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Revisiting Decision-Making in the EU's CFSP: Time to Act?

Wednesday, 9 June 2021 | 12 - 2pm CEST

This webinar revisits the current modes of decision-making in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Recent cases of one or several Member States blocking EU action in matters going from human rights to sanctions and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have brought the question of decision-making processes in CFSP back to the fore. In her latest State of the Union, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pleaded in favour of more qualified majority voting (QMV) in areas such as sanctions and human rights. The Treaty of Lisbon provides different possibilities to smoothen decision-making in the Council. However, as unanimity remains the general rule, the question arises whether this is compatible with the EU's geopolitical ambitions. Calls for QMV and a "core Europe" have recently resurfaced in Germany. What are the ways forward? What are the pros and cons of more majority-based decision-making in EU foreign policy? Four high-level experts, including two seasoned practitioners and two senior academics, will discuss the matter in close interaction with participants.

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H.E. Pierre Vimont



Mr. Stephan Marquardt



Dr. Karolina Pomorska



Prof. Dr. Ramses A. Wessel

Speakers:

H.E. **Pierre Vimont** is Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe. He was the first Executive Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), from December 2010 to March 2015. During his thirty-eight-year diplomatic career with the French Foreign Service, he served as Ambassador to the United States from 2007 to 2010, Permanent Representative to the EU from 1999 to 2002, and Chief of Staff to three former French Foreign Ministers.

Stephan Marquardt is Head of the Legal Department of the EEAS. He joined the Legal Department in October 2011, following his posting as legal adviser of the EU Delegation to the United Nations in New York. From 1993 to 2007, he was legal adviser in the Council Legal Service, covering mainly EU external relations and CFSP. Prior to joining the Council, Mr. Marquardt worked for the law firm Baker & McKenzie in Frankfurt, Germany. He has regularly published academic articles on CFSP.

Dr. **Karolina Pomorska** is Jean Monnet Chair and Associate Professor in International Relations at Leiden University's Institute of Political Science. She worked before at Maastricht University and the University of Cambridge.

challenges to EU foreign policy-making and de-Europeanization, forthcoming in 2021.

Prof. Dr. **Ramses A. Wessel** is Professor of European Law and Head of the Department of European and Economic Law at the University of Groningen. His research expertise is in EU external relations law, EU foreign and security policy, international organizations and the relations between legal orders. He published widely on issues of European and international institutional law and participates in a number of international projects of the (legal) role of the European Union as a global actor. He is Vice-President of the European Society of International Law and Member of the Governing Board of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations in The Hague. He is Editor of a number of international journals in the field.

The webinar is moderated by Prof. Dr. **Jan Wouters**, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* and Director of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies at KU Leuven.



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