



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Europe Faculty

Working with Europe and the EU

– A New Context

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

London, 22-24 September 2025



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Day 3

09.30-09.40 **Introductory overview**

09.40-10.40 **From peace project to geo-political player**

10.40-10.50 Break

10.50-11.50 **Beyond trade**

11.50-12.00 Break

12.00-13.00 **EU relations with its partners (and their impacts on the UK)**

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.15 **Interactive exercise**

15.15-15.25 Break

15.25-16.10 **Towards (open) strategic autonomy?**

16.10-17.00 **Concluding session**



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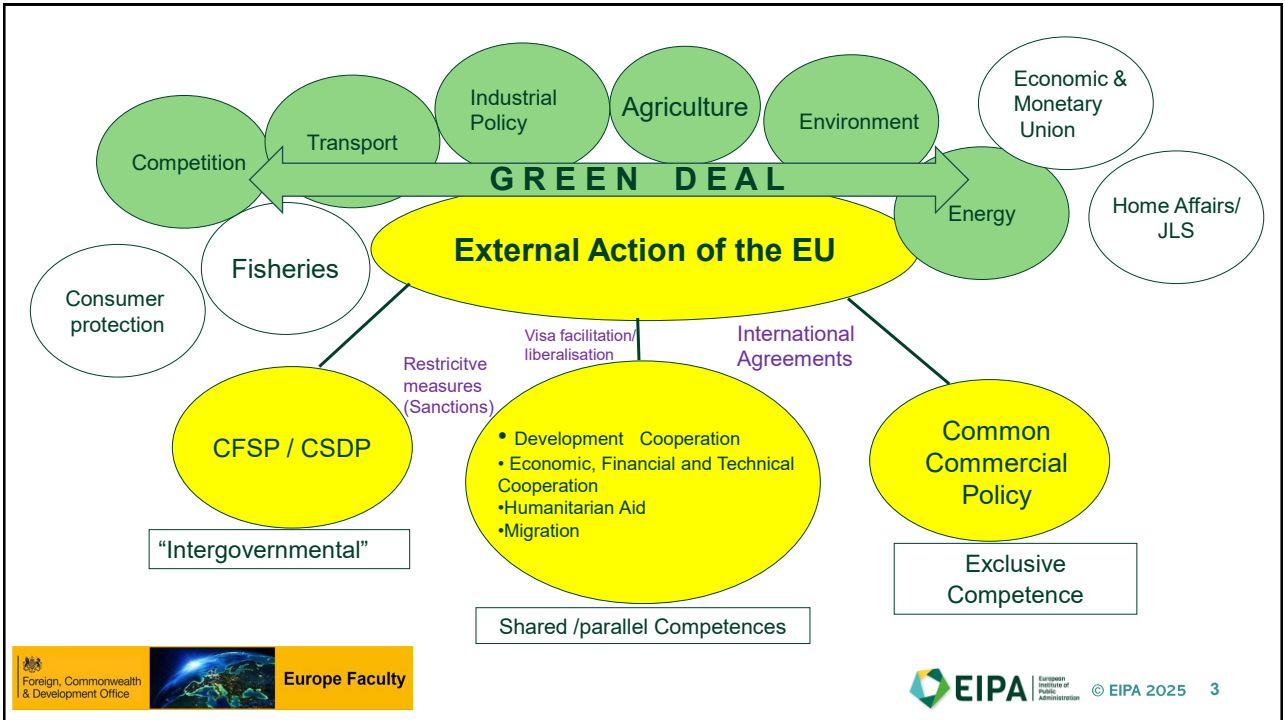
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Le Monde

INTERNATIONAL • ISRAEL/PALESTINE

EU to impose import labeling for products from Israeli settlements

A new customs declaration would provide greater transparency on imports coming from the occupied territories.

By Philippe Jacqué (Brussels (Belgium) correspondent)

Published on June 23, 2023, at 4:16 am (Paris), updated on June 23, 2023, at 4:22 am • 2 min. • [Lire en français](#)

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Psaqot Wine: A Testament to Israel's Winemaking Renaissance

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How many EU policies are hidden here?



Please scan this QR code with your phone and answer the question

Alternatively, you can go to slido.com and enter the code EIPA

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- 1 EU external competences
- 2 **From peace project to geopolitical player**
- 3 EU relations with third countries and multilateral bodies
- 4 Beyond trade

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EU: from peace project to geopolitical player

The Schuman Plan
1950



The European Coal and Steel
Community (ECSC)
1952



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EU: from peace project to geopolitical player



Presidents Herman Van Rompuy, José Manuel Barroso and Martin Schulz receiving the Nobel Prize medal and diploma for the European Union (EU) during the Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony at the Oslo City Hall in Norway, 10 December 2012. Copyright © The Nobel Foundation 2012 Photo: Ken Opprann

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The objectives of EU External Action

‘In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens. It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child, as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.’

(TEU Art. 3(5))

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The message?



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The 2003 European Security Strategy

A SECURE EUROPE IN A BETTER WORLD

EUROPEAN SECURITY STRATEGY

Brussels, 12 December 2003

Introduction



Europe has never been so prosperous, so secure nor so free. The violence of the first half of the 20th Century has given way to a period of peace and stability unprecedented in European history.

The EU Global Strategy (June 2016)

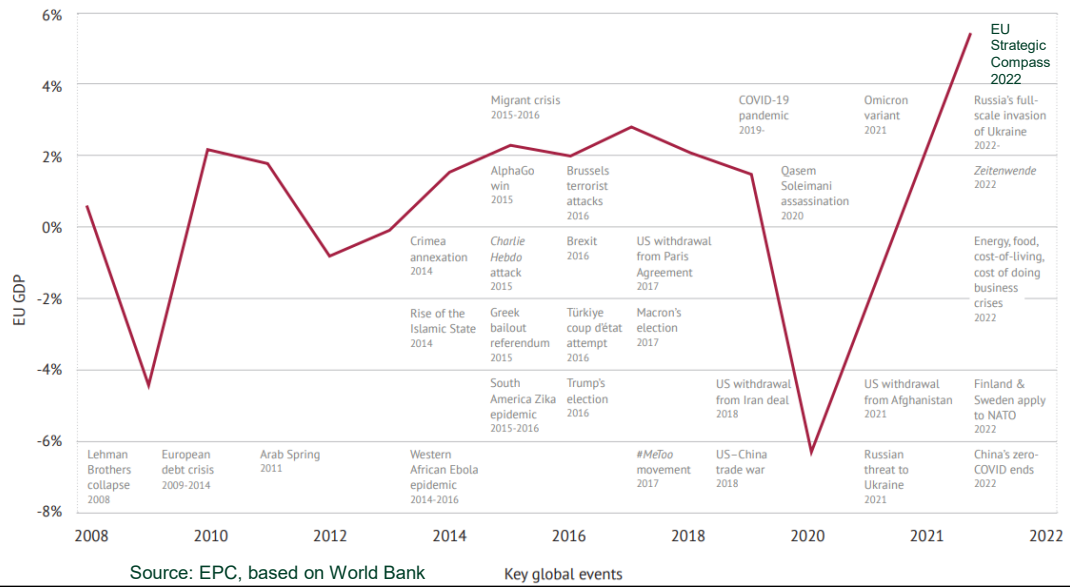
Foreword by Federica Mogherini

High Representative
of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the European Commission



The purpose, even existence, of our Union is being questioned. Yet, our citizens and the world need a strong European Union like never before. Our wider region has become more unstable and more insecure.

Figure 1

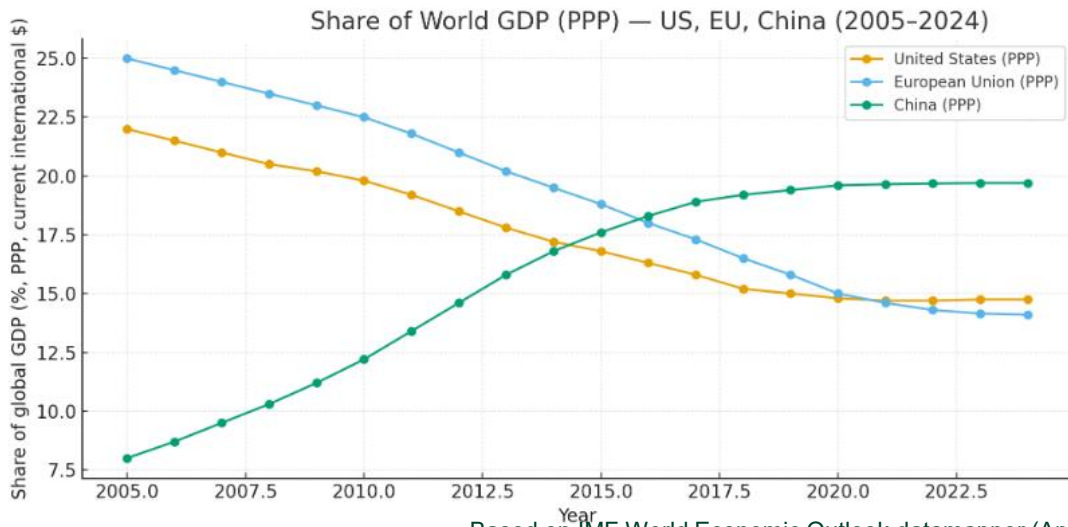
EUROPE IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL PERMACRISIS (2010-22)⁴

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China's Rise to Economic Superpower



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Dealing with 'systemic rivals'



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Dealing with 'systemic rivals'

Figure 4: China's 'ODA-like' disbursements in ranking of DAC donors, 2019
US\$ billions

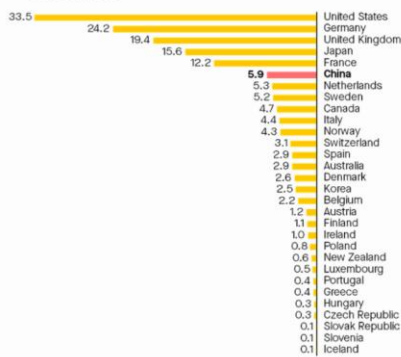
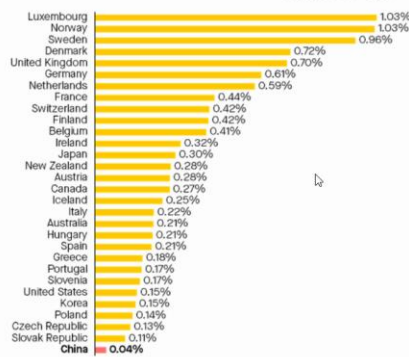


Figure 5: China's 'ODA-like' disbursements as % of GNI in ranking of DAC donors, 2019
ODA as % GNI



Source: OECD CRS, Gross disbursements, Kitano, N. & Miyabayashi, Y. 2020, 'Estimating China's Foreign Aid: 2019-2020 Preliminary Figures', Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development, JICA. Figures based on OECD's grant equivalent methodology. US\$ conversions based on current prices.



Case study: international policy making and the EU



Houlin Zhao

Houlin Zhao was re-elected ITU Secretary-General at the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November 2018. Mr Zhao is an information and communication technology (ICT) engineer who has served in a variety of senior management positions at ITU, began his second, and last, four-year term on 1 January 2019. Prior to first being elected as ITU Secretary-General in 2014, Zhao served eight years as



EU : referee or player?



“Principled pragmatism”



‘The EU should remove its rose-tinted glasses and pragmatically look at the world as it is, not as it would like to see it.’

Nathalie Tocci, 2017



The EU's external action dictionary (post-2016)

- Principled Pragmatism - removing our rose-tinted glasses
- Strategic Autonomy - reducing our reliance on others
- Geopolitical Commission - referee becoming player
- Global Gateway - not leaving the Global South to China
- Team Europe - increasing our visibility and impact
- NDICI – Global Europe - getting the money where we need it
- Integrated approach - playing three-dimensional chess
- Defence Union - hedging our bets

