Abstract

The aim of this Master thesis was to find out whether the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union was able to exert influence in EU’s external relations after the Lisbon Treaty has entered into force. Thesis was looking on two post-Lisbon Council Presidencies-Hungarian Council Presidency and the Polish Council Presidency and their influence in Eastern Partnership-the flagship initiative of both of these presidencies. Through the identification of the informal roles of the rotating presidency-agenda setter role and broker’s role, the influence on the development of Eastern Partnership of both Council Presidencies was determined. The other factors such as the reputation of the presiding country, stable domestic political situation, ability to deal with unexpected developments have been considered as important pre-requisites for the Council Presidency to be able to exert influence through its informal roles.