



THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF A MULTI-SPEED, MULTI-TIER EUROPEAN UNION

6 May 2013, CEPS, Brussels

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY RICHARD CORBETT,
Member of the Cabinet of Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council**

Accommodating differentiation in EU Law and Policy is no new phenomenon but a concept which has been integral to European integration from the Treaty of Rome. It is to be generally understood as a ‘model of integration strategies that try to reconcile heterogeneity within the European Union and allow different groupings of Member States to pursue an array of public policies with different procedural and institutional arrangements’ (A. Stubb, 1996). While considered a convenience to accommodate different socio-economic and political interests of Member States in a European Union of 27/28 members, it is increasingly provoking questions on where its legal and constitutional boundaries lie in an organisation based on a special legal nature with common institutions and common principles. Most recently, the sovereign debt crisis has led to a thorough re-assessment of European Integration as a project. For some Member States the fiscal, economic and political union based on federal principles is right around the corner; for others the time has come to renegotiate their relationship to European Union.

In EU foreign policy there already exist various kinds of differentiation, both of a structural and of an ad hoc nature. On the structural side, examples include the former second pillar, opt-outs of CSDP, the external dimension of AFSJ (visa facilitation agreements, readmission), and the external dimension of the Euro and impact on external representation in international financial institutions and regulatory bodies. On the ad hoc side, there is constructive abstention in CSDP, the notion ‘interested member states’ in external migration policy, and so on. As a consequence of the specificity of EU external relations, this area is often approached from the perspective of “coherence”: delivering a single message, or even speaking with a single voice, in spite of all the underlying differences.

The dual objective of this event is to map out the various ways and means by which differentiation is given form in the realm of EU external action and to discuss the future constitutional, institutional and instrumental challenges of a multi-speed, multi-tier European Union in the field of foreign policy.

Date: Monday 6 May 2013
 Times: 09:00 – 17:00
 Venue: Centre for European Policy Studies
 Address: 1, Place du Congrès, 1000 Brussels

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PROGRAMME

- 08:30 – 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 – 09:15 Welcome & semantic clarifications
Steven Blockmans (CEPS & ACELG)
- 09:15 – 09:45 **Keynote speech:** Towards a genuine economic and monetary union: scenarios of future development and implications for the pre-ins and others
Richard Corbett (Cabinet of Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council)
- Discussant: *Vít Beneš (Institute of International Relations, Prague)*
- 10:00 – 11:15 **Panel 1: Organising principles**
- Moderator: *Christophe Hillion (SIEPS & Leiden University)*
- Speakers: The rise and many expressions of consistency: legal and strategic implications for European integration
Ester Herlin-Karnell (VU University) & Theodore Konstadinides (Surrey University)
Exporting the *acquis* to non-EU member states: ensuring legal homogeneity
Adam Łazowski (Westminster University)
- Discussant: *Filippa Chatzistavrou (ELIAMEP)*
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee/tea break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Panel 2: Differentiation in CFSP, CSDP and ENP**
- Moderator: *Eduard Soler i Lecha (CIDOB)*
- Accommodation of differences in the adoption and implementation of CSDP decisions: possibilities for flexibility in the treaty framework
Csaba Törő (Hungarian Institute of International Affairs)
Rethinking conditionality and differentiated integration principles towards wider Europe
Agnes Nicolescu (European Institute of Romania)
- Discussant: *Vivien Pertusot (IFRI)*
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Panel 3: External dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice**
- Moderator: *Sergio Carrera (CEPS)*
- Speakers: Much ado about “opt-outs”? The impact of variable geometry in the AFSJ and the EU as a global security actor
Claudio Matera (Asser Institute)
Transatlantic relations and the operation of AFSJ flexibility
Juan Santos Vara (University of Salamanca) and Elaine Fahey (ACELG)
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/tea break
- 16:00 – 16:45 **Roundtable debate: the future of a patchwork Union in the world**
- Moderator: *Bart Van Vooren (University of Copenhagen)*
- 16:45 – 17:00 Concluding remarks and follow-up
Steven Blockmans