

FCDO summary / take aways day 1

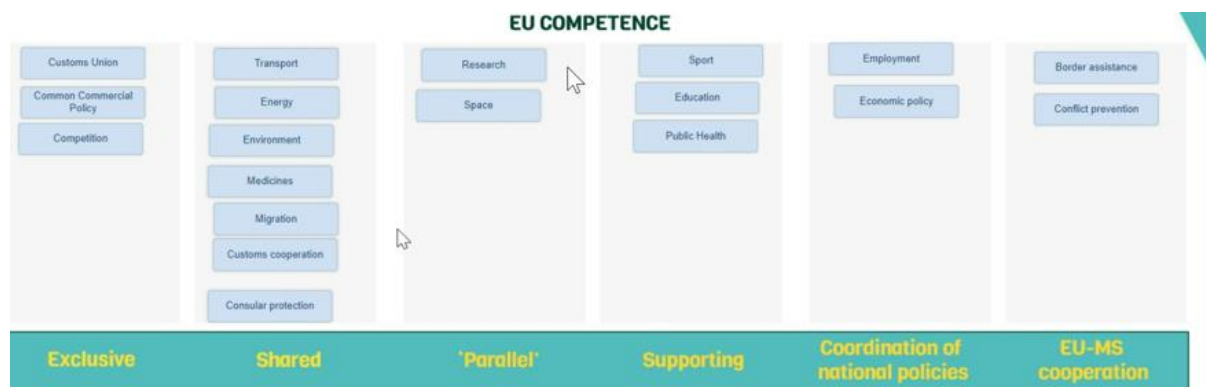
We tackled these 5 framing questions on Day 1:

What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?

This question was intended to establish the relevance of subsequent discussions. While the ranking of UK interests in relation to the EU may change over time, sometimes in a short period of time, the list of interests demonstrates that UK interests span across different dimensions of EU – UK relations: regulation, functional cooperation, foreign and security questions and global goals.

What can the EU actually do?

EU is not a state. It is a sui generis polity with competences that the signatories to its founding treaties have assigned to them. Type of a competence - defined in relation between the EU and Member States - in a particular policy area determines what EU can do and what the Member States can do. See picture – your completed exercise 1:



How do EU policies affect the UK?

Within the framework of relations established by the WA / TCA, the Windsor framework and taking the global political situation and in particular European security situation into account, EU policies affect the UK (1) when it comes to trade relations: technical regulations, standards and conformity assessments («the Brussels effect»), (2) migration and internal security, (3) security and foreign policy and (4) global issues.

How can the UK try to shape EU policies?

Some principles:

Shared interests, sharing of the expertise, and working out joint solutions are the basis for working with EU and member state actors.

Working at multiple levels, early and seeking partnerships with a broad array of actors, in particular non-state actors.

Which EU and other European actors are most relevant?

Commission:

Logic: expertise.

Start early, scan for upcoming projects, engage in consultation (online platform and targeted events), work through umbrella organisations in industry and other organised interests.

To consider: politicization, geo-strategic outlook, strength of the second-time president Von der Leyen. Map the new Commissioners, organisation, reporting lines. Check-out the mission letters and identify if the services within your working area have changed position.

EP: logic: politics. Continue working on the basis of expertise and through umbrella organisations, but this is party politics: divided across the traditional and newer lines (left and right populist), with institutional assertion drive. Get to know crucial people.

To consider: ad hoc pragmatic alliances vs principled stances (of mainstream groups against the fringe ones), internal orientation of the fringe groups, general pre-occupation with internal dynamics in the EP.

Council:

Logic: diplomacy.

Work at both levels: in Brussels and in the member states (where politics is present more at the highest levels), consider all 27, invest at the working level. Listen.

To consider : domestic politics behind the national preferences in Brussels, need for expertise, in particular by smaller member states (and that is the vast majority of them).

European External Action Service and its 145 delegations around the world, including the EU delegations in London: logic: diplomacy, with a two-level game (EU and member state level). Invest in opportunities for collaboration to tackle joint threats.

To consider: delicate 'division of labour' between national and European diplomacies, pragmatic approaches in some cases (raising the number of economic attaches in bilateral embassies), principled stances in Brussels and often in multilateral for a (on what can be said in the EU name)

Take-aways:

- **Basics for our work**

know regulatory context, your objectives, institutional and stakeholder environment

- **Principles of engagement**

early, detailed, multilevel, multiactor approach based on the power of the argument

- **Specifics of the EU**

EU competence framework and EU external influence potential, relationship between the EP, the Council and the Commission conscious of the best timing for each, broader understanding of stakeholders and rules of access, developing a trust-based relationship