"The making of European Security Policy: Challenges for the Future"

The EU's engagement with international organisations

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A factor often overlooked

- The EU’s engagement with international organisations: often overlooked or neglected
- Yet, it is a factor that shapes – boosts and limits – the development of the EU’s security and defence policy
- Reasons for neglect stem from theoretical assumptions (international organisations are not actors, lack power) – but now also from attitudinal change: widespread challenging of multilateralism
Sources:

Early ESDP development:

- Quick, uncontroversial – but also limited (to out-of-EU-area action)
- EU’s relations with NATO but also with the UN helped the EU to gain actorness in external security policy
- Notable legitimacy
- From the early 2000s, EU-NATO relations shaped both organisations: making them more similar to each other (tasks), also causing friction and tension
Is NATO the main limit, or the main boost?

- 42.7 TEU: defence is consistent with commitments made under NATO; NATO is the foundation of the collective defence and the forum for its implementation.

- The EUGS: NATO remains the primary framework for most member states; yet the EU “acts autonomously” “while” it contributes to and cooperates with NATO.

- But: current debates on NATO are also a reason for the need for strategic autonomy for the EU – a boost for development?
Strategic autonomy, from whom?

- Impossible, as there cannot be two different sets of European defence?
- Necessary, as different organisations have to be autonomous from one another (decision-making, accountability)?
- Autonomy is also a shared concern: both face the same concerns and the same challenges
- Can the two amalgamate? Will the EU swallow NATO? (organivore...)
- Or, is European security and defence becoming autonomous of .. the EU itself?