others biggest trading partners
- After global financial crisis : changing attitudes in Beijing towards market liberalisation
- 2019: “**negotiation partner, economic competitor systemic rival**”
- 2020: Bilateral Investment Agreement (CAI) (ratification frozen by EP)
- China major policy driver behind EU trade policy/external action (“strategic autonomy”)

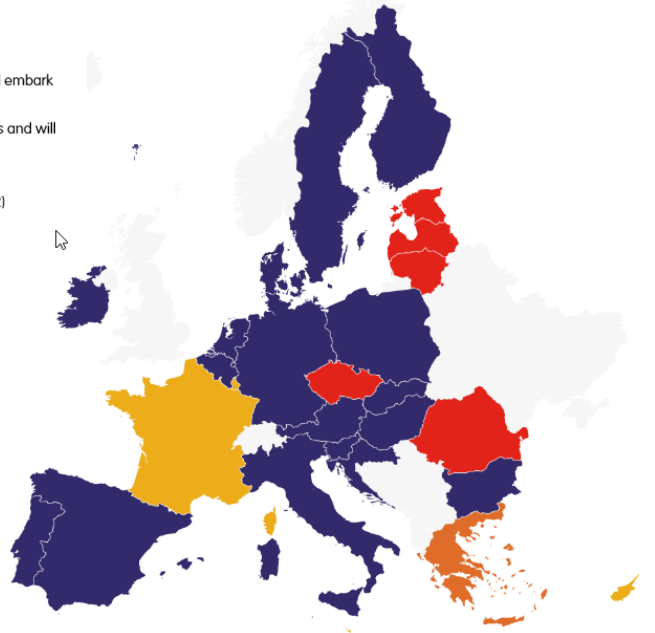
EU – Russia relations

- No formal relations EEC-USSR
- 1994: Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- 2004: EU “Eastern” Enlargement / Russia rejects invitation to ENP
- 2007: Russia turning its back on EU, West
- 2008: Military intervention in Georgia
- 2014: Russian aggression of Ukraine I : End of European Security Order
- 2022: Russian aggression of Ukraine II: End of illusions



Did the war in Ukraine come as a shock to your country?

- Yes. We heard the warnings of US intelligence, but we still did not think Russia would embark on such a large-scale war. (17)
- We have always known that Putin's Russia has not abandoned its imperial ambitions and will seek to subjugate its neighbours if it sees a chance. (5)
- We have long thought the stalemate in Donbas might lead to another war. (3)
- We did not expect it otherwise, but the intelligence shared by the US convinced us. (2)



EU – US relations

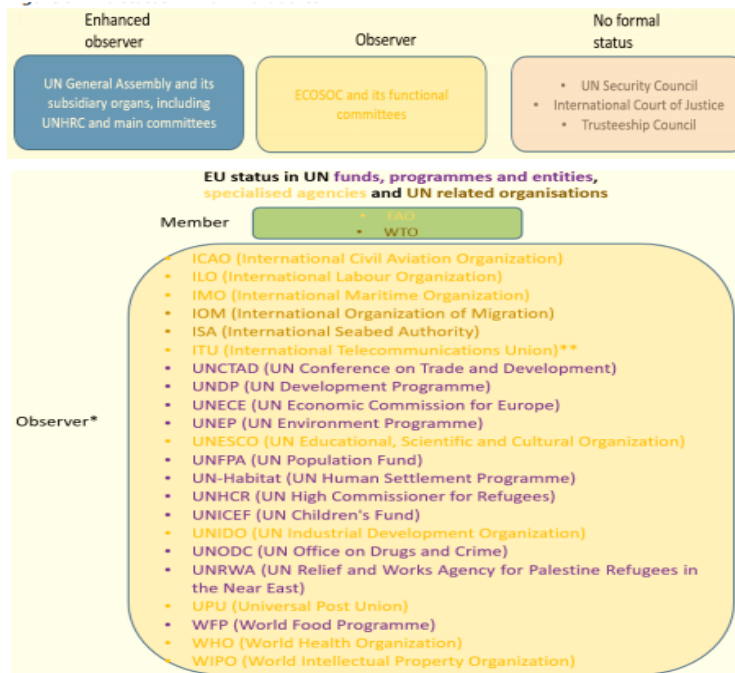


- Relationship based much on historic ties
- Post WWII: US support for European security and reconstruction (Marshall Plan), pushing Europeans towards integration
- EU off US strategic radar after 1991
- Biggest trading partner (until 2020)
- Two failed attempts to conclude FTAs (TAFTA and TTIP)
- New impetus under Biden (TCC), but dividing issues persist (and are even growing...)
- Revival of transatlantic security alliance after Russian aggression



The EU in a multilateral context (1)

- UN: EU not a “peace loving nation”; enhanced observer status at GA with enhanced participation rights
- Different membership status in UN agencies (full member of FAO; simple observer at ECOSOC)



Source: EPRS

The EU in a multilateral context (2)

- UN: EU not a “peace loving nation”; enhanced observer status at GA with enhanced participation rights
- Different membership status in UN agencies (full member of FAO; simple observer at ECOSOC and specialized agencies)
- Full member of WTO; speaks on behalf of MS
- Simple observer at WHO (competences...)
- World Bank/IMF: no formal status, but financial framework partnership agreements
- Key challenge: coordination of MS positions