



## **First training in Kyiv at “Communicating Europe – Making the EU Understandable” project**

### **Summary on „EU Foreign Policy for the 21st Century?“**

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The lecture „EU Foreign Policy for the 21st Century?“ was divided into two parts: the first half focused on current challenges for EU foreign policy and the latest developments in this area and the second half analyzed the key EU foreign policy decision-making structures in Brussels. The first section was based on an interaction with the participants, while the second part was delivered in the form of a lecture. The entire session was illustrated by a power point presentation and participants were provided with a handout of the PPP after the training.

After identifying various point of contention particularly on the transatlantic agenda, the session kicked off with outlining three kinds of challenges for EU foreign policy and the EU’s standing in the world: long-term (in security and defense), long to medium/medium to short-term (trade and climate change) and short-term (an upcoming hotspot). Under the long-term challenges, the levels of the EU’s military and defense spending which were sparked by President Trump’s recent criticisms were discussed as well as the EU’s latest progress on implementation of the EU Global Strategy through the EU’s Defense Package (including cooperation with NATO and the Commission’s European Defense Action Plan and Fund). On climate change, the EU’s shift to the city and state level were mentioned, while the EU’s search for other than a transatlantic partner (TTIP) in international trade were put forward. Finally, North Korea was identified as a possible next conflict.

The second part of the session started off with a question whether the EU’s foreign policy machinery is institutionally ready to tackle the challenges discussed previously. Firstly, the structure of the Lisbon Treaty and the roles of the HRVP, President of the Commission and President of the European Council in the field of EU foreign policy were compared. Secondly, lecture delved into details of the set-up, functioning, staff and budget within the European External Action Service, i.e. the EU’s diplomatic service. Lastly, the lecture highlighted the key points related to the EU’s representation abroad through EU Delegations.

Whereas during the first half of the training all participants contributed with their views and knowledge of the latest developments and there was a lively debate, during the second half of the session it was clear that there is a certain lack of knowledge on how the EU works in Brussels, both at the general level and specifically in the area of EU foreign policy. Participants therefore raised questions related to basic as well as detailed issues as highlighted throughout the second part of the lecture. Some participants also contacted me privately after the training via email, particularly looking for recommendations for contacts in Brussels and for further readings on the topic. The training has therefore served both as a platform for discussion and as an info-session.