



European Union

EXTERNAL ACTION

These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Why we need EU foreign policy

- Ten years ago, the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, culminating almost 40 years of efforts to improve the making of EU foreign policy.
- What drove our predecessors constantly to seek better ways of cooperating in a common European foreign and security policy framework remains a key purpose of the EU today, as stated in the preamble to the Lisbon Treaty: to reinforce European identity and independence, in order to promote peace, security and progress - in Europe and the world.
- Whatever the structure – political will is key.

The Union's goals in foreign policy as laid out in the treaty

- to safeguard the EU's values and fundamental interests, its security, independence and integrity;
- to consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and international law;
- to preserve peace and strengthen international security;
- to foster sustainable economic, social and environmental development;
- to encourage global economic integration and eliminate international trade restrictions;
- to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources;
- to assist those facing natural or man-made disasters;
- and to promote stronger multilateral cooperation and good global governance.

Why

- Promote EU values and interests
- Foster coherence
- **Integrated approach**



A main challenge to clear

- **Bring together two strands of EU action:**
 - Intergovernmental cooperation of Member States
 - External aspects of Commission policies
e.g. Trade, Development, Transportation, etc.

Treaty of Lisbon – institutional frame

- Lisbon Treaty seeks **greater integration** between all those capabilities that the EU and the Member States can bring to the table:
- a Union with **legal personality** and external representation,
- including through a large network of **EU delegations**,
- a permanent **president of the European Council**,
- a **triple-hatted HR**, VP and Chair of the FAC,
- and of course an **EEAS**.

European Council and external action

- It all starts with the **European Council**, identifying strategic interests and objectives of the Union, based on the principles and objectives set out in the treaty (art. 22).
- Acting on recommendations from the Council, the European Council should set the direction and indicate the means to be made available to the Union's policy for a given country, region or issue.
- The **High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy** shall take part in its work. And it is the HRVP for CFSP and the Commission for other areas of external action, which can submit joint proposals.

European Council

- Chaired by the President of the European Council. President of the European Commission attends.
- Preparations ensured through the General Affairs Council and Coreper, chaired by the rotating Presidency.
- FAC discussions feed into the preparations.
- Issues: JHA, MFF, enlargement, external action.

The HRVP

- The HRVP is at the heart of how EU foreign policy. The Council and the HRVP should ensure **unity, consistency, and effectiveness** (art 26):
 - As **High Representative**, she shall conduct CFSP and CSDP, contribute to the development of these policies through proposals, and carry out these policies as mandated by the Council.
 - As **Chair of the Foreign Affairs Council**, she must enable the Council to elaborate the Union's external action on the basis of strategic guidelines laid down by the European Council, and ensure that the Union's action is consistent.
 - As **Vice President of the Commission**, she must ensure the consistency of the Union's external action, exercising responsibility for external relations within the Commission and for coordinating other aspects of the Union's external action.

Who

- In fulfilling his/her mandate, the High Representative shall be assisted by a **European External Action Service**.

The staff

- Over 4,000 people work for EEAS.
- 1,990 in Brussels, over 2,000 in 140 delegations.

Foreign Affairs Council

- Chaired by HR who sets the agenda (in line with Council Rules of Procedure)
- Monthly preparatory cycle, with tentative six monthly planning
- Preparations with MS in working groups, PSC and Coreper
- Informal meetings (Gymnich) is hosted by the Presidency, but chaired by the HR. Therefore, an articulation between the HR and the EEAS with the rotating presidency remains an important part of the foreign policy process.

FAC day

- Adoption of agenda, adoption of A points (Council Conclusions, Decisions, etc.)
- Current Affairs
- 1st Discussion point
- 2nd Discussion point
- Lunch (poss. with an external guest)
- 3rd Discussion point
- Press conference

Institutional Cooperation – EEAS & Council

Working Groups

- Composed by delegates of MS
- The WGs are attached to COREPER
- They cover all Council activities and discuss "groups related" subjects

PSC

- Composed by MS Perm. Representatives (Ambassadors)
- Coordinates/prepares all FAC agenda items and seeks accord on policy proposals

COREPER (II)

- Composed by MS Perm. Representatives (Ambassadors)
- Monitors the international situation
- Political control & strategic direction of crisis management operations

FAC

- Composed by Ministers and the HR/VP
- Meets once a month
- Issues Council Conclusions on relevant topics

PREPARATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

Example of a coordinated and joined up EU approach - China

- First discussions at Gymnich in Bucharest in January.
- The HRVP and the Commission submitted a Communication proposing a new way ahead.
- Follow up discussion at the March FAC.
- These preparations fed into the discussions by HoSG at the March European Council.
- The March European Council prepared the summit with China in April.

The CFSP - Instruments

- Council Conclusions (European Council, FAC)
- Declarations, Demarches, Political Dialogues
- European Special Representatives & Envoys
- Restrictive measures
 - Visa restrictions
 - Asset freezes
 - Sectoral sanctions



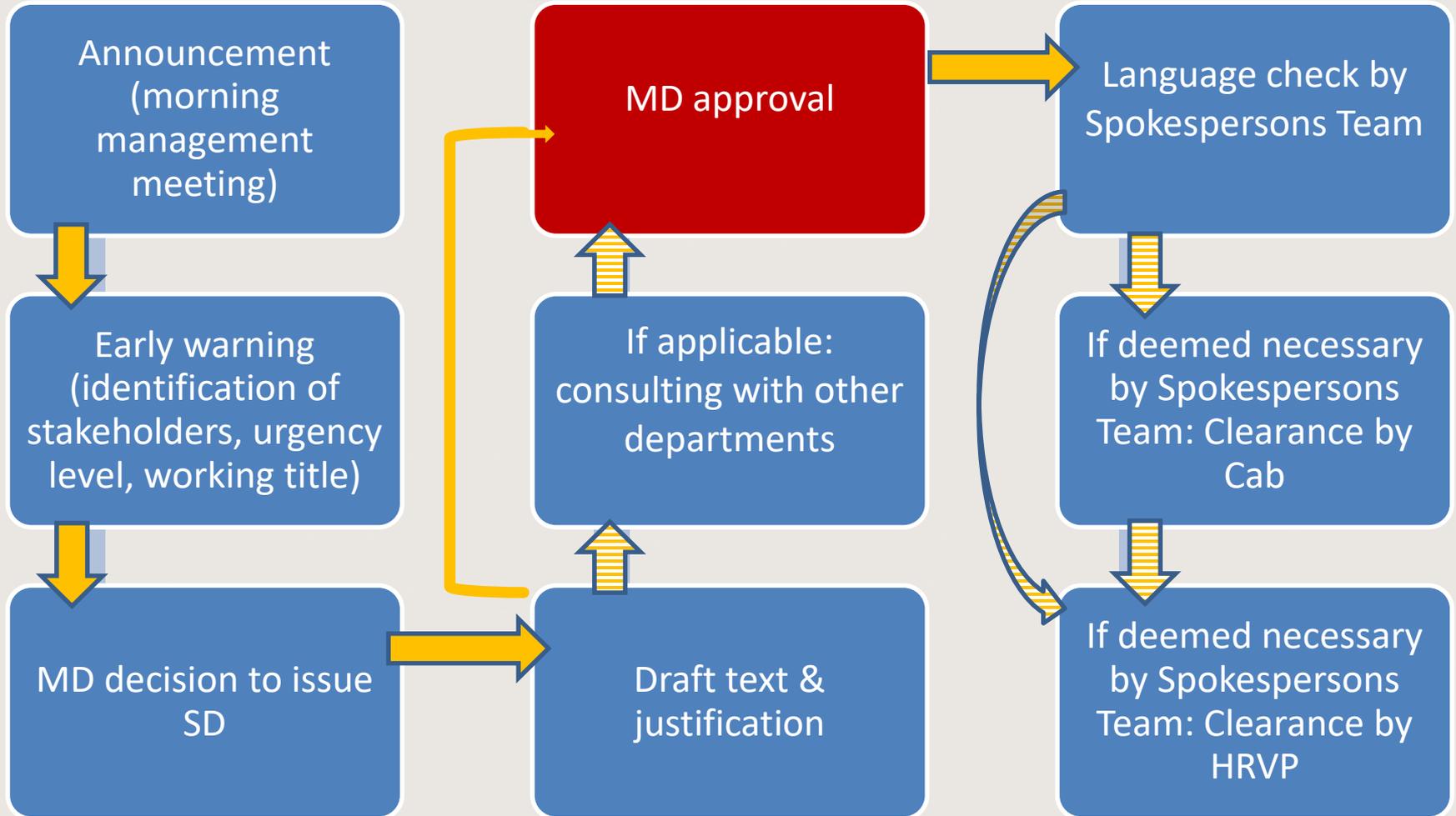
Statements and declarations

Between 500 and 600 statements annually across 4 categories:

- Declarations by the High Representative on behalf of the EU
- Statements by the High Representative
- Statements by the High Representative's Spokesperson
- Local EU Statements



HQ SDs: the process





Demarches

