



Summary of the sixth high-level
EU Diplomacy Lecture

EU International Relations and
Diplomacy Studies

College of Europe, Bruges

8 October 2019

ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL EU DIPLOMACY LECTURE

 College of Europe
Collège d'Europe  EU INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND DIPLOMACY STUDIES

Implementing the EU Global Strategy: Challenges and Opportunities

**Federica MOGHERINI, High Representative of the Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European
Commission**



The Rector of the College of Europe, Professor Jörg MONAR, welcomed the audience and expressed his gratitude to Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), for taking the time to come to Bruges and address the students of the College of Europe.

Professor Sieglinde GSTÖHL, Director of the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, introduced the speaker and thanked her for joining the Department's faculty as new visiting professor at the end of her mandate.

Federica MOGHERINI's lecture focused on the main challenges and opportunities of implementing the 2016 EU Global Strategy. In particular, she highlighted three issues that were central during her mandate as High Representative and in the Global Strategy: first, the



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important steps made towards an EU security and defence policy; second, the development of the external dimension of EU migration policy; and third, the EU's commitment and efforts to protect multilateralism and a rules-based international order.



Focusing on defence, the HR/VP pointed out that the logic of power and geopolitics that had led to the attempt to create a European Defence Community in the 1950s has significantly changed, but the ultimate reasons behind it are still valid today. Developing a common European defence gives the EU the capacity to make autonomous foreign policy decisions – or strategic autonomy – and enables the Union to take full responsibility for its own security. In today's world, Europe needs to be militarily capable of acting autonomously, which does, however, not mean acting unilaterally. The CSDP missions currently deployed in the world have been either requested by the host countries themselves or by the United Nations. The EU has become a partner of both the UN and NATO, which could be termed 'cooperative autonomy'. Guaranteeing peace and security inside Europe also implies dealing with it abroad, and the most effective way to do so is together since alone any EU Member State is too small to provide global security. Taken together the Member States' defence spending is the second largest worldwide, yet it has remained fragmented. She argued that not having a common European defence would entail high economic, political and security-related costs. Incentives have thus been created for Member States

to invest together, to develop new high-tech capabilities and to set up a first unified command centre for military missions. The European way to peace and security is to only use military means if necessary to prevent war, to stabilise a post-conflict country or region, or to train the security forces of partners facing serious security challenges.



The second major challenge the HR/VP addressed was migration, a field in which there was no common European response mechanism in place at the beginning of her mandate. It was not even regarded as a foreign policy issue. The rapid launch of operation Sophia to save lives in the Mediterranean Sea was followed by an

unprecedented cooperation with the UN and the African Union, for instance bringing the UNHCR into detention centres in Libya, and to train Libyan coastguards as well as security forces in the Sahel to prevent deaths in the desert. An effective external migration policy requires to work with partners and to overcome a confrontational approach. Foreign policy is a combination of interests and values, and it must be based on the respect for human lives. In addition, tackling the root causes of migration requires a long-term approach. One of the instruments created in this regard is the multi-sectoral Investment Plan for Africa.

Third, Federica Mogherini discussed the challenge of upholding multilateralism. She underlined how multilateralism is both a question of values and interests. Referring to the nuclear deal with Iran, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the rescue of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, she stressed how the EU tried to preserve the multilateral system under difficult



circumstances. Facing the greatest challenge to multilateralism since World War II, Europe has at the same time attempted to build new multilateral solutions in complex contexts, such as the crisis in Venezuela, the peace processes in Syria and Afghanistan or the work with many regional organisations such as ASEAN, the G5 Sahel or Mercosur.



Protecting multilateralism requires to invest energy and political capital in both old and new partnerships and friendships.

The lecture was followed by a stimulating question and answer session with the audience on topics ranging from the Eastern Partnership and Southern neighbourhood of the EU as well as its relations with Russia, to operation Sofia and the Western Balkans.



Federica MOGHERINI has since November 2014 been the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission. Prior to joining the EU, she was Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs (February-October 2014) and a Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (2008-14). In her parliamentary capacity, she was Head of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Vice-President

of its Political Committee (2013-14); member of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2008-13); Secretary of the Defence Committee (2008-13); and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. She also coordinated the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Development Cooperation. Federica Mogherini is a member of the Italian Institute for Foreign Affairs (IAI) and a fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She is also a member of the European Leadership Network for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (ELN) and of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). She graduated in Political Science from the University of Rome "La Sapienza".



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