

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY OF THE EU WITH REGARD TO THE LISBON TREATY

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union (EU) is from its beginnings to the present time the area that is evolving very slowly with regard to other EU policies. It is a sensitive political issue, traditionally understood as a part of national sovereignty. That is why it has always been facing the reluctance of Member States to limit their powers in this area in favour of the Union.

Union is constantly criticised for the lack of consistency of its external actions. Member states feel that it is necessary to „speak with one voice“, if they want to have chance to be a legitimate partner to the world powers. It leads to slow enhancing of cooperation in the CFSP matters.

Lisbon Treaty entered into force on the 1st December 2009 and brought many changes in the functioning of the EU. The aim of the thesis is to analyse the CFSP and the changes introduced by this Treaty without mentioning European Security and defence Policy.

The thesis is divided into 5 chapters, each of them dealing with different aspects of CFSP. Chapter One is introductory and defines basic terminology used in the thesis and the context of external relations of the EU in order to explain the position of CFSP within EU policies. Part of this chapter is also the subchapter describing the legal personality of the EU which is now explicitly granted.

Looking back at the evolution of cooperation in CSFP shows the complicated process of developing closer cooperation in this field. The chapter will describe the predecessor of the CFSP - the European political cooperation and its development to the institutionalization of CFSP in the Maastricht Treaty and the most significant changes introduced in following treaties. The complicated process of ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and the general position of CFSP in its context will be discussed in the sixth subchapter.

The most important part of the thesis consists of describing the institutional architecture with regard to the changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. The focus will be both on the general institutions and their influence in the CSFP and the bodies typical of the CSFP. The innovative position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the emerging European External Action Service will be discussed.

Chapter four concentrates on the decision-making procedure in the CFSP matters and the differences from the decision-making in other policies of EU.

Following chapter is dedicated to the CFSP instruments, with particular emphasis on the individual secondary acts and external agreements of the EU.

The thesis confirms that the changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in the area of CSFP, especially the position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service, have the potential to help to create a coherent European foreign policy. The Lisbon Treaty entered into force more than one year ago, but the real progress in the CSFP still remains behind its original ambitious goals. I see the main obstacle to the creating of the efficient foreign policy of EU in the lack of will of the member states to make more significant steps towards deeper integration in this field and their inability to settle concrete common approach.

