



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office





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

Practitioner Training for UK Civil Servants

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

FCDO, 3-5 November 2025



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What is your main expectation from this training and what would you most like to learn about ?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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Day 1

- 09:30 Opening
- 09:35 Welcome, explanation of the objectives, and self-presentation of the participants
- 09:45 Introduction
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Who does what in the EU institutional system?
Group exercise
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 How can non-EU countries try to influence EU policy? *Group exercise*
- 15:00 Workshop: How to work with the EU and Europe in practice
- 16:00 Break
- 16:15 How can non-EU countries try to influence EU policy? (cont.)
- 16:45 Recap of the day
- 17:00 End of Day One

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Framing questions

- What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?
- **What can the EU actually do?**
- How do EU policies affect the UK?
- **Which EU and other European actors are most relevant?**
- **How can the UK try to shape EU policies?**
- *How does the new UK-EU bilateral relationship work? – Day 2*
- *How can the UK and the EU best work together in the world? = Day 3*

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Framing questions (1)

- **SLIDO RANKING EXERCISE – SELECT 5 IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE**
- **What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?**
 - cooperation in security and defence
 - partnership in leading on climate action
 - joint defence of democratic values
 - controlling migration to the UK
 - competitive advantage for UK in new technologies
 - market access to the EU
 - ensuring UK benefits from international regulatory norms



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

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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Dimensions of UK-EU relations: continua of cooperation



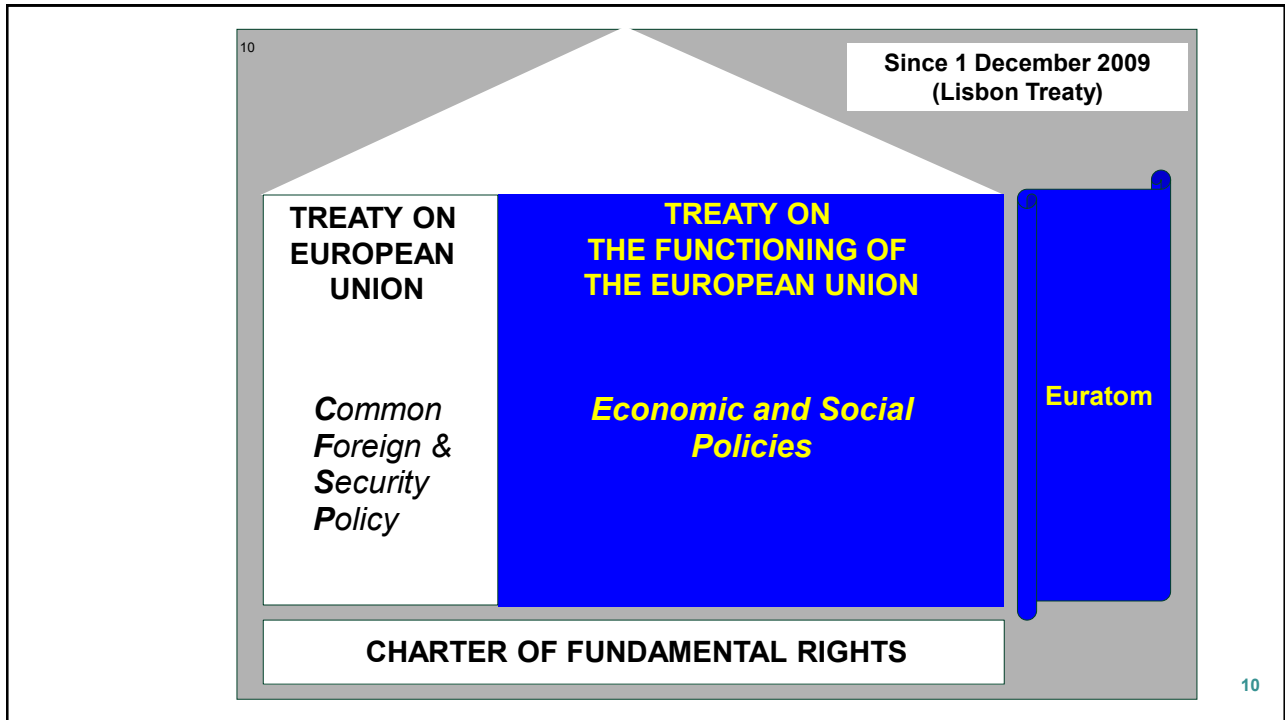
Regulation	alignment v. divergence
Functional cooperation	association v. alternative
Foreign and security policy	ad hoc cooperation (same values and interests?)
Global goals (climate, SDGs)	parallel action (different means to same ends?)

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Framing questions (2)

- What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?
- **What can the EU do?** *EU law and other modes of governance*

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Competences: what can the EU do? (1)

European Union				Member States
Exclusive competences	Shared competences	Supporting competences	Coordination of national policies	Cooperation EU/ Member States
Only the EU can legislate and adopt binding acts.	If an EU norm is in force, Member States cannot exercise national competence. Exceptions = 'parallel' competences	The EU cannot harmonise national laws. EU support does not affect national competence.	Member States shape their policies around common objectives and guidelines.	Member States agree to take joint actions and positions.

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Exercise

NB – non-exhaustive list of policy areas

Exclusive EU COMPETENCE	Shared	'Parallel'	Supporting	Coordination of national policies	EU-MS cooperation

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Exclusive competences

Article 3 TFEU

- Customs union
- Competition rules for internal market
- Monetary policy
- Conservation of marine biological resources
- Common commercial policy



- International agreements*

**when provided for in a legislative act, necessary to exercise internal competence, or if its conclusion may affect common rules*

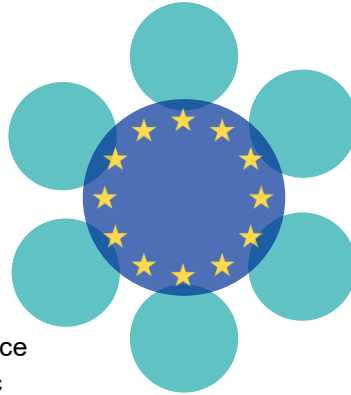
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Shared competences

*While EU is acting,
MS cannot act*

- Internal Market
- Social policy
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Agriculture and fisheries
- Environment
- Consumer protection
- Transport
- Trans-European networks
- Energy
- Area of freedom, security and justice
- Common safety concerns in public health matters

Article 4 TFEU

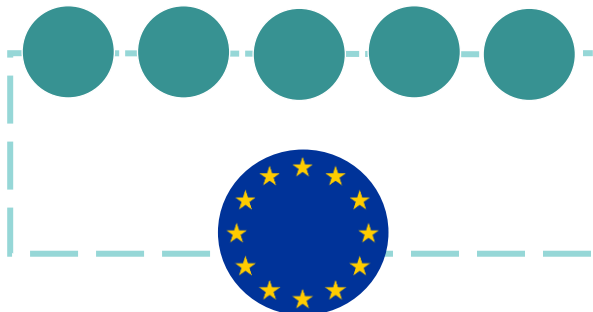


*EU & MS can act
in parallel*

- Research
- Technological development
- Space
- Development policy
- Humanitarian aid

Competences to support, coordinate or supplement

Article 5 TFEU



- Protection and improvement of human health
- Industry
- Culture
- Tourism
- Education, training, youth, sport
- Civil protection
- Administrative cooperation

no harmonisation of Member States' laws or regulations

The range of EU methods*

Rules

Binding supranational acts
(**primacy** of EU law)

Range of hard (binding, detailed) to soft (flexible) commitments for MS

Resources

Common budget to enable EU policies and support innovation and cohesion across EU

EU funds and programmes; often shared management and co-financing

Recommendations

MS should shape their **national policies** to pursue common **EU objectives**

Annual cycle of reporting, review and **recommendation** (European Semester)

= 'policy coordination'

Packages and linkages

Mix of policy instruments

*Excluding CFSP



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Policy coordination, convergence and reform

The European Semester

Stability and Growth Pact (debt, deficit...)

Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure

Employment Guidelines

Social Pillar

Structural Reform Support

Recovery and Resilience Facility

Recommendations

Opinions

Guidelines

Incentives

Funding

Linkages and conditionalities



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EU – Member State cooperation

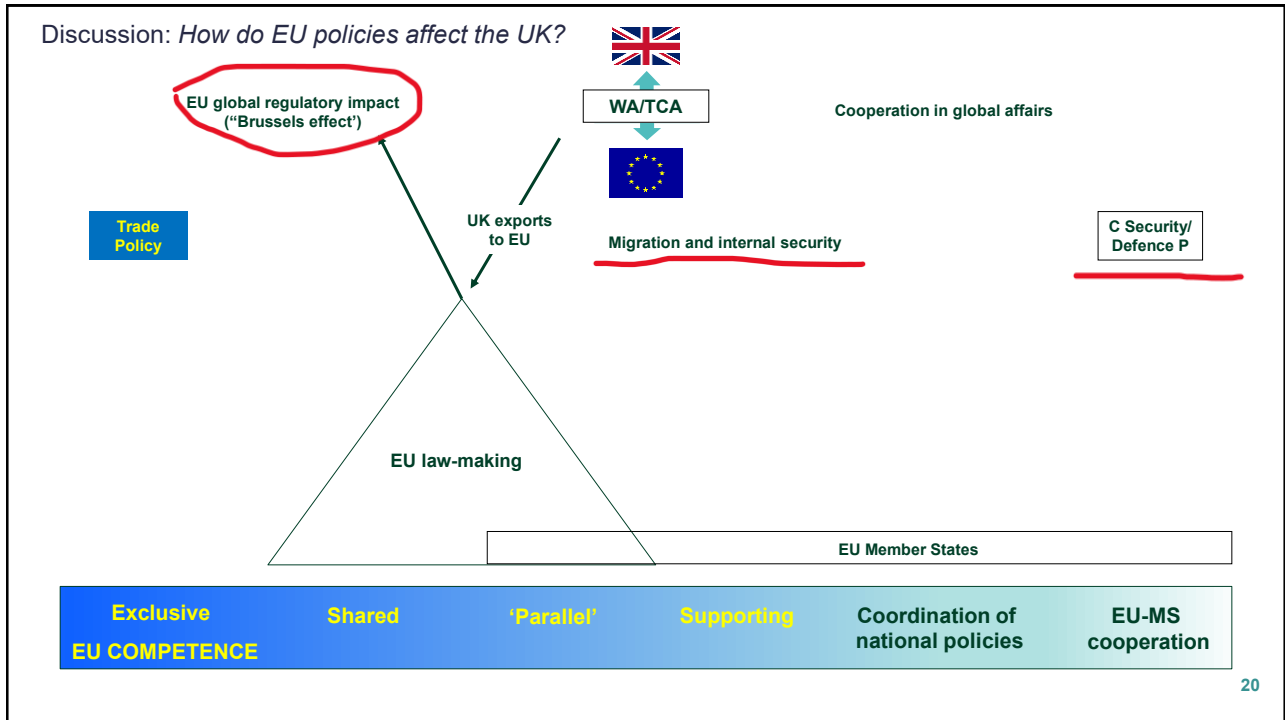
Political commitment by Member States

main area = **Common Foreign and Security Policy**

- ‘The Member States shall support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity and shall comply with the Union's action.’
- ‘identification of questions of general interest’ and ‘ever-increasing degree of convergence of Member States' actions’
- Member States decide by unanimity
- no powers for the supranational institutions

Framing questions (3)

- What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?
- What can the EU do?
- **How do EU policies affect the UK?**



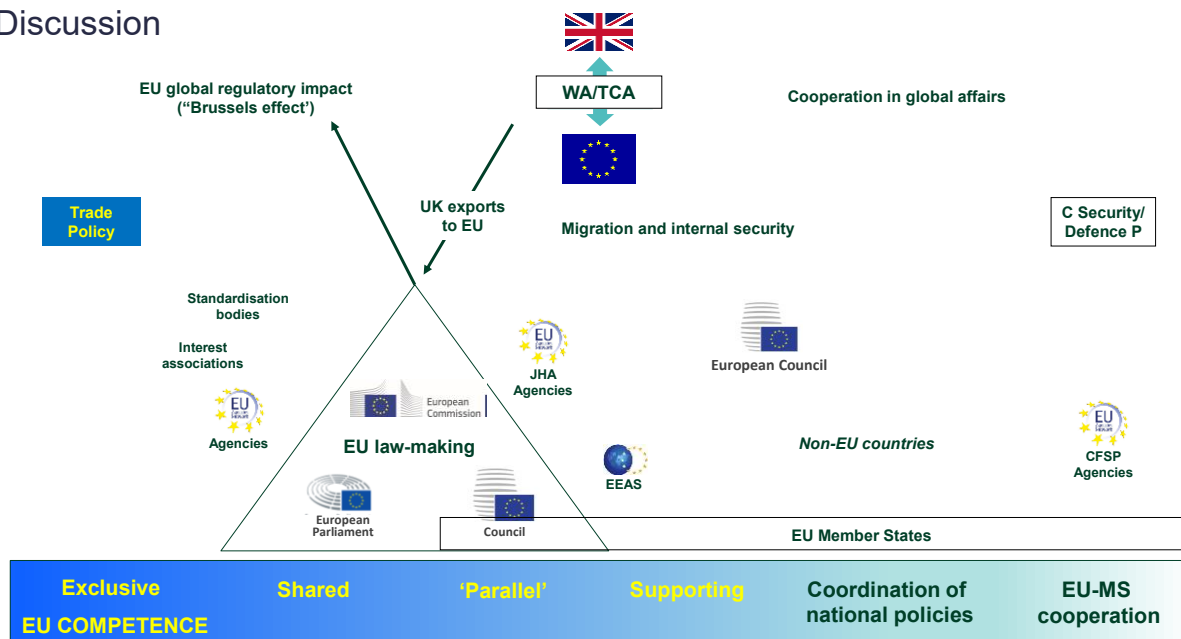
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Framing questions (4)

- What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?
- What can the EU actually do?
- How do EU policies affect the UK?
- Which EU and other European actors are most relevant?
- How can the UK try to shape EU policies?

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Discussion



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Framing questions (an overview)

- What are the UK's main interests and priorities ref. the EU?
- **What can the EU actually do?**
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- **Which EU and other European actors are most relevant?**
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