Honours Class

Model European Union Simulation:
Policies, Negotiations and Experiential Learning

Syllabus 2025

Universiteit Leiden
Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs

Level: 400

Credits: 5 ECTS

Time: Semester 1, October – December 2025

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EURISGA
The European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs

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I. Course Description

Welcome to the Model EU Course! This course, offered in cooperation with the Jean Monnet Chair on the EU's role in Security and Global Affairs, provides you as highly motivated Honours Class students the opportunity to deepen your knowledge on real-life topics related to the European Union and apply them in the context of a simulation of the European Council (including preparatory simulations of COREPER II and the Foreign Affairs Council). The simulations, taking place across the course with the main Heads of State simulation at the end of the course, challenges you to take on the role of ambassadors, foreign ministers and heads of state in order to negotiate core policy proposals with a view to agree on major policy outcomes during the final full day intensive simulation. Topics of the simulation will follow closely the actual themes of the Council Presidency (Denmark), helping you to deepen your knowledge of the EU and hone their public speaking, negotiating, leadership and diplomatic skills. Most of all, you will be challenged to explore a wide range of policy items across the themes of Russia-Ukraine, security and defence and EU External relations and you will be learning to formulate real-life national negotiation positions on these current topics.

The course seeks to explore negotiation, diplomatic tactics and techniques and in-depth knowledge of EU policy-making in an active and experiential manner, and places you and your fellow students at the centre of the learning process, by continuously engaging you through interactive lectures, practical skill sessions and interim mini simulations as well as the immersive full day European Council simulation. You will understand the nature and functioning of major EU institutions, their power and role in the policy making process from a historical and theoretical perspective and will have the opportunity to put your knowledge into practice, by taking on the role of a policy maker and negotiating policy proposals with your counterparts. You will also examine and analyze in-depth the policy challenges related to the EU, European and global policy challenges. As a result of this practical experience you will hopefully become well-versed in EU affairs and will have the chance to hone not only your negotiation and public speaking skills, but also your inter-personal negotiation skills.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students will:

- Understand core historical, theoretical and practical aspects of the EU in security and global affairs
- Understand the role of the EU in tackling major policy issues from a European and global perspective, related to the policy priorities of the current Council presidency (in 2025: Denmark)
- Understand the set-up and functioning of the EU's major institutions (particularly Council-related bodies dealing with foreign affairs) and their role in the Foreign Affairs policy-making process (with a particular emphasis on COREPER II, the Foreign Affairs Council and the European Council)
- Have a good knowledge of the mechanisms and procedures that guide the legislative/negotiations process in the realm of EU Foreign Affairs by way of lectures, self-study and simulations
- Have a good understanding of the main policy priorities, tools, main documents and approaches by the EU foreign affairs institutions (and member states) related to Council presidency's work plan
- Identify and support the position of a given persona (alter ego) on the various policy items under discussion and its position in the negotiation process
- Further transfer academic insights and research on relevant literature into real-life scenario and for real-life problem solving
- Develop own negotiation strategies in anticipation of and direct engagement with fellow negotiating students
- Practice your public speaking skills
- Develop collaborative, inter-personal skills by working with peer students towards a common goal

II. Timetable

Week 1 **Monday** **6 October**	17:15 – 19:15 19:45 – 21:00	**Introduction** • Welcome, objectives and aims of the course and planning. • Kick off Lecture: Negotiations in the European Union and Council of the European Union: A view from Practice Bery Koenders
Week 1 **Thursday** **9 October**	17:00 – 18:30	**The Danish EU Presidency: A strong Europe in a changing world** **Policy Panel and Keynote by** **Ms. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Kingdom of Denmark** Schouwburgstraat 2, in The Hague. Register under https://www.clingendael.org/form/event-09-10-2025-the-danish-eu-p
Week 2 **Monday** **13 October**		**Unpacking the Policy Priorities of the Danish Presidency (in the realm of Foreign Affairs) and Understanding the Nuts and Bolts of the relevant EU foreign policy institutions** Our module of Week 2 will consist of 3 parts. • Part 1 will be a joint discussion on how to delve into the 17 agenda items of the Presidency Programme related to three themes of the Foreign Affairs heading. • Part 2 will be a lecture on the Nuts and Bolts of the EU's main foreign policy institutions, voting procedures and rules of procedures (for this, please read after our session the reading material on the Council and on the Rules of procedure below) • Part 3 will be our practical sessions – firstly our video public speaking exercise and secondly time for you to find out about your assigned countries and alter egos for COREPER II, FAC and European Council!
Week 3 **Monday** **20 October**	17:15 – 21:25	**Workshop 1: Governance of the EU / Negotiation Skills** **Professor Antoaneta Dimitrova**
Week 4 **Monday** **27 October**	18:15 – 19:15	**The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Core Policies and Challenges I** Our module of Week 4 will consist of 2 parts. - Part 1 will be a lecture, providing you an overview of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (including

	19:45 – 21:00	Common Security and Defence Policy) and some of the core policy topics related to sanctions. - Part 2 will be led by you! In groups you will be tasked (in Week 2) to present assigned topics related to the 17 agenda items. We will use the kick-off presentations (max. 5min – you can use power point) as a student-led discussion seminar. As a result, we will together actively dive more deeply into the different aspects of the three broad themes of Ukraine, Security and Defence and External Relations. - **Due Date for your Analysis Table for the 17 policy items** Complete your Analysis table of the 17 policy items and start diving into 7 priority topics of your choice / in line with your country
Week 5 **Monday** **3 November**	18:15 – 19:15 19:45 – 21:00	**The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Core Policies and Challenges II** Our module of Week 4 will consist of 2 parts. - Part 1 will be an in-depth lecture, continuing on core themes related to CFSP – ranging from Strategic Partnerships to EU-UN relations (incl. ICC and ICJ), climate diplomacy and the EU's international digital strategy. In addition, the lecture will also focus on the EU's position on the Middle East and will cover strategic divergences between member states in EU foreign policy - Part 2 will consist of a second public speaking exercise. Thereafter there is an opportunity to discuss the next steps of the preparations of your position paper and the COREPER II Simulation and **the pre-decisions on the agenda items** - **Don't forget to send in your 7 priority agenda items** (two for Ukraine, two for security and defence, two for external relations and one bonus agenda item from student choice) to the Chair and Co-Chairs of COREPER II **by 15.00 on 3rd November!**
Week 6 **Monday** **10 November**	18:15 – 19:15 19:45 – 21:00	**COREPER II Mini Simulation** - Agreeing on Agenda items - Outlining Initial Positions - Agreeing and Disagreeing (Items to be forwarded to FAC that are either resolved or unresolved) **Submission Deadline of Draft Position Paper for ungraded feedback**

Week 7 **Monday** **17 November**	17:15 – 21:15	**Workshop 2: Diplomacy and Decision-Making** **Dr. Jan Melissen**
Week 8 **Monday** **24 November**	17:15 – 21:15	**Mini Simulation: Foreign Affairs Council** - Agreeing on Agenda items - Taking note of COREPER approved-items for European Council - Negotiations on unapproved items - Consideration of new items **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR POSITION PAPER**
Week 9 **Monday** **1 December**	18:15 – 21:15	**Session 7:** **Lecture by the Estonian Ambassador / Permanent Representative to the EU / COREPER** **Final Preparations & Tackling any Last Minute Questions** - Preparatory work and unresolved issues - Group reflection: what has the Danish presidency achieved? What not? What other threats need addressing? - Potential emergency session items? **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEGOTIATION STRATEGY**
Week 10 **Monday** **8 December**	9.00 – 21.00	**EU Simulation** **European Council** **-including-** **Jean Monnet Lecture & QA by Ambassador Ulf Melgaard** **Danish Ambassador to the Netherlands**
15 December	*15:00*	**Assignment Deadline: Debrief & Self-reflection Assignment**

III. Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will have acquired the following knowledge, insights, and skills:

- Understand core historical, theoretical and practical aspects of the EU in security and global affairs
- Understand the role of the EU in tackling major policy issues from a European and global perspective, related to the policy priorities of the current Council presidency (in 2025: Denmark)
- Understand the set-up and functioning of the EU's major institutions (particularly Council-related bodies dealing with foreign affairs) and their role in the Foreign Affairs policy-making process (with a particular emphasis on COREPER II, the Foreign Affairs Council and the European Council)
- Have a good knowledge of the mechanisms and procedures that guide the legislative/negotiations process in the realm of EU Foreign Affairs by way of lectures, self-study and simulations
- Have a good understanding of the main policy priorities, tools, main documents and approaches by the EU foreign affairs institutions (and member states) related to Council presidency's work plan
- Identify and support the position of a given persona (alter ego) on the various policy items under discussion and its position in the negotiation process
- Further transfer academic insights and research on relevant literature into real-life scenario and for real-life problem solving
- Develop own negotiation strategies in anticipation of and direct engagement with fellow negotiating students
- Practice your public speaking skills
- Develop collaborative, inter-personal skills by working with peer students towards a common goal
- Critically assess your own contribution and performance in the simulation exercise and provide critical feedback on the entire learning experience

IV. Course Load, Organisation, and Assessment

This course is worth 5 ECTS, which means the total course load amounts to 117 hours:

- Contact hours: 21 hours
- Model EU simulation: 9h
- Self-study hours (reading, preparing lectures, in-depth background studies for assignments, self-reflection, etc.): 87 hours

The course will be delivered through a mix of lectures, skills sessions, thematic deep-dives, and will conclude with a 1-day simulation game.

The assessment for this course is based on **three written assignments**:

A. Position Paper and Participation in the three simulations (50%)
B. Negotiation Strategy (30%)
C. Debrief & Self-reflection Assignment (20%)

In addition, there are **attendance and participation requirements** to pass the course (see the following section V).

A. Position Paper and Participation in the Model EU (up to 4.000 words)

- 50% of the final grade
- **Due: Monday 24 November 2025 (15.00) via Turnitin on Brightspace**
- Prerequisite for attending Final Simulation
- The position paper (and the foundational analysis table) itself will have to be crafted, revised and written in 4 stages

The key written assignment and final summative output of the Honours Class is a position paper on your country's/alter ego's position on a variety of agenda items (**initially an analysis in the form of a bullet-point analysis table of all 17 items and then in phase two a detailed written analysis of 7 priority topics that you choose to take forward into the negotiations including an analysis of the likely position of other countries on your items**).

You will build up your position paper throughout the course, particularly in preparation and in reaction to the three simulations. In this sense, your position paper will "evolve" throughout the course – so please regard **it as an adaptable "living document" until your final submission on 24 November 2025**.

The work on your position paper will essentially follow four main phases. Phase A begins with your work on an '**Analysis Table'** which later on form the Appendix of your final Position Paper. In this phase, you explore the meaning, background and your country's position on each of the 17 sub-items and note down as much as you can in bullet form in a table (see Table D below as an example). This will help you to structure your thoughts and analysis of the policy items. During this initial phase you can -while exploring all 17 items- already start thinking about the 7 topics you want to choose to make it to the COREPER II (and ultimately to the FAC and European Council) agenda. In Phase B you will research and examine what the position of your country is on the 17 sub-items (and, in parallel, on your 7 priority topics). Please also use for this the Appendix Table. In phase C, you will have to identify the extent to which there is likely consensus or disagreement on the 17 policy items with the other EU member states. Try to find out as much as possible about the other countries' positions through newspaper research, open source analysis etc. Most importantly, analyze in detail the potential positions of other EU countries on your 7 priority topics. At this stage you will also have to submit your priority topics to the Chair/Co-chairs of COREPER II (by 3rd November) and try to get some of them on the provisional (and final) COREPER II agenda. At the COREPER II simulation (10 November) you should also submit your first draft position paper. For this, submit the full Appendix Table and written text on your 7 priority topics (statement of topic, explanation of policy item, your own county position and potential disagreements with other states – this should be submitted on 10 November). After the COREPER II simulation you will know for certain which policy items will make it to the FAC and European Council. You thus need to explore those policy items in depth and examine in detail your country position on these 7 items, explore the other country positions and think about your negotiation strategy. This is phase D of your position paper – where you will now begin to draft the actual text on the 7 policy items. Final deadline: 24 November.

Outline of working phases of your position paper:

A) **Initially, explore the facts behind the three overarching themes (including all 17 main policy items / potential agenda items)** so that you get a good understanding and good basic to medium grasp of the dimensions behind the different initiatives, policies, main policy documents and tools (this will take place between Week 2 and 4). To this end, you will spend between Week 2 and Week 4 on examining and researching the main topics and 17 main policy items listed in the table below. Of course, on first sight, this might look like a massive task! But do not worry, it will be likely that you cannot dive into every single topic with the same attention to detail. It will be relatively natural that you will probably develop strong expertise in half of the topics, reasonable expertise in ¼ of the topics and only basic knowledge (but knowledge nonetheless) on ¼ of the topics. But try nevertheless to grasp as much as you can in the form of the Analysis Table (see point D).

You will also be asked to choose for your position paper 2 top priorities per overarching topics category (i.e., two policy items from the topic Ukraine, two from Security and Defence, and two from External Relations) and one additional student-choice item to elaborate in detail on. Thus, by the time COREPER II agenda negotiation arrives you will have to "fight" for your 7 top priorities. Let yourself be guided by a) your personal interest and b) the priority your alter ego country might actually have in real-life. Your level of knowledge and ability to deep-dive will also depend on the availability of resources that are publicly available (primary documents from the EU and national ministries, academic articles, think tank articles and newspapers). So do not stress if you cannot find a massive amount of detail on every item, but try nevertheless to develop as much expertise and competence you can on every item in the 4 weeks prior to the COREPER II meeting (and then of course dive even deeper into the topics afterwards in the run-up to FAC and the European Council, when your expertise will matter a lot). The aim should be for you to understand enough about the topics (and in particular your 7 priority topics) by Week 6 that you can comfortably negotiate about them during the first mini-simulation (COREPER II).

Please note that in addition to the policy items outlined below there are also possibilities to negotiate to add additional items under Heading 3 (regional aspects and the EU International Digital Strategy) and Heading 4 (Student indicated topics) to the COREPER II agenda. But this will be discussed during week 4 when we have to start to negotiate the agenda for the COREPER II meeting.

Agenda item	Overarching Topic	Main Policy items
1 (5 sub-itmes)	**Ukraine** "continuation of strong EU support, including **military, civilian, economic and political**'	' a. 'promoting EU efforts to ensure that Ukraine receives sufficient **international support** in 2026 and beyond, including through the use of **extraordinary interest revenue from immobilised Russian assets'** b. 'ensure that the EU continues to provide civilian support to Ukraine that encourages economic growth, infrastructure development and reforms that bring the country closer to EU membership.' c. 'Support for Ukraine's civilian security sector through the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM Ukraine) will remain a priority'. d. **Military support:** 'joint procurement and the reimbursement of Member States' military contributions through the **European Peace Facility (EPF).** The Presidency will support an ambitious continuation of the **EU's Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM Ukraine)** and will seek closer coordination with NATO on training efforts through the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU) initiative. It will also aim to strengthen the European and Ukrainian defence industries and improve integration between them, including through continued investment in Ukraine's defence sector' **e.** **Sanctions:** 'The Presidency will continue to work to maintain and adopt the toughest possible sanctions against Russia. The Presidency will also work to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of sanctions throughout the EU and **a common effort against circumvention of sanctions.'**
2 (7 sub-items)	**Security and Defence** "Europe is facing a fundamentally changed security landscape, marked by war and heightened geopolitical tensions. It is therefore essential that Europe strengthen its ability to defend itself by 2030 at the latest, also as a credible contribution to Euro-Atlantic security. This requires the development of critical defence	a. 'the Presidency will prioritise concluding negotiations with the European Parliament on the **European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)** and focus on implementing initiatives under the **ReArm Europe Plan** and the **White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030**.' b. 'In strengthening the European defence industry, the Presidency will work to promote closer pan- European cooperation on the development and procurement of defence equipment, and on the **integration of Ukraine's defence industry into the European defence industry'** c. 'It will also be vital to support optimal framework conditions for **building a competitive and innovative industrial base**, with particular focus on access for small and medium-sized enterprises, mobilising private investment, and addressing existing barriers and regulatory burdens. The Danish Presidency will prioritise the **simplification agenda and the simplification omnibus in the defence sector**, as well as initiatives under the ReArm Europe Plan and the White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030. The Danish Presidency will be

Agenda item	Overarching Topic	Main Policy items
	capabilities, a more robust and resilient European defence industry, including enhanced production and supply chains, and deeper EU-NATO cooperation. The Danish Presidency will work to make the EU more secure, robust, and resilient in addressing the most pressing shared challenges – and this shall include expanding and strengthening partnerships with third countries. **“**	prepared to commence negotiations on possible proposals for legislative acts related to EU actions in the defence industry, in the context of the next **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) after 2027**.’ d. **PESCO**: ‘The Presidency will assist the European External Action Service (EEAS) in ambitiously concluding the **strategic review of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)**, including the negotiation of the concrete legal acts.’ **e. Countering Hybrid Threats:** ‘To strengthen the EU’s defence against hybrid threats, the Presidency will prioritize greater **use of the hybrid toolbox as well as geographical hybrid sanctions regimes.** Additionally, the Presidency will pursue an ambitious approach in the continued work on countering hybrid threats emanating from Russia, as well as the further **operationalisation of the Hybrid Rapid Response Teams.’** f. **Cyberdiplomacy:** ‘The Presidency will also work towards a more strategic deployment of the **EU’s cyber diplomacy toolbox**, with increased focus on deterrence, sanctions, and cooperation with the private sector.’ g. “To strengthen the EU’s **overall resilience to all types of threats**, including by ensuring **complementarity between the EU and NATO**, the Danish Presidency will promote **enhanced civil-military cooperation.** This work will build on the **Niinistö Report, the White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030, the Internal Security Strategy, and the Preparedness Strategy**. As part of this effort, the Presidency will work to strengthen coordination across Council configurations.”
3 (5 sub-items)	**External Relations**	a. ‘The **situation in the Middle East** remains marked by ongoing tension and unpredictability. The Danish Presidency will continue the EU’s efforts towards de-escalation in the region, including support for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine’ b. ‘Supporting the **EU’s commitment to a strong and effective multilateral system and upholding international rule of law** will also be priorities during the Danish Presidency. In this context, priority will be given to **strengthening cooperation between the EU and the UN** to develop joint solutions to the global challenges facing the world’ c. ‘Alongside this, efforts will be made to ensure **a stronger and more coherent EU voice within the UN**. This will take the form of active and constructive EU engagement in **implementing the Pact for the Future** and **the UN80 reform initiative**, which was launched by the UN Secretary-General in March 2025. The initiative aims to support a more contemporary, inclusive, and effective multilateral system that delivers for all and helps rebuild trust across regions and generations.’

Agenda item	Overarching Topic	Main Policy items
		d. 'The Presidency will also support the upholding of international law, the international legal system, and strong, independent legal institutions, including the **International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court**.' e. 'The Danish Presidency will work **to strengthen EU climate diplomacy, international partnerships, and cooperation on climate issues**. This includes supporting the development and implementation of ambitious National Determined Contributions (NDCs) aligned with the 1.5 degree target and fulfilling commitments under the first Global Stocktake (GST), as well as assisting the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries in adapting to climate change.' Additional potential Agenda items (to be negotiated) – choose one: - 'advancing the **EU's International Digital Strategy**, establishing the goal of stronger EU leadership in global digital and technological matters, including priority areas like artificial intelligence and quantum technology.' - Regional focus (Syria/Iran, Africa, Indo-Pacific, EU-India. Latin America and the Caribbean Mexico, EU-MERCOSUR)
4	**Student Choice Topics**	Additional potential agenda items (to be negotiated) – choose one: a. Migration b. Maritime Security c. EU Global Partnerships d. Peacekeeping e. Promoting Women's rights f. Tackling Anti-EU populism g. Economic Security h. Climate Change Diplomacy i. EU-UN relations

B) Once you have completed a first deep-dive into the 17 main policy items, **the next phase of your position paper is to actually research and understand your alter ego's political position on each item**. For example, if your alter ego country is Belgium, you need to try to find out as much as possible about the position Belgium has on the 17 policy items and put down your information in the Appendix table in bullet points. You might not find an answer in public sources on every single item, but on the broad themes you should be able to infer the positions. If you struggle to find enough information, do not hesitate to let me know and we will look into it together. Please also note that in **the final position paper**, **you will only have to write in the written flow text the analysis of the 7 topics that will make it onto the COREPER II agenda. This will also be the case for your draft submission (full Appendix table on all 17 items, own position and other country positions) but flow text on your 7 policy priorities.**

C) Once you have identified the main national position on the 17 policy items, **you will have to analyze whether it is likely that there is potential wide-spread consensus on the different policy items (and your country's position) or whether there are disagreements.** Are there newspaper articles or previous EU decisions out there that indicate that some EU member states might have different views on a given policy item. Try to find out as much as possible and note down the potential differing views, but also note down countries that may agree with your country's position (this is important for your negotiation strategy paper later on).

D) **Once you have done steps A-C, it is time to put together your position paper (your draft text needs to be already done by 10 November.** Please submit the entire appendix analysis table (see table sample below) for all 17 items and then write flow text on your 7 priority areas. Of course you might have to re-do this exercise once COREPER II agrees on the actual agenda items to be adopted (you will then have to revise your final position paper on the actual agenda items and on your and the other countries' position. By that time, the pre-exercise of understanding all 17 items will have you prepared you well for the revision).

Appendix Table Sample

Agenda item	Main Policy item	Explanation	My country's position	Diverging/opposing views of other EU member states	Member states in broad agreement with my position
1.e	'The Presidency will continue to work to maintain and adopt the toughest possible sanctions against Russia. The Presidency	The EU has imposed wide-ranging sanctions against Russia, including the 18th package agreed on in July		Hungary/Slovakia (see track-record in run-up to July sanction package)[3]	

[3] Jorge Libereiro (2025) 'New package of Russia sanctions runs into trouble ahead of high-stakes EU summit', Euronews, 24 June 2025, available online at https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/06/24/new-package-of-russia-sanctions-runs-into-trouble-ahead-of-high-stakes-eu-summit

	will also work to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of sanctions throughout the EU and **a common effort against circumvention of sanctions.'**	2025. [1] According to the Council, "The measures are designed to achieve the EU policy objective of ending Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, through **maximising pressure on Russia** and using all tools available to diminish Russia's ability to wage its illegal war of aggression'.[2]			

The flow text will then explain your main findings of the table. The structure of the flow text (and hence the position paper) will be:

First iteration (to be submitted by 10 November)

1. **Introduction (300 – 500 words words)**
   - Outline here your country's main policy priorities (choose two topics per agenda category 1-3 + the student choice topic) that are your country's most important topics and explain why
   - Explain which topics you do not want to make it to the agenda of COREPER II (and later FAC/European Council) and why?
   - Outline clear red lines (if you have any potential veto positions on any topic)
2. **My country's positions on the 7 core Policy items (up to 2800 - 3500 words)**
   - In the main body of the position paper, please explain briefly (feel free to use ample of references in footnotes) your understanding of each of the 7 chosen priority policy items (use a sub-heading with the agenda item number and letter) and your country's position (stating for each policy item your country's position and what you want to achieve for this policy item as outcome in the final negotiations). Anticipate here already potential allies or country positions that might have a divergent view on your items. For each agenda item you should roughly spend around 400 - 500 words.
3. **Conclusion (300 – 500 words)**

[1] Council of the European Union (no date) 'EU sanctions against Russia' available online at https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-russia/
[2] Idem

- Draft here a concluding statement on which outcomes are most important for you and give an indication of items **you do not** want to make it to the agenda of COREPER II (and later FAC and European Council). Please also indicate here whether you would like to add some items from the list of additional items in Category 3 and 4.

4. **Appendix**
    - Place here the full table (suggested under point 'D') to which you can also refer throughout your position paper. It will not count towards the word count
5. **References (in footnotes only)**
    - Please use ample of references to support your positions and the background to your policy item explanations. You do not need to produce a separate bibliography – but simply mention the references in footnotes in Chicago style. They do not count towards the word count.

Second Iteration (to be submitted by 24 November)

The second iteration of your position paper takes into consideration the instructor's feedback and has to be adapted according to the actual 7 agenda items that will be chosen as a result of the COREPER II negotiations. Thus your flow text should now focus on the 7 policy items chosen (you can use your pre-research of your 17 policy items appendix table)

1. **Introduction (300 – 500 words words)**
    - Outline here the 7 policy agenda items. Which of the items does your country views as most important? Why? Which ones as lesser important, why?
    - Explain the importance of each topic from the point of the view of 'this is why it is important for the EU to support this') and from your country position's point of view
    - Outline clear red lines (if you have any potential veto positions on any topic)
2. **My country's positions on the 7 Agenda items (up to 2800 - 3500 words)**
    - In the main body of the position paper, please explain briefly (feel free to use ample of references in footnotes) your understanding of each of the 7 chosen agenda items (use a sub-heading with the agenda item number and letter) and your country's position (stating for each policy item your country's position and what you want to achieve for this policy item as outcome in the final negotiations). Examine also in some detail potential opposing or concurring

views from other countries. For each agenda item you should roughly spend around 400 - 500 words.

3. **Conclusion (300 – 500 words)**
    - Draft here a concluding statement on which outcomes are most important for you and give an indication of your position for the European Council
4. **Appendix**
    - Place here the full table (suggested under point 'D') to which you can also refer throughout your position paper. It will not count towards the word count
5. **References (in footnotes only)**
    - Please use ample of references to support your positions and the background to your policy item explanations. You do not need to produce a separate bibliography – but simply mention the references in footnotes in Chicago style. They do not count towards the word count.

The revised position paper should also include some lessons from the COREPER II simulation and serve as your foundation for negotiating in the FAC and European Council. Deadline for final version submission is **Monday 24 November 2025 (15.00) via Turnitin on Brightspace**

B. Negotiation Strategy Paper (2000 words)

- 30% of the final grade
- **Paper Due: Monday 1 December 2025 (15.00PM) via Turnitin on Brightspace**
- Prerequisite for attending the Final Simulation

The Negotiation Strategy paper will build on some of the work you have carried out for your position paper. It will identify:

a) Your negotiation position for the desired text/policies/outcomes for the final Council conclusions document of the European Council and your country's position on the 7 agreed agenda items. Identify here also the 2 policies you absolutely want to get through and identify potential vetoing/red lines of items you disagree with. In addition, an analysis of the likely success of getting your position and desired outcomes accepted (i.e. an analysis of who are your allies? Who are countries that are likely oppose you and which countries are "swing states"? What would you have to offer to convince the countries opposing you or the swing states?

b) An overview of your position on the agenda items that will make it onto the agenda of the European Council, with a clear analysis of your position, potential allies, opponents, swing states and your potential strategies for getting as much support as possible for your positions (use here insights from the FAC negotiations)
c) An outline of your negotiation strategies – who will you approach for what policy item during the negotiations? With which countries will you form alliances to get your priority (and other) items through? What is your bargaining chip or strategy? What is your minimum outcome and what your desired maximum outcome? What are your absolute red lines on which topics?

The negotiation strategy document essentially is your "instruction paper" on how to lead the European Council negotiations towards a successful outcome. The sweet spot will also be compromise – i.e. getting as much as possible your positions and outcomes into the European Council document without risking the failure of consensus overall.

The structure of your negotiation strategy document is as follows

1. **Introduction and Executive Summary**
   Outlines the main outcomes you want to see at the European Council from your countries' perspective. Outline also agenda items you want to veto or block from even making it onto the agenda.
2. **Outline of your Position, Potential Counterposition Analysis and Negotiation Strategy**
   Outline your the desired outcomes for the 7 agenda items. What is your country/s position what is the desired outcome? What text or particular implementation aspexct do you want to see for each agenda item. Who are the potential opponents, the potential allies, o, swing states? What do they disagree with? Can there be compromise or bargaining? Provide a strategy on how to convince them to align with your positions. Develop here different potential strategic actions. Also indicate your red lines and veto positions.
3. **Conclusion**
   Outline the maximum and minimum outcomes you want to achieve for your country at the European Council on the agenda items and go into detail on technicalities and implementation. What is good for your country and position and what is also good for the European Union's ability to act as a whole? How can you strike the balance?
4. **Appendix**
   Place here any appendix that might be helpful (i.e. an overview table etc.)

C. Debrief & Self-reflection Assignment (20%)

- 20% of the final grade
- Due: **Monday 15 December 2025 (15.00PM) via Turnitin on Brightspace**

You are encouraged to keep track and written notes and reflections of your simulation experiences throughout the semester in form of a Portfolio, which should include:

1. a reflected summary (±500 words) of:
    - your participation in the three simulations
    - initial assumptions
    - outcomes of the event
    - impact on knowledge and skills development

2. reflections on your personal learning process in this class (±500 words), including key take-aways from the course, personal strengths and weaknesses, difficulties encountered and how they were overcome, avenues for self-improvement in the spirit of life-long learning, and lessons learned.

3. Your critical assessment of the course, suggestions for improvement

A good/excellent reflection report approaches all issues in a **(self-)critical** manner with due attention paid to all perspectives.

V. Rules and Regulations

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation will be checked and are mandatory. Failure to comply with the attendance and participation requirement more than twice unfortunately will result in an **automatic fail** for the course. Arriving 15 minutes late or leaving the class before the instructor has dismissed the class will be counted as absence.

You are encouraged to actively engage in all learning activities and come prepared to lectures, seminars and practical exercises.

Communication and Language

The working language of this Honours Course is **English**. This means that English is the only language to be spoken in the classroom and every correspondence with your lecturers and fellow classmates. All group work, at whichever stage, should also be carried out in English (inside and outside of the classroom). In addition, students should use primarily sources in English for their assignments.

Written Assignments

- Please use the following format for your written assignments: Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced, text justified, page numbers and footnote references. For both assignments you are encouraged to make use of an overview table to be placed in the Appendix. All assignments need to include a cover page with the name of the course, name of the assignment, title of the assignment, student number(s), instructors' names, word count and date.
- Deadlines are deadlines. Assignments submitted past the deadline without good reason will not be graded and will count as not submitted. Written assignments must always be submitted through Brightspace. Emailing assignments is only allowed when the portal is not working. Technical difficulties are not valid reasons for handing in assignments past the deadline.
- You will be permitted to re-sit the individual paper if they have a mark below 5.5 for that paper/for the overall course or with permission of the Board of Examiners.
- Only assessments with the weight of 30% and lower are compensable. This means that one does not have to pass an assessment if it weighs less than 30% in order to pass the course, if the average of all assessments combined is higher than 5.5. Assignments worth less than 30%

of the final grade are not eligible for a re-sit: if one failed an assessment of 30% or less, one is not allowed to redo it.

- Class attendance, participation and submitting all assignments are prerequisites for attending the final simulation
- For all course-related matters, we expect students to interact with their fellow students and their instructors in a respectful and professional manner as outlined in the University's Codes of Conduct.
- Please use footnoted references – Chicago style. Assignments that include plagiarised text (including text that is copied verbatim without quotation marks even if the reference is provided) or text generated with the help of GenAI programmes will be submitted for review. Severe cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Board of Examiners. Self-plagiarism, the recycling of one's own words, goes against academic standards and students should avoid it at all times.

VI. Reading Material

You will find a wide range of suggested reading material for each week (and fort he presidency policy items) on bright space.

It will be important to familiarise yourselves with the following main texts from Week 2 on:

1. **Text of the Danish Presidency:**
   Danish Presidency Council of the European Union (2025) Programme: A Strong Europe in a Changing World, July 1 – December 31, 2025, available online at https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/media/xv5jn5nx/programme-of-the-danish-eu-presidency-2025.pdf
   This text will form the basis of the policy items you will explore, assess, form country positions on and eventually negotiate over in the simulation and the two mini-simulations. We will only look at the policy items under the heading of "Foreign Affairs" – and within this only on the sub-headings 'Ukraine' 'Security and Defence' and 'External Affairs' (pp. 11-15). We will not cover "Trade" and "development" to avoid overload in terms of topics and agenda items (you will see that the items under those three headings are already more than enough). Please begin to read up on the sub-items from Week 2 onwards, starting to fill out your position paper table (as explained under the assignment section above) as extensively as possible as we go along.

2. **Website of the Danish Presidency –** please also use the website of the Danish presidency to find out more in terms of background, upcoming events and meeting etc. See

https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme-for-the-danish-eu-presidency/programme-of-the-danish-eu-presidency/

VII. Think Tanks to follow

1. Think tanks with good resources and events on the European Union:

Bruegel https://www.bruegel.org
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) www.ceps.be
European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) https://ecfr.eu
Carnegie Europe http://carnegieeurope.eu/
EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) http://www.iss.europa.eu
European Policy Centre (EPC) https://www.epc.eu
Brussels Institute for Geopolitics (BIG) https://big-europe.eu
Global Governance Institute (GGI) www.globalgovernance.eu

2. Selection of Think Tanks (national) dealing with EU issues from a national and European perspective:

Austria
Austria Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) https://www.aies.at/english/

Belgium:
Egmont Institute www.egmontinstitute.be

Croatia:
Croatian Public Policy Think Tank https://www.cea-policy.hr/croatia-public-policy-think-tank/

Czechia
EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy https://www.europeum.org/en/
Institute of International Relations https://www.iir.cz/en/
Association for International Affairs https://www.amo.cz/en/

Denmark:
Think Tank Europa https://thinkeuropa.dk/en
Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) https://www.diis.dk/en

Estonia:
International Centre for Defence and Security https://icds.ee/en/

Finland:
Finnish Institute for International Affairs https://fiia.fi/en/

France:
Institut Français des Relations Internationales https://www.ifri.org
Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute - https://institutdelors.eu/en/

Germany :
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/
German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) https://dgap.org/en
Kiel Institute for the World Economy - https://www.kielinstitut.de
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung https://www.kas.de/en/home
Friedrich Naumann Foundation https://www.freiheit.org
Heinrich Boell Foundation http://www.boell.eu/

Ireland:
The Institute of International and European Affairs - https://www.iiea.com

Italy:
Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) - https://www.ispionline.it/en
Instituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) - https://www.iai.it/en

Slovakia
Slovak Foreign Policy Association - https://www.sfpa.sk/en/
GLOBSE - https://www.globsec.org

Spain:
Elcano Royal Institute http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/
Access Info Europe https://www.access-info.org/publications/
Barcelona Center for International Affairs https://www.cidob.org/en

Sweden
Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies - https://sieps.se/en/
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) http://www.sipri.org

The Netherlands:
Clingendael Institute https://www.clingendael.org
The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies https://hcss.nl
Scientific Council for Government Policy https://english.wrr.nl

International Think Tanks:

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) http://csis.org
Brookings - http://www.brookings.edu
Chatham House http://www.chathamhouse.org
Council on Foreign Relations http://www.cfr.org
RAND Corporation http://www.rand.org
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) https://www.nupi.no/en
International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) http://www.iiss.org
Global Governance Institute www.globalgovernance.eu
International Crisis Group http://www.crisisgroup.org
Human Rights Watch https://www.hrw.org/fr
Transparency International https://www.transparency.org/en

VIII. Course Schedule and Session Outline

Week 1 (Monday, 6 October 2025)

Introduction Session & Kick off Lecture: Negotiations in the European Union and Council of the European Union: A view from Practice (Bert Koenders)

In this first session, you will be introduced to the overarching objectives of the course, the main set-up and structure. The session will also include a round of introductions, where you can get to know your fellow students a little bit. Last but not least, the session will include an intake questionnaire, where you will be able to indicate your simulation preferences and where you can let me know a bit more about your study background, learning approach and other aspects. The information from this questionnaire will then be used to make the allocations of the simulation countries and also to make some tweak to the syllabus and readings.

After the introductory round, Bert Koenders (former Dutch Foreign Minister) will provide a practical lecture on the lessons learned from his time as senior politician and the Dutch Council Presidency of 2016.

About the speaker

Mr. Koenders joined the World Bank Group in 2019 as the Special Envoy on Fragility. Currently, he focuses on supporting the World Bank in strengthening its engagement in Fragile States mainly in the Middle East and Africa regions. Mr. Koenders holds the Kooijmans Chair at the University of Leiden. During the first half of 2016 when the Netherlands held the Presidency of the Council of the EU, Mr. Koenders served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs until 2017 before which he was the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and headed the UN peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast as the UNSG Special Representative. Mr. Koenders has previously held numerous positions, including being the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation from 2007 to 2010 (5 billion euros budget), Deputy Chairman of the Netherlands Atlantic Association, Member of the Supervisory Council of the Institute for Multiparty Democracy, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Member of the French-Dutch Cooperation Council, Founder of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF and served the Board of the International Crisis Group and was Commissioner of the International Commission of Missing Persons. Mr. Koenders studied Political and Social Sciences, International Economics and African Studies at the Free University of Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam and the Johns Hopkins University SAIS in Washington, DC.

Reading:

Please familiarize yourselves with the Policy programme of the Danish presidency of the Council for July – December 2025:

1. Danish Presidency Council of the European Union (2025) Programme: A Strong Europe in a Changing World, July 1 – December 31, 2025, available online at https://danish-

presidency.consilium.europa.eu/media/xv5jn5nx/programme-of-the-danish-eu-presidency-2025.pdf
(section on Foreign Affairs)

Week 1, Thursday 15 October 2025 (Optional Policy event)

If possible for you, you are warmly invited to join a policy event by the Danish Presidency:

The Danish EU Presidency: A strong Europe in a changing world
Policy Panel and Keynote by Ms. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Kingdom of Denmark

Schouwburgstraat 2, in The Hague from 17.00 to 18.30
Register under https://www.clingendael.org/form/event-09-10-2025-the-danish-eu-p

Week 2 (Monday, 13 October 2025)

Unpacking the Policy Priorities of the Danish Presidency (in the realm of Foreign Affairs) and Understanding the Nuts and Bolts of the relevant EU foreign policy institutions

Our module of Week 2 will consist of 3 parts.

- Part 1 will be a joint discussion on how to delve into the 17 agenda items of the Presidency Programme related to three themes of the Foreign Affairs heading.
- Part 2 will be a lecture on the Nuts and Bolts of the EU's main foreign policy institutions, voting procedures and rules of procedures (for this, please read after our session the reading material on the Council and on the Rules of procedure below)
- Part 3 will be our practical sessions – firstly our video public speaking exercise and secondly time for you to find out about your assigned countries and alter egos for COREPER II, FAC and European Council!

Part 1: Joint Discussion

In this session we will together delve more deeply into three main overarching themes of the "Foreign Affairs" heading of the Danish Council Presidency work programme (namely 'Ukraine', 'Security and Defence' and 'External Relations') and will break them down into the detailed policy items (17 in total) that will form your "policy material" that you will have to familiarise yourselves with for this simulation. It might sound a lot, but do not worry, I will walk you through the items and explain to you how you can go about studying them. Remember, by the time the COREPER II mini-simulation will take place (in Week 6) you should try to be as much of an 'policy expert' on the different items as you possibly can. You essentially have 4 weeks to dive into the topics, policies, primary documents and background dimensions of these items in order to negotiate your own priorities, preferences and outcomes (including an initial negotiation of what should be on the agenda of the simulations and what should not and why…). Keep in mind that in the end you need to agree as a group on max. 8 policy items (2 from each thematic group + 2 additional topics).

Reading for the joint discussion:

Please familiarize yourselves with the Policy programme of the Danish presidency of the Council for July – December 2025:

1. Danish Presidency Council of the European Union (2025) Programme: A Strong Europe in a Changing World, July 1 – December 31, 2025, available online at https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/media/xv5jn5nx/programme-of-the-danish-eu-presidency-2025.pdf (section on Foreign Affairs)

Part 2: Lecture

In this 45min lecture, the Course Conveenor will provide you with an overview of the Nuts and Bolts of EU Foreign Policy, core institutions, procedures, rules of procedures and an initial outline of some of the core challenges the EU is facing.

Primary Document Reading for the Lecture (to be completed afterwards) on Core Institutions

*On the **European Council** (Heads of States)*

1. Homepage of the European Council: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/ - please have a first scan and look through this website to get a feel for the institution, its activities and members (aka your alter egos - https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/members/)
2. Please read in particular 'How the European Council Works': https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/how-the-european-council-works/

*On the **Council of the European Union** (institution that represents the member states – the main intergovernmental body of the EU institutions):*

3. Home page of the Council of the European Union - https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/ - please get a feel for the home page and all its information (including meeting announcements, news on new decisions etc.)
4. Information on 'The Council of the European Union' - https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/
5. Information on the 'Foreign Affairs Council' (which is one of the Council's 10 configurations): https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/configurations/fac/

*On the **European External Action Service** (the "diplomatic service" of the EU, headed by the **High Representative**):*

6. Information on the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (chairs the FAC) - https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/high-representative-foreign-affairs-security-policy/
7. Information on the European External Action Service (EEAS) - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/_en

*On the **Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union***

8. On the 'Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union' (COREPER): https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/coreper-ii/ . Remember, COREPER has two set-ups – we will focus on COREPER II (not COREPER I)…

*The **European Commission's** role in Security and Defence*

9. Please visit 'A new Era for European Defence and Security' on the European Commission's homepage for understanding the role the European Commission plays in this area: https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029/security-and-defence_en

*The **European Defence Agency** (EDA)*

10. Finally, please familiarise yourselves with EDA – an important agency of the EU for advancing the European defence sector - https://eda.europa.eu/who-we-are

Rules of Procedure & Legislative Process and Decision-making

1. General Secretariat of the Council (2022) Comments on the Council's Rules of Procedure available online at https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bd2df212-cddb-11ed-a05c-01aa75ed71a1/
2. Kingdom of Belgium (2024) How does EU Legislation come about? https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/policy-areas/highlighted/how-does-eu-legislation-come-about
3. Viktor Szép (2023) Making EU Foreign Policy More Effective: Qualified Majority Voting on the Horizon? Commentary, Carnegie Endowment, https://carnegieendowment.org/europe/strategic-europe/2023/05/making-eu-foreign-policy-more-effective-qualified-majority-voting-on-the-horizon?lang=en

Further Background Reading for the Lecture (to be completed afterwards)

1. European Union (2024) The European Council and the Council of the European Union —the house of the member states, Brussels – available online at https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/fa3f5fd1-0883-11ef-a251-01aa75ed71a1 (please try to read this in the next week until our next meeting in Week 3)

Part 3: Public Speaking Exercise and Allocation of Alter Egos

During the practical session we will carry out the first group public speaking exercise. Thereafter we will briefly discuss the allocation of your alter egos.

Week 3 (Monday, 20 October 2025) please note the time is 17.15 – 21.15

Workshop 1: Governance of the EU / Negotiation Skills
(Guest Speaker: Professor Antoaenta Dimitrova)

During this workshop you will dive into the core aspects of governance of the EU (with a particular focus on EU-Ukraine relations in terms of enlargement and security and defence) and will gain insights into core negotiation aspects.

By way of preparation, please prepare a deep-dive into the Ukraine and Security and Defence dossiers. The following items can be helpful for your reading:

About the Workshop Leader

Professor Antoaenta Dimitrova is Professor of Comparative Governance at ISGA. *Antoaneta Dimitrova's research brings together different lines of inquiry relating to governance transfer across national borders. An enduring theme in her work has been the effect of the European Union on the democratic and market transformations of the post-communist states of Central and Eastern Europe. Other key themes are EU enlargement, currently focusing on the EU's strategy towards the Western Balkan candidates. Another theme in her research inquires into the causes of democratic backsliding and especially role of state capture. With various colleagues she has been investigating the European Union's Neighbourhood policy towards its Eastern neighbours – Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova in particular. She has extensive experience in policy advice to, inter alia, the European Commission and the European Parliament*

Background Reading:

Antoaneta Dimitrova (2023) The Russian War Against Ukraine as a Critical Juncture Defining a New Path for EU Enlargement, available HERE.

Primary Documents

1. European Commission (2025) White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6d5db69-e0ab-4bec-9dc0-3867b4373019_en?filename=White%20paper%20for%20European%20defence%20–%20Readiness%202030.pdf
2. Sauli Niinistö (2024) Safer Together: Strengthening Europe's Civilian and Military Preparedness and Readiness - Report by Sauli Niinistö, former President of the Republic of Finland, In his capacity as Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission, available online at https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5bb2881f-9e29-42f2-8b77-8739b19d047c_en?filename=2024_Niinisto-report_Book_VF.pdf
3. European Commission (n.d.) The European Defence Industry Programme at a glance, available online at https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edip-dedicated-programme-defence_en

4. European Commission - Acting on defence to protect Europeans (ReArm Europe) - https://commission.europa.eu/topics/defence/future-european-defence_en
5. European Commission (n.d.) EDIRPA | Procuring together defence capabilities - https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edirpa-addressing-capability-gaps_en
6. Information on Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) - https://www.pesco.europa.eu
7. European Commission (n.d.) European Defence Fund, available at https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/european-defence-fund-edf-official-webpage-european-commission_en
8. European Defence Agency (n.d.) Coordinated Annual Review of Defence (CARD), available online at https://eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/EU-defence-initiatives/coordinated-annual-review-on-defence-(card)
9. Council of the European Union (n.d.) Sanctions against Russia - https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-russia/

Week 4 (Monday, 27 October 2025)

The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Core Policies and Challenges I

Our module of Week 4 will consist of 2 parts.

- Part 1 will be a lecture, providing you an overview of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (including Common Security and Defence Policy) and some of the core policy topics related to sanctions.
- Part 2 will be led by you! In groups you will be tasked (in Week 2) to present assigned topics related to the 17 agenda items. We will use the kick-off presentations (max. 5min – you can use power point) as a student-led discussion seminar. As a result we will together actively dive more deeply into the different aspects of the three broad themes of Ukraine, Security and Defence and External Relations.

Part 1: Lecture

This lecture will provide you a comprehensive overview of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and core initiatives such as the workings of the CFSP, CSDP missions and EU sanction policies.

Reading for the lectures Week 4 and Week 5:

1. Jan Joel Andersson and Clara Cramer (2023) EUISS Yearbook of European Security 2023, Paris: European Union Institute for Security Studies, available online at https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/YES_2023.pdf
2. Ricardo Farinha (2025) The EU Common Security and Defense Policy: Moving Away From Democracy Support, Carnegie Endowment, 4 March, available online at

https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/03/the-eu-common-security-and-defense-policy-moving-away-from-democracy-support?lang=en

3. Brøgger, T. E. (2024). A 'Europe of defence'? The establishment of binding commitments and supranational governance in European security and defence. *Journal of European Integration*, *47*(3), 403–422. https://doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2024.2379421 (must read for France, Germany, Italy, and Spain)

Brief website overviews:

4. European External Action Service (2025) The Common Security and Defence Policy – info page - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/common-security-and-defence-policy_en
5. European External Action Service (2025) CSDP Missions and Operations - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/missions-and-operations_en

Part 2: Student Deep-Diving on 17 policy items

You will be placed into groups and will be tasked to provide to the group 5min mini-presentations on assigned policy items. Your presentation should focus both on content and presentation skills!

Week 5 (Monday, 3 November 2025)

The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Core Policies and Challenges II

Our module of Week 5 will consist of 3 parts.

- Part 1 will be an in-depth lecture, continuing on core themes related to CFSP – ranging from Strategic Partnerships to EU-UN relations (incl. ICC and ICJ), climate diplomacy and the EU's international digital strategy. In addition, the lecture will also focus on the EU's position on the Middle East and will cover strategic divergences between member states in EU foreign policy
- Part 2 will consist of a second public speaking exercise. Thereafter there is an opportunity to discuss the next steps of the preparations of your position paper and the COREPER II Simulation.
- Part 3 will be an initial exchange of views on the COREPER II Agenda. For this, each delegation needs to submit by 3rd November 2025 (at 15.00) **their 7 priority agenda items** (two for Ukraine, two for security and defence, two for external relations and one bonus agenda item from student choice) to the COREPER II Chair and Co-Chairs.

Week 6 (Monday, 10 November 2025)

COREPER II Mini Simulation

- Agreeing on Agenda items
- Outlining Initial Positions, including technical proposals
- Agreeing and Disagreeing (Items to be forwarded to FAC that are either resolved or unresolved)

Submit your draft negotiation paper for ungraded feedback

Week 7 (Monday, 17 November 2025) – please note the time is 17.15 – 21.15

Workshop 2: Diplomacy and Decision-Making

Dr. Jan Melissen

In this workshop, Dr. Jan Melissen situates the EU negotiation dynamics (at institutional and member state level) in the wider studies of the theory and practice of international diplomacy. The workshop will also provide several case studies on diplomatic negotiations and the psychology of decision-making. Reading material will be distributed ahead of the workshop

About the Workshop Leader

Dr. Jan Melissen is Senior Fellow International Relations and Diplomacy at ISGA and a full Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Antwerp. He is also Faculty Fellow with the Centre for Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California, LA. Jan is founding Editor-in-Chief of The Hague Journal of Diplomacy and Series Editor of Brill Diplomatic Studies. In 2022 he received the International Studies Association Distinguished Scholar Award in Diplomatic Studies. Earlier in his career Jan held various management positions at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' and he was Director of the Centre for the Study of Diplomacy at the University of Leicester. He was a visiting professor at China's Foreign Affairs University and the Korea Institute of International Economic Policy. Jan has done commissioned research on change and innovation in diplomacy for governments in Europe and the Asia-Pacific. He has published more than ten books and after 2010 his work has appeared in Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies, Global Affairs, Global Policy, The Hague Journal of Diplomacy, International Affairs, International Studies Review, and European Foreign Affairs. His main publications can be found here.

Week 8 (Monday, 24 November 2025)

Mini Simulation: Foreign Affairs Council

- Agreeing on Agenda items
- Taking note of COREPER approved-items for European Council
- Negotiations on unapproved items
- Consideration of new items

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR POSITION PAPER

Week 9 (Monday, 1 December 2025)

Lecture by the Estonian Ambassador / Permanent Representative to the EU

Final Preparations & Tackling any Last Minute Questions

- Preparatory work and unresolved issues
- Group reflection: what has the Danish presidency achieved? What not? What other threats need addressing?
- Potential emergency session items?

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEGOTIATION STRATEGY

Week 10 (Monday, 8 December 2025)

Final Simulation of the European Council (9AM – 9PM – with break between 5.30 and 7.30)

- Preparatory work and unresolved issues
- Group reflection: what has the Danish presidency achieved? What not? What other threats need addressing?
- Potential emergency session items?

Week 11 (Monday, 15 December 2025)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR DEBRIEF and SELF-REFLECTIONN

IX. Lecturer

Joachim A. Koops is Chair of Security Studies and Jean Monnet Chair for the European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs (EURISGA) at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, where he served as Scientific Director from 2019 – 2024. In addition, he is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford, UK. Previously, Joachim was the Dean of the Brussels School of Governance of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Director of the Global Governance Institute (GGI), Brussels. Joachim holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from the University of Oxford (UK), an MSc in European Politics, Economic and Law from the University of Turku, a Postgraduate Diploma/Common Professional Exam in Law from Oxford Brookes (UK), the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LPC) from the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Kiel (Germany).

Joachim's research focuses on Global Security Governance, European foreign policy and diplomacy and inter-organizational relations in peace and security (including peacekeeping, peacebuilding, crisis management and the responsibility to protect) with particular emphasis on the role of the European Union, NATO and United Nations. In the area of higher education policy and management, he is interested in academic reform, innovative teaching, quality assurance and the future of global education.

Since 2009, Joachim held several advisor positions at international organizations. In 2009, he served as the Lessons Learned Advisor of the Chief of Staff of the Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG), in 2012 he worked at the partnership unit of the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York as well as the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS) in Brussels. In addition, he served in various capacities for the European Commission and European Parliament on core issues related to security and global affairs.