

POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

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Explanatory Meeting on the Acquis with
Albania and North Macedonia
Brussels, 26 September 2019

*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*

Treaty on European Union, Article 27.2

2. The High Representative shall conduct political dialogue with third parties on the Union's behalf and shall express the Union's position in international organisations and at international conferences.

GENERAL FEATURES:

- A privileged opportunity to discuss international and bilateral issues of mutual interest/concern with third countries.
- Takes place as a formalised interaction between executives (pre-negotiated agenda, fixed sequence, poss. pre-negotiated declarations, reporting by COREU system).

POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN PRACTICE

GENERAL FEATURES:

- **LEVELS:** Heads of State and Government, ministerial, senior official (e.g., PDs) and Working Group/Director
- **LEGAL BASE:** from **legally binding** (Association/Cooperation Agreements) to **political agreements** (summit ministerial declarations, exchanges of letters)
- **FORMATS:** **EU28** (e.g. within Cooperation/Association Councils or important partners) or **bilateral**

MINISTERIAL LEVEL DIALOGUE (HR/VP):

- Around 80 ministerial dialogues per year –
 - + *opportunity to meet almost all our partners at least once a year*
 - *Almost impossible burden*
- Replacement of HR/VP – several options
 - Rotating Presidency
 - Another Member State
 - Commissioner with EEAS official

The Integrated Approach of the EU External Action – political dialogue put into the context



CFSP/CSDP complemented by the **external dimension** of Commission's internal competencies:

- **Development cooperation** (€6 bln/year): EU is the world's biggest development donor;
- EU is the world's largest **trading block** and **single market** with transparent rules and regulations;
- **Accession and association** processes;
- **Humanitarian aid, energy, climate change, transport, visas, justice...**

- European Union's **foreign and security policy service**, under the authority of HR/VP → aim of ensuring more coherence, cooperation & consistency in foreign policy;
- Founded on **1.1.2011** on the basis of Lisbon Treaty provisions: it merged the Commission and Council foreign policy / external relations departments;
- **HQ in Brussels:** staff initially drawn from Commission, Council & Member States (now ~1,900)
- Structure shaped along **geographical and thematic** expertise:
 - Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas
 - Human rights, democracy support, migration, development, Common Security and Defence Policy planning and crisis response departments; administrative and financial matters
- Manages the **EU's Delegations and Offices** (141 in total / ~2,000 staff);
- Chairs permanently the **Political and Security Committee** and relevant **Council Working groups**;
- Works closely with the Foreign and Defence Ministries of EU countries and other EU institutions;
- Also **supports Presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission**, other Commissioners and Member States.
- Implements the **EU Global Strategy** (June 2016).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!

