

Since its foundation in 1993, the common foreign and security policy of the European Union has undergone many changes aimed at improving its strength and efficiency. The Lisbon Treaty brought the most significant changes so far, transforming its institutional character as well as its functioning. The goal of this thesis is to introduce to the reader the changes to the common foreign and security policy brought by the Lisbon Treaty. However, our aim is not only to describe what individual provisions of the Lisbon Treaty mean for this policy area but also to focus on their real impact on the functioning of the common foreign and security policy and the strength of the European Union at international level. The thesis also focuses on the main shortcomings that the common foreign and security policy had to face in the past. It then tries to answer the question, whether the Lisbon Treaty removes these shortcomings and indeed increases the strength and efficiency of the common foreign and security policy of the European Union.