

THE CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN UNION

The EU's role in International Institutions
4 November 2010

|

EU AS INTERNATIONAL ACTOR

- Depends upon the mandate that the EU has
- In areas such as trade, the EU has more responsibility (it is built into the treaties).

WHAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION?

- 'Regimes' and organisations
- Formal and/or informal
- Norms, values, rules etc. that are used by states and other actors at the international level.

MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

- An institution that has agreements between many different 'parties'.
- They are emerging as a near-universal preference for most states.
- Examples can be found in the trade/economic sector, fisheries, and also environment.
- Multilateral institutions are far more efficient
- Multilateralism is an EU target

MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE EU

- Competences: mixed/none/exclusive
- Actorness (presence, capability, opportunity)
- Power - emerges from economic power
-

HOW WORKS IN PRINCIPLE

- Commission requests negotiation mandate from Council in areas of its competences
- In other areas Presidency takes the lead
- Troika used to be: Current + upcoming Presidency + Commission (since Amsterdam Treaty)
- Troika is now three Presidencies (trio)
- Lisbon Treaty: Who represents the EU in international negotiations? Council President? EU Presidency?

International institution	EC is member?	EU competence
UN Security Council	No	None / Weak
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	No	None / Weak
WHO	No	None / Weak
UNEP	No	Weak / None
Multilateral Environmental Agreements (eg UNFCCC)	Yes	Mixed

International institution	EC is member?	EU competence
UNDP	No	Weak / None
FAO	Yes	Mixed
ITU	no vote	None / Mixed
WTO	Yes	Exclusive / Mixed
IMF/World Bank	No	None / Weak
G8	Yes/No	Mixed / Weak
WIPO	No	None / Weak

EU AND TRADE

- aggregate GDP of \$9.6 trillion in the EU
- 20% of global exports and imports
- in services, EU accounts for 30% of global trade

WHO IN EU?

- COUNCIL

- there is no Trade Council (of Ministers)
- dealt with by the GAERC (General Affairs and External Relations Council)

- COMMISSION

- DG Trade

WTO

- WTO emerged in 1995 (from GATT)
- Lays down rules for international cooperation in economic fields
- This new institution is a 'contract' institution, and not a 'charter' institution
- of note is the DSU (Dispute Settlement Understanding) - from pragmatic to judicial view of law; became binding due to EU

WTO

- EU has taken big role in negotiating new trade frameworks
- Conflict between countries in the framework tends to revolve around the 'big' powers
- Civil Society has taken big role in disrupting negotiations in all frameworks

GROUP WORK

- Set up negotiations to establish framework for climate change.
- (27 member states, different international institutions, other countries).
- 5 minutes to prepare your argument
- 10 minutes to come up with a solution (global).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE

- Telecommunications debate is strongly determined by the internal regulatory framework: i.e. Commission is a rather strong actor in the field.
- Internet governance is heavily influenced by external actors (notably the United States).

- United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972)
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)
 - Montreal protocol 1987
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) Rio de Janeiro, 1992
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992
 - Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 2000
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992
 - Kyoto Protocol, 1997
- Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus 1998)
- World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg, 2002

CONCLUSIONS

- EU's view of multilateralism has succeeded in winning through at the international level
- Is the European model a worthy one? Anti-globalisation protesters don't agree.
- Are civil society more involved, or does this enable or promote a greater democratic deficit?