



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Niclas Schlecht

Title: Effect of the Brexit referendum on the Common Security and Defence Policy

Programme/year: MISS/2019

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Associate Professor Běla Plechanovová

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	27
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	52
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	71



## Evaluation

Major criteria: The thesis deals with very interesting and timely topic for the security landscape of the European Union. The general assumption that Brexit represents for the EU in the area of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) either an opportunity for further strengthening or is not going to change the weak progress so far (or even may lead to deterioration of the situation) seems quite plausible. Framing the topic in liberal theory of A. Moravcsik is adequate from my perspective. So far so good. The issues follow.

First, the thesis lacks what may be called a real research design. The author comes with two hypotheses but does not offer any plan how to test them. In fact, the two hypotheses are in my understanding only one in a binary expression and there is no explanation why they should be presented as separate claims. The chapter on methodology introduces document analysis and discourse analysis as methods, while in fact these are research techniques which may be used within various methodological frameworks. The author mentions triangulation as a mean how to verify information contained in official documents and speeches but does not build any model that would identify indicators in different types of data sources as well as he does not present the data (documents, speeches, their authors, the status etc.) in any concise manner.

Second, the analysis chapter offers 35 pages of chronological description of development of the CSDP initiatives and debates without any structure. The reader gets lost after few pages. Therefore, the arguments are not convincing as well as the conclusion which is far too general, contrasted with the vast empirical material presented in the analytical chapter.

Minor criteria: The thesis builds upon a rich list of sources, both academic literature and documents as well as various types of reflexions published in all kind of venues. The author deserves to get credit for this collection and its extensive use through the text. The style of the text as well as the language are adequate. The bibliography (28 pages) is far too long for this type of work, it is not clear whether all the items are referred to through the text.



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Overall evaluation: The thesis offers a rich empirical material on timely and important topic, but lacks in methodological rigor.

Suggested grade: C-

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Novák", written over a faint, large watermark of the word "UNIVERSITY" in the background.