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Abstracts

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European Union Foreign Policy and the European External Action Service: Managing Complexity and Policy Coherence

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The paper briefly explores how and why the External Action Service of the EU was established after the 2007 Lisbon Treaty and how far it has succeeded in its primary aims of bringing greater coherence and effective management to EU foreign policy. It looks at the institutional environment which makes this objective hard to achieve. It looks briefly at examples including changing policy towards China in the 2010s and policy coordination on climate action. It argues that the EEAS and the High Commissioner have had important successes in policy management but they have failed to reduce the incoherence of much EU external policy making. The discussion also touches briefly on the enduring problem of how to theorise the EU's policy management.

Keywords: European Union, External Action Service, EU Foreign Policy, China, Policy Management

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Is Europe Venus or Mars?

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Years ago, the EU was described as Venus by Robert Kagan due to its different approach to security and lack of military capacity. Although many definitions have been made about what exactly the EU is, the concept of “civilian power” put forward by Duchêne (1972) is mostly adopted. Civilian power is defined as an identity that does not prefer the use of force in international relations, embraces multilateralism when the use of force is necessary, and strives for the development of democracy and universal values.

It started to develop the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy since 2003. In this context, it has carried out many peacekeeping operations and aimed to develop a more in-depth military cooperation model. This situation has caused the debates regarding the EU's civilian power identity to intensify.

The policies implemented by the EU during the Ukraine and Gaza crises of the last two years, like a litmus test, have led to various inferences about the real identity of the EU. In this context, as a result of the analysis made in the light of the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine, it was revealed that the EU followed diametrically opposed policies in both crises. While the EU supports Ukraine in every respect, it followed a pro-Israeli policy in the Gaza crisis, in which thousands of Palestinians were killed.

The EU's double-standard policy has damaged its identity as a civilian power. Violating universal values, which are the source of its soft power, has damaged its credibility and reputation. The EU's civilian power image appears to have weakened. The fact that the EU was involved in the Ukraine crisis with its active policy, while remaining a spectator in the Gaza crisis and its tendency to determine its security policy by geopolitical parameters can be considered as a sign of transition from the Kantian security understanding to a Hobsonian security understanding. In addition, we can think that a high determination regarding military cooperation within the EU means that power politics will gain weight. It is envisaged that all these developments will transform the EU's civilian power identity, thus paving the way for the EU to become Mars.

Keywords: European Union, Civilian Power, Ukrainian War, Palestinian Conflict, The Responsibility to Protect Doctrine

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**The Role of the European Parliament in Migration Management:
Problems and Opportunities**

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The results of the 10th European Parliament elections, which took place between 6 and 9 June 2024, a picture that is not very different from the previous parliamentary outlook has emerged. Despite its increasing importance within the EU institutional system and decision-making process, European Parliament elections are seen as a secondary level, but they also appear to be a tool used by voters to reflect their reactions to national governments. When the developments after the elections are followed carefully, it is observed that the results of the European Parliament elections can have a shocking impact on national politics.

As in the previous election, the issue of immigration, which is intertwined with economic insecurities, cultural sensitivities, unemployment, socio-economic problems and identity concerns, was one of the most important agenda items of this election. Despite this, it seems that anti-immigration political groups in the Parliament have different approaches and solution proposals regarding migration management. Similarly, it is understood that Euroscepticism integrated with anti-immigration has undergone a transformation, and populist right-wing parties have changed their discourse, stating that they will better protect European values and national interests, and are trying to present a new vision. Despite this transformation and differing approaches, the strengthening of the exclusionary policies of populist right-wing parties on immigration may have important consequences for the future of the EU. The framing of migration as a security threat by these political parties, which are in decision-making positions, has the power to influence the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, which the EU Council adopted in May and is the biggest change in the EU's migration policy in more than a decade. The political parties that make up the anti-immigration groups in the European Parliament are likely to claim that the agreement is inadequate. These groups are expected to frequently call for the improvement of EU border controls and to insist on a stance in favor of processing asylum requests outside the EU. The fact that the parties that make up the political groups have protectionist, nativist and nationalist lines reveal the possibility of the realization of the European imagination of nations instead of the integrated European imagination that envisages the principles of sovereignty sharing and delegation of authority that enable practices such as the abolition of national borders and free trade.

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Sustainability of the European Union's Institutional Structure

In this study, the assumption that the externalization of migration policies will become more functional in the context of the new discourses and policies of the political groups in the European Parliament will be discussed. In addition, within the scope of the study, the effects of the European Parliament election results on the political consensus tried to be achieved with the Migration and Asylum Pact will be evaluated.

Keywords: 10th European Parliamentary Elections, Migration, Opportunities, Challenges