UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

# European Union Common Security and Defence Policy

**2627-4-A5810219**

## Learning objectives

The objective of the course is to provide students with:

- **Knowledge** and understanding of the organisational and institutional set-up of the European Union, with particular attention to the rules governing the Union's external relations and its foreign policy, as well as the Union's role and practice in the field of crisis management and the maintenance of peace and security.
- **Ability to apply** the notions learned to the analysis of **concrete cases** and in the resolution of both legal and operational issues related to the EU's crisis management activity.
- **Autonomy of judgement** in interpreting rules and practice and in identifying the most appropriate solutions.
- **Communication skills** in the presentation and discussion of legal arguments and concrete cases, both in written and oral form.
- **Ability** to learn independently, including by consulting legal, doctrinal and jurisprudential sources as well as policy and operational documents.

## Contents

The course deals with EU policies in the areas of **security, defence and crisis management**.

The course aims to consider both the general legal issues raised by the new role of the European Union as a global security actor and the specific legal and operational issues related to military and civilian peacekeeping missions carried out under the aegis of the Union.

## Detailed program

Remaining outside the EU's remit for almost fifty years, the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has emerged as an important aspect of the Union's external relations. The Treaty on European Union, as amended in Lisbon in 2007, has provided this policy with new operational tools and objectives that can enable the Union to play a role as a global actor in the fight against international security threats. In a relatively short period of time, the European Union has engaged in a considerable number of military and civil missions in various areas of the world, aimed at stabilising areas and countries in dangerous situations.

The course will deal, in particular, with the following issues: 1) The origins and development of the European cooperation on security and defence from the EDC to the CSDP; 2) The legal and institutional structure in place after the Treaty of Lisbon with regard to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union and the specific characteristics of this policy; 3) The institutions, actors and bodies dealing with the CFSP; 4) Acts and instruments of the CFSP; 5) The limited role of judicial review of the CFSP and the boundaries between it and other EU policies; 6) The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as an integral part of the CFSP; 7) Typology of missions established under the CSDP, distinctions between military operations and civilian missions; 8) Steps and procedures for the planning, financing and launching of CSDP missions; 9) The legal basis and contents of agreements related to CSDP; 10) Relations between the EU and other international organisations, in particular the UN and NATO; 11) The new challenges related to security in Europe: the European Strategic Compass and the European Peace Facility; 12) The relationship between external and internal security: CSDP/AFSJ cooperation.

## Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of the institutional aspects of European Union law is recommended.

## Teaching methods

The course will be taught in English and developed through seminaries, discussions, critical examination of required or recommended readings and materials circulated to students attending the class; students will be required to prepare and present selected cases.

Up to 1 CFU (4 h) of seminars will be delivered through remote teaching.

## Assessment methods

There are two alternative options for the exam, both aimed at assessing the ability to present, understand and apply concepts, as well as to develop autonomy of judgement:

1. A written test in the form of a research essay (based on the subjects covered during the seminar as well as on the textbooks and the supplementary readings), potentially integrated by a short interview;

2. An oral and individual test, consisting of a detailed interview on the program of the exam and of the lectures.

Students should choose the one that suits best their needs.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

There are several textbooks on EU External Action as well as on EU CFSP and EU CSDP. However, we advice the following:

R. A. Wessel, J. Larik, *EU External Relations Law: Text, Cases and Materials*, Hart 2020, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 14.

Then, for CSDP, one of the following:

M. E. Smith, *Europe's Common Security and Defence Policy,* Oxford, 2017, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 8.

P. Koutrakos, *EU Common Security and Defence Policy*, Oxford, 2013. Chapters 1, 2, 3.

For those who want to deepen their understanding of EU CSFP and EU CSDP, there are also the following optional readings:

G. Butler, *Constitutional Law of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy Competence and Institutions in External Relations*, Hart, 2021.

L. Lonardo, *EU Common Foreign and Security Policy After Lisbon*, Springer, 2023.

Complementary materials are provided during the seminars and on the e-learning.

## Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS