



T.C.

CANKIRI KARATEKIN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DEPARTMENT

**DIPLOMACY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION IN THE LIGHT OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES**

Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA

MASTER'S THESIS

Supervisor

Asst. Prof. Dr. Şuayip TURAN

Çankırı – 2024

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Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA
ORCID: 0009-0007-5581-430X

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SCIENTIFIC ETHICS STATEMENT

In the process from the proposal stage to the conclusion of the study titled *Diplomacy and External Relations of the European Union in the Light of International Relations Theories*, which I prepared as a master's thesis, I carefully followed the academic ethics and rules, that I obtained all the information in the thesis within the framework of academic ethics and tradition, that I prepared in accordance with the rules of writing the thesis. I declare that I cited every citation as a reference and that the works I have benefited from are those shown in the bibliography.

24 / 10 / 2024

Signature

Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA

THESIS ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

ÇANKIRI KARATEKIN UNIVERSITY

TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

This study titled *Diplomacy and External Relations of the European Union in the Light of International Relations Theories* prepared by *Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA* was found successful *unanimously* as a result of the thesis defense held on *24.10.2024* and was accepted as a Master's thesis in the *Political Science and International Relations* by our jury.

THESIS JURY MEMBERS (Title, Name and Surname)

Supervisor: Asst. Prof. Dr. Şuayip Turan	Signature:
Member: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çağlar Ezikoğlu	Signature:
Member: Asst. Prof. Dr. Hilal Zorba Bayraktar	Signature:

APPROVAL

This Thesis has been accepted by the jury determined in the session of Çankırı Karatekin University Social Sciences Institute Administrative Board, dated 23/10/2024 and numbered 21/02

Prof. Dr. Ersoy YILMAZ

Director of the Institute

PREFACE

With a profound sense of accomplishment and dedication, I present this thesis entitled Diplomacy and External Relations of the European Union in Light of International Relations Theories. This research represents the culmination of extensive hours of analysis, reflection, and commitment to the intricate field of European diplomacy.

Exploring the mechanisms and dynamics that underpin the European Union's interactions on the global stage has been both enriching and intellectually stimulating. Through this thesis, I have aimed to deepen my understanding of contemporary geopolitical issues and make a meaningful contribution to the existing body of knowledge in international relations.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Asst. Prof. Dr. Şuayip TURAN, for his unwavering support, insightful guidance, and invaluable assistance throughout this research process. His expertise, encouragement, and thoughtful suggestions have been indispensable to the completion of this work.

Additionally, I wish to acknowledge my own dedication, research capabilities, and relentless commitment to this study. The passion and expertise I have invested in this project have driven my perseverance and determination to achieve the highest academic standards.

Finally, I dedicate this work to my family, friends, and all those who have supported and encouraged me throughout this academic journey. Their unwavering support has been my source of motivation and inspiration throughout this intellectual endeavour.

I hope that this thesis will contribute meaningfully to the understanding of European diplomacy and its implications in international relations, and I humbly present it to the academic community.

24 / 10 / 2024

Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Diplomacy and External Relations of the European Union in the Light of International Relations Theories
Author : Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA
Supervisor : Asst. Prof. Dr. Şuayip TURAN
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This thesis explores the complex dynamics of diplomacy and external relations of the European Union (EU) through the lens of international relations theories. Divided into three distinct parts, the study begins with an analysis of the EU's diplomatic institutions, shedding light on their structure, decision-making processes, and role in representing the Union on the international stage. This first part also examines recent developments in the EU's diplomatic practice, particularly regarding its ability to act autonomously in the field of foreign policy. The second part of the thesis focuses on the major theories of international relations and their relevance to understanding European diplomacy. By examining the realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives, the study seeks to illuminate the motivations and strategies underlying the EU's diplomatic actions, as well as the challenges and opportunities it faces on the global stage. Finally, the third part of the thesis explores the EU's specific diplomatic functions across several dimensions. It examines the historical evolution of the Treaty of the European Union and its impact on the Union's diplomatic capabilities. Additionally, it analyses the relations between European member states and the United States, as well as the dynamics of trade and commercial engagements between the EU and its international partners. By combining an in-depth analysis of EU diplomatic practices with an understanding of international relations theories, this thesis aims to provide a comprehensive overview of how the EU navigates the complex global landscape and how it utilizes diplomacy as a tool to promote its interests and values on the international stage.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Global Engagement.

TURKISH ABSTRACT

Tez Adı : Uluslararası İlişkiler Teorileri Işığında Avrupa Birliği Diplomasisi ve Dış İlişkileri
Tezin Yazarı : Abdiwasseh Rachid DJAMA
Danışman : Asst. Prof. Dr. Şuayip TURAN
Anabilim Dalı : Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler
Tez Türü :Yüksek Lisans
Tarih : 24.10.2024

Bu tez, Avrupa Birliği'nin (AB) diplomasisi ve dış ilişkiler alanındaki karmaşık dinamiklerini uluslararası ilişkiler teorilerinin perspektifinden incelemektedir. Üç ayrı bölüme ayrılan çalışma, AB'nin diplomatik kurumlarını, yapılarını, karar alma süreçlerini ve Birliği uluslararası sahnede temsil etme rolünü aydınlatan bir analizle başlamaktadır. Bu ilk bölüm ayrıca AB'nin dış politika alanında özerk bir şekilde hareket etme yeteneği açısından özellikle son dönemlerdeki diplomatik uygulamalarındaki gelişmeleri de incelemektedir. Tezin ikinci bölümü, uluslararası ilişkilerin temel teorilerine odaklanmakta ve Avrupa diplomasisini anlama açısından bu teorilerin önemini vurgulamaktadır. Gerçekçi, liberal ve yapısalcı bakış açılarını inceleyerek, çalışma AB'nin diplomatik eylemlerinin temelinde yatan motivasyonları ve stratejileri, ayrıca küresel sahnede karşılaştığı zorlukları ve fırsatları aydınlatmayı amaçlamaktadır. Son olarak, tezin üçüncü bölümü AB'nin çeşitli boyutlarda özel diplomatik fonksiyonlarını keşfetmektedir. Avrupa Birliği Anlaşması'nın tarihsel evrimini ve Birlik'in diplomatik kapasitelerine olan etkisini incelemekte, ayrıca Avrupa üye devletleri ile ABD arasındaki ilişkileri ve AB ile uluslararası ortakları arasındaki ticaret ve ticari ilişkilerin dinamiklerini analiz etmektedir. AB'nin diplomatik uygulamalarının derinlemesine analizi ile uluslararası ilişkiler teorilerinin anlayışı birleştirilerek, bu tez AB'nin karmaşık küresel manzara üzerinde nasıl gezindiğini ve diplomatik aracı olarak nasıl kendi çıkarlarını ve değerlerini uluslararası sahnede tanıttığını kapsamlı bir şekilde ortaya koymayı amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Diplomasisi, Dış Politika, Küresel Etkileşim.

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Association Agreement
ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific
ACTA	Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement
AU	African Union
CAI	Comprehensive Agreement on Investment
CAI	Comprehensive Agreement on Investment
CETA	Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CJEC	Court of Justice of the European Communities
COE	Council of Europe
CSDP	Common Security and Defense Policy
EC	European Commission
ECJ	European Court of Justice
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDF	European Defence Fund
EEAS	European External Action Service
EEC	European Economic Community
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EP	European Parliament
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
JEFTA	Japan-European Union Free Trade Agreement
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market (Mercado Común del Sur)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OEEC	Organisation for European Economic Co-operation

PESCO	Permanent Structured Cooperation
R.T.	Republic of Turkey
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
TAFTA	Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TCA	Trade and Cooperation Agreement
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USA	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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1. INTRODUCTION

The European Union has emerged as one of the most influential players on the international stage. With its unique blend of economic, political, and social integration, The E.U has become an attractive model for countries seeking to enhance their international standing. As a result, The E.U has developed an extensive external relations policy aimed at promoting its values and interests around the world.

In this study, the EU's diplomacy and external relations will be explored through the lens of international relations theories. The EU's diplomacy and external relations are based on a combination of soft power, economic incentives, sanctions, and a commitment to shared values and norms. These policies reflect various theoretical perspectives in international relations, including realism, liberalism, and constructivism. Overall, the EU's diplomatic efforts have allowed it to expand its influence globally, promote its values and interests, and contribute to global governance and international cooperation.

The diplomacy and external relations of the European Union are a crucial part of its foreign policy. These efforts are guided by common principles that enable EU member states to work together and assert their collective perspective on the international stage. Established in 1951 the European Union has made significant strides in diplomacy and external relations. It has progressively developed and gained recognition for its ability to conduct trade negotiations, promote multilateralism due to its economic weight, and act coherently and effectively in the international arena. However, the theories of international relations and their fundamental principles are the central subjects and at the heart of the diplomatic practices and strategies and external relations of the European Union. This concretely amounts to communitarianism, realism and liberalism which, above all, are fundamental principles of the theory of international relations and which subsequently guide and lead the diplomacy of the European Union and their applications to external relations.

This thesis aims to review the analysis on the theme of the European diplomatic role and functions. From this perspective, the analyses will address the engine that makes the European Union function, which are the European treaties, with the aim of demonstrating that in order to function the union would need rules which describe the role and organization of the European institutions, such as the commission, the parliament or the European council. Then, before taking the last step which would consist of commercial commitments, it would be important to take an interest in the bilateral relations of the European Union and its Member States and its relations with the United States which would ensure a part in raising the obstacles, the points to be established and the necessary information.

The changing political dynamics in the Middle East highlight the shortcomings of diplomacy when it comes to addressing pressing concerns related to human rights and international law. This scenario shows how diplomatic endeavours are finding it harder to support rights human rights while also managing relationships between states. Furthermore, modern diplomatic methods frequently fail to adhere to the core values upon which they were established. News reporting on these issues often lacks impartiality, leading to a biased representation of conflicting perspectives, thus adding complexity to the pursuit of successful diplomacy.

In today's world of diplomacy, we often see a shift away, from the core values it was built upon. Fairness and impartiality are no longer the focus as they should be initially perceived to be at the heart of it all. What stands out is how the media shapes our view of events. Often displaying a bias, that fails to offer a rounded perspective representing all sides involved in conflicts. This kind of reporting items damage the credibility of missions and fuels doubts surrounding global discussions more and more. As a result of these trends in media coverage and diplomatic practices diverging from their principles concerns, about fairness and impartiality are gaining momentum. As trust diminishes over time in relations it becomes harder to tackle global issues impartially and justly for achieving significant resolutions.

Today's Israeli-Palestinian conflict has shown once again, after the Covid 19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, proof of the failure of global diplomacy as many Western countries, including the leading power world, the United States blindly supports and defends the Israeli offensive while forgetting that the same right applies

to the Palestinian population, whose dead, wounded and displaced from the war exceed millions. A diplomatic division that defends only one side often fails to recognize the collateral damage affecting vulnerable societies. Consequently, it is commonly said that the party at war, that is say the Palestinian far-right party, uses civil society, children and women in the majority as a defence shield to justify their attack which affects places like hospitals, study centres, telecommunications centres and camps of refugees where people flee to take shelter from air attacks which target everyone for no reason, this explains why our humanitarian collective has failed, humanity has lost its value and this has had considerable consequences without respecting the rights of international organizations, which, for their part, have not played their role of defender and action, which emphasizes the commitment of international rights to each other.

In this context, this war has given rise to rivalries between countries which react severely in the region of the strategic plan by suffering losses and damages, for example Yemen announced that it would be blocked from the Red Sea and that any ship would not pass there. “Yemen's Houthi rebels have escalated attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea during the Israel-Hamas war, raising concerns about the impact on the flow of oil, grain and consumer goods through a major global trade artery” (VOA News, 2023). Neither support nor arming should intervene to access Israeli territories. On the other hand, to defend their ship, the United States and the United Kingdom bombed Yemeni cities to demonstrate their strength in order to protect their services from the Red Sea blockade and avoid losing millions of dollars in services and support for Israel. Yemeni Houthi rebels, for their part, have already destroyed and fired missiles at US and other ships supporting Israel, and they have threatened to sabotage critical infrastructure, specifically to cut the underground Red Sea fibre optic cable if the US and UK United launch another attack on Yemeni airports. This appears to be a significant threat because this cable is the lifeline of the communications route connecting Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Because of their severity, these cables pose a serious threat. More than 99% of the world's international Internet traffic and more than 80% of international telephone communications traffic travel over submarine fibre optic cables. (The Guardian, 2024) As a result, the diplomatic system has significantly lost its national and international values. If the international scene fairly defended the rights of the

opposing camps, many companies would not have lost millions of goods and services, others would not have the anguish of losing even more and doing business which consists otherwise into a system of exchanges between countries of the world. Many news outlets have been pointing out a decline, in the framework, on both national and global scales lately. This decrease has led to a situation where if the world had taken action to safeguard the rights of all parties numerous companies could have sidestepped significant financial setbacks in their products and services. Now these businesses are grappling with uncertainties that are influencing commerce and international connections. (Al Jazeera, 2024)

Mismanagement of the structure could potentially weaken the rights of individuals and nations alike while a well implemented foreign policy has the potential to improve worldwide relations and foster greater international collaboration and understanding. In contrast, to this outcome is the risk that mishandling affairs may jeopardize a country's sovereignty and stability while also deepening rifts, between nations and diminishing their collective global impact.

1.1. The Significance of Study

This research uses qualitative and inductive methods in studying the analysis of diplomatic and external relationships within the European Union (EU). The selected research philosophy, "Interpretivism," allows for examination of various contexts that impact on European diplomacy, but also highlights subjectivities of actors involved. This is important in understanding complex international relations as well as establishing EU's diplomatic strategies through a deep interpretation of collected data.

The main method of data collection was document analysis which involved scrutinizing European treaties, official reports, political speeches, and relevant academic publications. Through this approach, it becomes possible to understand how realist theories in International relations such as realism, liberalism and constructivism Institutionalism, and Critical Theory are reflected in EU's diplomacy.

Moreover, by considering the time dimension this research will trace the development of EU foreign policy over long period thus showing an overview on the new trends plus changeable dynamics relating to European diplomacy. In the research action plan, this study will use the "grounded theory" strategy to build up

theories from the data. Grounded theory is a method of research that enables theories to arise from the data itself of beginning with a predetermined hypothesis. This deductive approach is especially useful, in fields characterized by dynamics that are not readily explicable, by current theories. In grounded theory methodology the researcher gathers data and consistently examines it by coding to identify recurring themes, patterns and categories. As we gather data over time, work through it gradually. The codes we start with evolve into categories. From these categories emerges a theory that's firmly rooted, in the actual empirical data (Glaser & Strauss 1967).

Grounded theory serves as a foundation, in this thesis to comprehend the diplomacy and external relations of the European Union effectively. Grounded theory helps in spotting patterns and hidden themes in EU treaties, policy documents, diplomatic speeches, and reports to shed light on the reasons behind the EU's actions in relations. This approach proves valuable for this study as it allows for an insight into the changing role of the EU, on the world platform while avoiding limitations imposed by existing frameworks. The research makes sure that the results are closely linked to how the EU operates in real life situations and provides perspectives into its approaches.

Analysing data to identify concepts is known as coding, the process of coding involves the refining and connecting of these concepts and in coding technique is used to establish a core category from which a theory is derived. By using grounded theory in this study we aim to uncover perspectives that shed light on the European Union's diplomatic interactions providing a more dynamic and contextually aware viewpoint, on its international relations (Glaser & Strauss 1967).

Realism plays a role, in analysing the EU's relations by focusing on power and national interests as key factors to consider. When observing how member states prioritize their interests during discussions particularly concerning topics like energy security and relations with Russia, it is clear that there is an ongoing competition for power within the EU structure. The concept of realism helps shed light on why certain member states may deviate from the Union's shared objectives to protect their security and strategic concerns (Waltz's work, in 1979). On the other hand liberalism highlights the EU's role in promoting cooperation. The EU's diplomatic strategy is

based on institutionalism aiming for peace, stability and economic interdependence. By utilizing frameworks such, as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and engaging in pacts, like CETA and the EU Japan Economic Partnership Agreement the EU demonstrates how nations can collaborate to advance shared objectives like fostering democracy and advocating for rights (Keohane & Nye 1977).

Constructivism emphasizes how norms and values influence the European Union's dealings, with countries beyond its borders. The EU has always positioned itself as a champion of ideals like democracy and environmental sustainability. Looking through a lens helps us grasp how the EU's sense of self influences its interactions with nations; for instance, its active role in climate diplomacy and its efforts to advance human rights on a global scale through initiatives, like the European Green Deal (Wendt, 1999).

Institutionalism explores into how the governing bodies of the European Union, like the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) work through organized systems. The EU enhances coordination among its member states. Enhances its worldwide influence by incorporating its policies into these frameworks. This strategy showcases how the European Union institutions support the process of discussing trade deals and involvement, in governance projects. This enables the Union to have an influence, in matters (Keohane 1984).

Analysing through a lens reveals insights, into how the EU's international engagements influenced by power dynamics and economic motivations when engaging with the Global South regions like Africa and the Caribbean as well as the Pacific islands. One example is how some view the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) agreements between the EU and African Pacific countries; they are criticized for reinforcing economic reliance instead of fostering autonomy. By applying Critical Theory to examine these agreements it sheds light on discrepancies between the EU's proclaimed values of democracy and equity versus the disparities, in its trade and development strategies (Cox, 1981).

The grounded theory method enables a practical examination of the tactics employed by the EU. With the changing landscape of the EU's engagements, in light of various challenges including geopolitical disputes and environmental issues employing the

grounded theory technique becomes essential for extracting practical knowledge from agreements, official papers and political exchanges. This adaptable and observational method guarantees that the study maintains its relevance to developments and patterns, in diplomacy. This research enables an examination of the significant resources providing a deeper understanding of the intricacies of EU foreign relations. This approach allows for the retrieval of data by focusing on resources and information rather than depending on chance. It guarantees that the examination is carried out using sources. Although time constraints and data analysis difficulties may pose challenges this approach facilitates an investigation of EU activities, in an assorted and evolving global landscape. The importance of this study stems from its capacity to apply international relations theories to an evaluation of the EU's diplomatic tactics presenting new viewpoints on the Union's role, in worldwide governance. These viewpoints include a better understanding of how the EU navigates power dynamics with global players (from a realism standpoint), its initiatives to promote cooperation and multilateralism (rooted in liberalism), and the consequences of its identity and normative impact on its standing (derived from constructivism). Institutionalism offers understanding on how EU structures like the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) facilitate organized cooperation among member states and international partners. This setup aids the EU in addressing coordination obstacles and maintaining stability. Critical Theory examines how the EU contributes to inequalities by critiquing trade agreements like the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that can deepen reliance in developing areas. Critical Theory recognizes that the EU also has the capacity to support fairness and sustainable progress through its backing of multilateralism and environmental efforts. By using grounded theory in research, this study framework provides insights into the evolving nature of EU policies, enhancing our understanding in fields such as relations and political science.

1.2. Research Question

- Does the power of the European Union perform the good performance of external network within the framework of the theory of international relations?

The methodology can be summarized as being the overall research strategy, which says different from the methods which on their part are the different procedures of analysis and data collection such as experiments, field observations or statistical surveys. Briefly in this part, the objectives of studies and research will focus on answering the research questions which are at the base of the beginning of writing and the door of the writing of the chosen theme, and moreover with my conception of research, this study intend to carry out academic research to accomplish and to properly structure the different chapters during the writing.

1.3. Literature Review

The creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) established in 1951 and followed by the formation of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957, marked the phase of European progress centred on economic ties to prevent future conflicts. This time is critical in grasping how European diplomacy was shaped by a shared aim for cooperation and a progressive perspective on global relations. According to Keohane and Nye (1977) the liberal ideology champions the belief that fostering collaboration and interdependence serves to lessen tensions and promote harmony. European diplomacy strives to promote values and maintain stability in international relations, across Europe. (Keohane and Nye, 1977)

In the 1970s, the creation of the member countries of the European Political Cooperation (EPC) initiated efforts to strategically align their policies, a crucial transition from focusing solely on economic integration to promoting political synergy among them, an aspect which is of importance in the discourse on institutionalism in this area. Thesis context as described by Keohane (1984). This particular methodology involves the creation of entities and structures that oversee and strengthen collaboration between states. Before the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the CPE laid the foundations for institutional diplomacy by showing how EU institutions foster collaborative decision-making in foreign affairs (Keohane, 1984). The end of the Cold War and the creation of the European Union (EU), along with the CFSP established by the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 were milestones in history's timeline. The EU currently functions as a platform for its member countries to express their influence on a scale. This study explores how realism theory views the EU's strategy in dealing with evolving security issues such

as crises as chances to protect its interests and maintain stability in its vicinity (Hyde Price, 2006). This practical method highlights the importance of addressing security issues while respecting the autonomy of countries. (Hyde-Price, 2006)

The implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009 paved the way for the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the appointment of a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy within the EU framework, a development highlighted in this thesis to showcase the EU's evolving role as a diplomatic entity with enhanced global influence. According to constructivist theory articulated by Wendt (1999), the EU shapes its identity as a "power," advocating values such as democracy and human rights to assert its influence internationally. This instance also illustrates the efforts of the EU to expand its presence by shaping standards such as the realms of environmental diplomacy and human rights promotion. These efforts show that the EU is not only seeking to lead by example, but also to shape global standards in crucial areas. For example, in the field of environmental diplomacy, the EU's leadership in climate agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, demonstrates its ability to set international standards. Similarly, in the field of promoting human rights, the EU uses its foreign policy tools, such as trade agreements and development aid, to defend democratic principles and fundamental freedoms. These initiatives underline how the EU positions itself as a global standard-setter, reinforcing its identity as a unique and values-driven international actor (Wendt, 1999). Since 2010 and until today, the EU has faced challenges such as the migrant crisis, Brexit, tensions with Russia and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. These events have caused the EU to reassess and strengthen its efforts. There is a perspective proposed by Cox (1981) that suggests that the EU's economic partnerships and assistance initiatives towards Africa and other countries may inadvertently foster dependency relationships, this ties in with this thesis as it explores the challenges of diplomacy. Despite the EU's commitment to cooperation and fairness, it often addresses economic and geopolitical objectives (Cox, 1981).

The evolution of European Union diplomacy from 1951 today demonstrates a strategic progression from simple economic integration to a global diplomatic force. This literature review, based on academic sources and depending on each historical

phase to current dynamics, will allow us to present an in-depth and complete analysis of the diplomatic functions of the EU in this thesis.

Diplomatic activities within Europe took on a formal and structured dimension with the formation of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957. This shift marked the inception of diplomacy that has continued to develop within the confines of the European Union (EU). Subsequently the EU has embraced an approach to diplomacy by harmonizing the policies of its member nations through mechanisms such, as the European Political Cooperation (EPC) during the 1970s and later on with the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) (Găinar, 2013). The groundwork, for what became the European External Action Service (EEAS) was established by these mechanisms in 2010. The EEAS now stands as the EU's body (Adler-Nissen 2015).

Various international relations theories, like realism and liberalism, offer perspectives on EU relations and can aid in understanding the development of EU diplomacy over time. Realism theory offers a perspective to analyse the power dynamics within the EU and its relationships with players. The focus is on the interests of member states in areas such as energy security and dealings with Russia. There are instances where national agendas take precedence over the goals of the EU (Hyde Price 2006). Liberalism highlights the EU's commitment to promoting multilateralism and cooperation through institutions like the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) as well as global pacts such as the CETA and the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. This ideology is in line with the EU's emphasis on interconnectedness and efforts towards promoting peace (Keohane & Nye 1977). Constructivism delves into the impact of the EU's identity and values, like democracy and environmental sustainability, on its endeavours. The EU's active role in climate diplomacy and promotion of rights through initiatives such as the European Green Deal exemplifies how norms play a role in shaping its interactions with other countries (Wendt, 1999). Institutionalism involves the examination of how EU entities such as the EEAS and the CFSP work towards fostering policy coordination among member states by integrating their approaches into institutional systems. This approach enables the EU to strengthen its impact and improve its effectiveness in governance endeavours and trade talks (Keohane 1984). The concept

of critical theory involves examining the EU's interactions with countries such as Africa and the Caribbean through trade deals like Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). It questions whether these agreements actually encourage development or simply perpetuate reliance on the EU. This perspective highlights the discrepancies between the EU's declared principles. How they are put into practice in its external dealings (Cox, 1981).

The establishment of a diplomatic framework was strengthened with the creation of the EEAS in 2010. This body acts as the diplomatic representative of the EU on the global stage by harmonizing the foreign policies of its member states to present a unified position in matters of international governance (Adler-Nissen, 2015). Additionally, the 2007 Treaty of Lisbon had the effect of strengthening the EU's capabilities by establishing the roles of President of the European Council and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. A crucial element in shaping the direction of EU foreign policy Today's diplomacy faces challenges Leaders and decision-makers within bodies such as the EU face obstacles in achieving their goals due to media disruptions affecting politics and pressing public expectations. The duties of diplomats are evolving as they focus more on how they “Events are seen by the public and mediated beyond the events themselves (Védrine, 2006). European diplomacy remains influential in governance by balancing the interests of member countries in an increasingly interconnected world (Rückers, 2011).

The development of diplomacy, from its post-Napoleonic Wars stages to its creation through structures such as the EEAS and CFSP, demonstrates the EU's determination to actively participate in global governance affairs. This literature review delves into theories of international relations to provide insight into how the EU manages its external affairs and addresses global issues while defending its principles, on a global platform.

The division of publications on diplomacy and diplomats since the 1990s should not obscure the prolonged indifference to a subject that has acquired certain obsolescence. The new era marked by the fall of the Berlin Wall witnessed the persistence of other models bearing negative views of diplomacy as an activity "in crisis" or "in decline." Meanwhile, diplomatic history has become a discipline within

historical research that imposes an outdated image, mirrored in the history of diplomacy itself.

Political scientists have described the diplomatic history of Anglo-Saxon countries as an understanding of the roles of "woodcuts and water shots." Moreover, in another sense, French historians have avoided it more than in other countries, seemingly fearing, more or less intentionally, a new assimilation to a diplomatic historical background from which Pierre Renouvin, the founding father of international relations history, had sought to break free (Badel and Jeannesson, 2014, pp. 6–26).

In the 1970s European Political Cooperation (EPC) had an impact, on the development of integration and the political direction of the European Union by laying the foundation for the EU's evolution into a political union and promoting collaboration among member states on foreign policy issues. This was a move, towards political unity and supported the overarching aim of European integration and the creation of a unified foreign policy strategy (Găinar, 2013, pp. 91–105).

The European Union has always valued the practice of international relations diplomacy. In the 1990s, it achieved significant progress in this area and developed unparalleled skills compared to its earlier efforts (Lastennet, 2021). While the procedures of European integration are often regarded as having had a limited impact on European foreign, security, and military policy compared to other areas, it is undeniable that European collaboration in foreign policy has a long history (Bicchi and Bremberg, 2016, p. 397).

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is responsible for the foreign and security policy of the European Union and for its diplomatic relations. It enhances the effectiveness of EU foreign policy and contributes to Europe's influence on the global stage (EEAS, 2011). Due to the dramatic consequences of the European Union's financial crisis, an agreement to guarantee the stability of the Eurozone was put in place during the summits of heads of state on October 12, 2008, and May 6, 2010. These measures aimed to demonstrate the European Union's unity and collective voice. The Eurozone, like the United States and China, has already demonstrated its economic weight and declared its values concerning major global balances.

At the outset, the European Union engaged in the great debate on strengthening economic governance. *"The various proposals made in this context are in line with the G20 objectives of global coordination of the economy and the pursuit of stronger and more balanced growth. European economic diplomacy within the G20 can only be truly effective and credible if the EU materializes this new economic governance, which combines strong coordination of economic and financial policies—at least at the Eurozone level—with the adoption of a European growth strategy"* (Plagnol, 2011, pp. 1-2).

The internal European dimension is determined and adjusted through various forms. Moreover, the processes of European integration and foreign policy serve as alternatives to traditional bilateral diplomacy between EU member states. The European Union, as an actor in European diplomacy, values the integration processes of the EU. Common European policies on domestic and foreign issues encompass the environment, peacekeeping in other regions, and agriculture. Mutual opportunities and relations between member states represent the best examples of solidarity, ensuring mutual control and the management or resolution of conflicts (Keukeleire, 2003).

The European External Action Service (EEAS) stands as a unique entity within the institutional framework of the European Union. Unlike traditional EU agencies, Directorate-Generals of the European Commission or fully autonomous bodies like the European Central Bank, the EEAS functions as a distinct diplomatic apparatus. Its primary role is to support the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, facilitating the coordination and implementation of the EU's foreign and security policies. This unique structure enables the EEAS to act as a cohesive force in the representation of EU interests globally, bridging the diverse diplomatic, security, and political dimensions essential to the EU's international presence.

However, most observers agree on its fundamentals: officially established in the summer of 2010, the EEAS is the EU's first common diplomatic entity. It assists the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in implementing the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It has delegates around the world who represent the EU as a whole, working on behalf of European citizens. The EEAS is undoubtedly one of the most important EU innovations since the adoption of the

Euro with the European Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999 (Adler-Nissen, 2015, pp. 17–40).

In today's world of diplomacy policymakers are facing obstacles, including ours, find it increasingly difficult to serve well-defined, long-term objectives methodically and effectively. Diplomacy is now more vulnerable than ever to domestic political unrest, exacerbated by the media age, emotional reactions, and short-term behaviours. Diplomats are increasingly subject to the demands of communication, marketing, and ratings, leading to diplomatic announcements driven by the need to maintain public favour rather than addressing events themselves. There are exceptions, and in foreign policy, many experts continue to work diligently, though they often go unnoticed, receiving indifference or incomprehension (Védrine, 2006, pp. 65–70).

European diplomacy and multilateral diplomacy share similarities, particularly during the first enlargement of the European Union (then the European Communities) in the 1970s, marked by the UK's entry in 1973 (Rücker, 2011, pp.109–124). Despite the fact that a distinct European diplomatic activity was established with the creation of the EEAS in 2011, European Union diplomacy dates back to the European Economic Community formed by the Treaties of Rome in 1957. However, the EEAS was not the only innovation facilitated by the 2017 Lisbon Treaty; it also created the roles of President of the European Council and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Crombois and Elagina, 2018, pp.133–140).

1.4. External Relations of the European Union

The European Community has had specific policies for emerging countries, many of which were historically European colonies, since 1957. However, neither the Central and South American policies, the Lomé Convention for African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations, nor subsequent policies for Mediterranean States represent a cohesive Europe. Thus, the European Union and the Global South are now focusing on the potential for a unified European foreign policy. While Europe maintains a complex network of external contacts, it still lacks a unified foreign strategy. Regarding overcoming the image of the EU as a political dwarf, its role as an advocate or partner of the emerging South offers significant potential (Lister, 1997).

One of the EU's key objectives is to establish its identity on a global scale. However, this is a challenging task due to the extensive resources and workforce required to achieve this goal. The external relations of the European Community (EC), the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and the external dimension of Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (PJCCM), alongside the external relations of its Member States, contribute to the rise of EU activities as outlined in the Treaty on European Union. Maintaining the coherence of this complex external action has remained a major and recurring challenge throughout the history of the EU's external relations (Hillion, 2014).

In recent years, the nine governors of the European Community have sought to promote dialogue, coordination, and collective action in the field of external relations rather than support the process of community integration. However, much of this work has been procedural rather than substantive, and even moderate achievements have sometimes been overpraised to mask the lack of internal advancement. Moreover, each of the nine member countries emphasizes the importance of its bilateral contacts to promote and maintain its interests globally (Goodwin, 2009).

In times of uncertainty and crisis, the European Union has historically projected its identity, values, and *raison d'être* outward. Gender equality is a fundamental concept underpinning the EU's identity. Nonetheless, while gender equality is becoming more prominent in the EU's external discourse as it aspires to be a global leader in rights and equality, the internal challenges posed by crises represent significant impediments to future progress in this field (Wright and Guerrina, 2020).

The Lisbon Treaty emerged after a long gestation period, initially driven by ambitious goals that were eventually constrained by political limitations. One of the treaty's primary objectives was to increase cohesion in the EU's external actions by combining and implementing the various components of EU foreign policy. While the treaty's drafters aimed to achieve more coherence, efficiency, and continuity in external policy, success depends on the political will of the EU institutions and Member States. Despite the treaty's potential for significant advances in the EU's activities abroad, the text still contains untapped possibilities (Wouters and Ramopoulos, 2014).

Following several months of debate among the Member States and European institutions, the European External Action Service (EEAS) was established on July 26. The Treaty of Lisbon prioritizes the strengthening of the EU's external action, which is also one of its main objectives. This development is considered crucial for advancing European interests in a multipolar world challenged by global crises and threats. The EEAS is regarded as a balanced institutional compromise that strengthens budgetary control, and the European Parliament's policy on the EEAS is seen as a step forward. The EEAS's hybrid properties and regional partnerships allow it to develop a more strategic and harmonious foreign policy (Lanathoua, 2010, pp.1–11).

It is generally accepted that the golden age of diplomacy coincides with the Westphalian order, which organized the coordination of sovereign states and established the principles of international law, treaties, modes of representation, and agreements. In this sense, it is natural for a newly independent nation to seek diplomatic recognition upon entering the circle of sovereign states. This dynamic invariably includes the concept of sovereign equality, which underpins classical international law and governs diplomatic practice and protocol. The attempt to reconcile equality with the realities of varying statuses, talents, and desires has been a central challenge in diplomacy, characterized by centuries of hierarchy (Selal, 2021, pp. 200–202).

The Lisbon Treaty represents a turning point in European foreign policy. The function and powers of the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) are strengthened by the support of the European External Action Service (EEAS). However, the evolution of European foreign policies remains slow. If these recent changes give new impetus, they may also be seen as further evidence of the EU's inability to expand beyond the sovereignties of its Member States. Consequently, the current CFSP continues to rely heavily on individual Member States (Rittelmeyer and Saadi, 2010).

Competition policy is inherently contradictory, combining several types of interventions aimed at ensuring optimal market functioning. It also creates binding measures for companies while establishing a regulatory framework that offers predictability and transparency. Thus, competition policy can be seen as both an

instrument of economic democracy and a means of sustaining contemporary capitalism. This ambiguity, amplified by the term “competition policy,” results in a consensus around a policy that is rarely understood, requiring in-depth legal and economic knowledge (Denord, 2008, pp. 23–33).

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is currently in place. In 2007, it was promoted by the German Presidency, which worked closely with the European Commission (EC) on its implementation. However, uncertainties and differences of opinion regarding its political objectives remain, leaving the contours of the ENP still unclear (Lippert, 2008, pp. 39–50).

Many people viewed the goal of the Lisbon Treaty as strengthening the European Union’s position as a security player. However, less than 18 months after its ratification, the EU stood aside as France and the UK intervened militarily on the Union’s borders within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This reluctance to use the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) to address the worsening situation exemplified the EU’s hesitancy. The delayed decision (April 1, 2011) to authorize a military deployment to assist with humanitarian supplies in Libya seemed more an attempt to save face than a truly effective intervention (Menon, 2011, pp. 375–387).

In studying European foreign policy, one might ask, *“If you find it, please let us know!”* The “system of European external relations,” through which the Union and its Member States engage with the world, is an original yet complex arrangement combining national, Community, and intergovernmental policies across security, human rights, and economic domains. However, the concept of European foreign policy remains nebulous to the majority of European citizens, as it has not yet gained the necessary visibility for its undeniable existence (Irondelle and Petiteville, 2005, pp. 5–9).

The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on December 1, 2009, sparked several analyses of its potential consequences for the EU’s foreign and security policy and its impact on the international stage. As with every new treaty, it is wise to take a step back. Some analysts attribute the EU’s rise as a “major player in global governance” to the institutional changes in its external action mechanism with each new treaty (Petiteville, 2011, pp. 95–112).

2. DIPLOMACY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The member states of the European Union have proposed creating a European diplomatic service to enhance their influence and capacity to defend their common interests on the international stage. According to Argenson (2010), for the European diplomatic service to be effective on major international issues and promote the influence of the European Union, a common European foreign policy strategy with senior representatives is necessary. This strategy requires developing common positions within the Council to gain the trust of Member States and secure a solid mandate, which would establish the EU's credibility on the international stage (Argenson, 2010).

Lewis (2014) asserts that "The European Union (EU) as an international actor has always been the subject of numerous debates among internationalists, with legal formalism only attributing full status to States as subjects of international law, while recognizing international organizations (IOs) as having a functional personality limited to the exercise of their function." Scholars such as Okladnaya, Yakovyuk, and Dyadyk (2021) emphasize that the European Union's current diplomatic service is the result of a long process of formalizing and institutionalizing its foreign political bodies. The evolution of the EU's representational system shows that its diplomatic activities have expanded globally, and its contacts with the world have dynamically adapted to achieve its foreign policy goals (Lewis, 2014).

Over the years, the European Union has been recognized as a leading player on the international stage, with a central role in shaping influential foreign policies, driving strategic objectives, and promoting its ideals and vision beyond its borders. Christophe et al., (2023) argue in their book *International Relations and the European Union* that while the EU is now regularly studied as an international actor, it is important to establish the connection between the EU's role in regional and political development and its broader influence on international relations. The authors suggest that established concepts and theories in international relations must be integrated with comparative approaches and public policy studies that have shaped the study of the EU. In this way, the EU's development as a system of international relations can

be linked analytically to its political position in global processes and its role as a power on the international stage (Hill et al., 2023).

In this analysis, the authors illuminate the argument that the European Union occupies a unique position in international relations due to its political stance and power on the global stage. They advocate linking international relations concepts with diverse perspectives and policies to better understand the EU. This thesis focuses on the European Union's diplomacy and external relations, particularly in global policy, diplomatic functions, and commercial engagements.

European diplomacy has come away from its focus on individual countries to now engaging on various levels globally and digitally through bodies like the European Union (EU). Today's European diplomatic efforts reach beyond borders to influence not just relationships, between nations but also international security policies and technological regulations. In the past, European diplomacy focused primarily on nation states but with the creation of the European Union, particularly following the Treaty of Lisbon, European diplomacy has evolved towards a more organized and collaborative approach. The creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the promotion of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have solidified the roles of the EU. The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), in addition to solidifying the EU's strategy to manage affairs effectively, places the EU in a leading diplomatic role within global organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) (Keukeleire & Delreux, 2021).

At European borders are the EU's diplomatic efforts encompassed by its neighbourhood strategies such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) as well as programs such as the Eastern Partnership Initiative aimed at strengthening stability and democratic processes in countries neighbouring the EU region such as Eastern Europe and parts of North Africa and the Middle East. Through these frameworks and engagements with neighbouring countries, Europe seeks to exert influence in neighbouring regions by defending European values and standards and promoting stability initiatives. The European Union's diplomatic efforts in this area benefit both

security concerns and economic objectives while strengthening Europe's geopolitical influence in neighbouring regions.

The EU has established itself on the world stage as a defender of universal values such as democracy and human rights. Their diplomatic efforts are closely linked to these principles as they push for their acceptance through diplomatic and economic collaborations. Trade deals and aid programs are often used by Europe to advance rights and sustainable development in various regions of the world. The EU is seen as a leading figure on the global stage when it comes to promoting human rights and equality, while championing environmental conservation efforts.

As a global trading group, the EU wields considerable economic power and its economic negotiations are a key to shaping international trade rules and agreements. The EU's interactions with global nations like the United States, China and Russia, as well as growing economies in Africa, Latin America and Asia, highlight its significant participation in the management global economy. Europe's economic diplomacy is closely linked to its security concerns and extends its influence by aligning trade initiatives with geopolitical plans. In the era of the 21st century, diplomacy has significantly evolved into the digital world and the EU has accepted this change. Digital diplomacy involves the use of tools such as social media, websites and cyber diplomacy to promote diplomatic objectives. EU involvement in diplomacy includes interactions not only with countries but also with organizations outside of business and international networks. For example, European diplomats participate in public relations efforts using platforms such as Twitter to connect with audiences around the world and shape global conversations. The EU's role in cyber governance and its initiatives to combat disinformation show how digital diplomacy has broadened the horizons of European diplomacy by setting standards for data protection and digital rights on a global scale. Faced with global challenges over time and in particular during the crisis period of the COVID 19 pandemic which has highlighted the capacity of European diplomacy to adapt quickly and effectively when necessary using innovative methods such as “zoom diplomacy” for virtual meetings and negotiations to ensure the continuation of diplomatic engagements. Despite limitations on physical gatherings, the crisis has also pushed the EU to strengthen its autonomy in critical areas such as defence and cyber security, in

response to the changing global threat landscape. Furthermore, European diplomacy has focused more on building resilience at the national level and expanding its influence globally through security efforts and the formation of strategic alliances as a means of respond effectively to current and future threats (Hedling & Bremberg, 2021).

In today's world, where risks are evolving, such as cyberattacks and disinformation tactics, the efforts of European diplomacy represent obstacles to overcome. The EU has played a role in setting standards for cybersecurity measures and upholding democratic principles, while combating fake news emanating mainly from authoritarian governments. The EU plays a role in tackling issues such as fake news and cyberattacks targeting democratic institutions.

The European Union also plays a role in international climate negotiations by using its diplomatic power to promote more robust global efforts against climate change. With initiatives such as the European Green Deal and their active involvement in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, demonstrate their dedication to climate diplomacy. These efforts reflect the values of sustainability and environmental protection. Furthermore, the EU engages with its allies on the transition to renewable energy, the promotion of environmental sustainability and the conservation of biodiversity, thus highlighting the EU's prominent influence on environmental policymaking within the EU on a global scale. To summarize the situation succinctly; European diplomacy navigates areas such as regional affairs and global influence as well as the digital domain, covering a wide range of activities from traditional interstate relations to global governance to international organizations to economic diplomacy and the defence of universal principles and ideals. The scenario is reinforced by Europe's involvement in emergency management and cybersecurity efforts in digital communication, environmental management. European diplomacy is diverse and complex due to the multifaceted responsibilities of the European Union as a promoter of standards on a global scale. The continued evolution of this dynamic diplomatic approach ensures that European diplomacy remains an influencer in shaping international relations in the 21st century (Wouters, 2014).

2.1. Diplomatic Institutions of the European Union

The European Union (EU) is currently in the process of developing its own diplomatic structures, inspired by national diplomatic services. This initiative aims to clarify the EU's role as a diplomatic actor, yet its non-state status raises legitimacy concerns. For instance, uncertainties surrounding the status of EU delegation heads challenge diplomatic norms.

Following the adoption of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in 1992, the EU has sought to strengthen its global influence. The integration of officials from EU delegations into the Directorate-General for External Relations aims to produce competent European diplomats, but it raises concerns about the cohesion and effectiveness of EU diplomatic activities.

EU ideas challenge the old Westphalian state order by proposing two alternatives: a full state or an overhaul of the global diplomatic system to include non-state businesses. This sparks controversies over the prospects of diplomacy and relations between nations.

While the EU strives to establish itself as a significant diplomatic player, it faces both challenges and opportunities. Navigating a complex environment, the EU must balance member states' interests with its own diplomatic identity, necessitating careful analysis of political dynamics and geostrategic issues (Bátora, 2005).

The main diplomatic institutions of the European Union are the European External Action Service (EEAS), the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Parliament (EP), the European Council (COE) and the European Commission (EC). Their responsibilities include promoting peace, security and international collaboration. The crucial importance and diplomatic performance will now be discussed.

The European External Action Service stands out as a coherent diplomatic actor, positioning itself as the dominant form of European diplomacy. It was founded in 2010 to ensure the effectiveness of European foreign policy by coordinating a common foreign and security policy framework within the European Union. González (2014) points out that the Lisbon Treaty established the European External Action Service (EEAS) as an organization of the European Union in 2010. It is made

up of civilian servants and diplomats from Member States who collaborate closely with the EU's institutions and represent them globally. Within the current diplomatic landscape of Europe, the EEAS plays a crucial role in ensuring a unified approach to diplomacy. It oversees the European Union's diplomatic interactions with non-member nations and takes the lead in shaping the EU's foreign and security policies. The primary purpose of this entity is to ensure the coordination of the foreign policies of the 27 European States while also establishing a consolidated and cohesive diplomatic stance, even in relation to nations that are not members of the entity (González, 2014).

The European External Action Service (EEAS) plays a pivotal role in advancing the objectives of the European Union's foreign and security policy, support the EU High Representative in the implementation of EU foreign and security policy, supervise diplomatic relations and strategic alliances with third countries, to collaborate with the diplomatic services of the EU, the UN and other major powers and, ultimately, exercise significant European influence and contribute to the maintenance of peaceful global relations. Further contributing to global efforts for peace and security, the EEAS participates in civil and military missions in conflict zones. For example, it participates in peacekeeping discussions, promotes human rights, supports human conflict resolution, and strengthens international security.

The key responsibilities of the organization include the enhancement of credibility, the provision of assistance to the High Representative of the European Union in the execution of the Union's foreign and security policy, the management of diplomatic relations and strategic partnerships with third countries, the collaboration with the diplomatic services of EU countries, the United Nations, and other major powers, and the imposition of European influence on the international scene, as well as the promotion of stable international relations. The European External Action Service (EEAS) also participates in both civilian and military missions in crisis zones, thereby contributing to the promotion of peace and security on a global scale. For instance, it encourages the peaceful resolution of conflicts, works to build international security, advocates for human rights, and participates in talks over peacekeeping.

Seminatore (2012) argues the European External Action Service is structured to carry out a central and efficient decision-making process that is armed with a credible capability for military action. Its goal is to create a balanced link between the foreign, security, and defence policies of the Member States of the Union. It refers to the synchronization of the foreign policies of the European Union Member States and their portrayal on the global stage. Therefore, it serves as a means to uphold the objectives of a core strategy aimed at combating instability and uprisings worldwide.

These examples clearly show how the EEAS actively participates in international conversations with the goal of advancing global commerce, fostering sustainable development, and addressing climate change. Upon reviewing these explanations and analyses, it becomes evident that the European Union plays a crucial role in the foreign policy of its member states. It achieves this by unifying their positions, promoting peace and security, engaging in international negotiations, and defending the shared values of EU states. Consequently, the EU emerges as a significant diplomatic actor, whose importance lies in its potential to contribute to a fair and peaceful global order. In light of the constraints of diplomatic engagement and the ongoing crises in the Balkans, the European Union is recognizing its vulnerabilities and its incapacity to address the conflicts occurring on its border. This necessitates the collaboration of the United States and the participation of NATO. The necessity for European diplomacy became evident, prompting the Treaty of Maastricht to address the challenges surrounding the efficiency of the Union's foreign policy. It was at this point that the decision was made to establish a high representative for the union. The member states of the European Union developed a shared foreign and security policy with the goal of overcoming diplomatic challenges and enhancing the EU's global influence (Seminatore, 2012).

In his explanation, Feron (2013) states that the Treaty of Lisbon and the European Council established the creation of the Office of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy. The purpose of this position was to oversee the Union's collective foreign and security policy and to mediate policy development. Created through the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has played a crucial and irreplaceable role within the institution. This role involves being

a central figure that represents the unity and coherence of member states' foreign and security policy in modern European diplomacy. As a result, the High Representative is entrusted with important and complex tasks. These responsibilities include acting as the EU's representative in international affairs, leading discussions on behalf of the EU, harmonizing the positions of EU member states on foreign policy issues, researching an agreement and to promote the common objectives of the EU. Furthermore, the main responsibility of the High Representative is to implement EU foreign policy, provide guidance to the EU Council and work closely with the European External Action Service (EEAS) (Feron, 2013).

European parliament's hold a crucial role in the democratic structure of the European Union (EU) and have substantial sway in EU decision-making procedures. They serve as representatives of the population of each member state. Their roles involve the creation of laws, monitoring, and actively engaging in political activities inside the European Union. The European Parliament's history can be traced back to its inception as part of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1952, where it first served in an advisory capacity. Nevertheless, with the signing of the Treaties of Rome in 1957, which marked the establishment of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the assembly's powers were broadened, giving it the ability to make laws. The authority of the European Parliament has gradually increased throughout time. The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 granted Parliament the authority of co-decision in a wide range of policy areas. The Treaty of Lisbon in 2009 expanded the range of co-decision and strengthened the legislative power of Parliament (European Parliament, 2023).

The European Parliament exercises considerable power within the EU due to its diverse responsibilities, which include legislative, financial and oversight activities. MEPs, as legislators, play a crucial role in shaping European law in partnership with the Council of the EU. As guardians of citizens' interests, they supervise European institutions using a variety of methods, including written or oral requests, debates and parliamentary inquiries. Furthermore, they play a crucial role in the EU financial process, where they approve the annual EU budget together with the Council. While it functions as an elected body similar to the legislative institutions of nation states,

the European Parliament represents its citizens and has legislative power. Members of the legislative body of the European Union are elected every five years by direct universal suffrage. They have the power to legislate, manage the budget and supervise operations, highlighting its importance as the only directly elected legislative body of the European Union. The main responsibility of the institution is to adopt Union laws, make decisions on foreign agreements and expansions and examine legislative proposals presented by the European Commission.

The official website of the European Union (European Parliament, 2023) indicates that the Parliament, on the basis of the Council's opinion, decides whether or not to grant "budgetary discharge", that is to say the final approval of the execution of the budget for past years. The decision was taken by Parliament following an in-depth assessment carried out by its Committee on Budgetary Control of Finances and the Commission's activity report for the year concerned. The account also takes into account the annual report of the Court of Auditors and the Commission's responses to specific requests from MEPs. Parliament has the power to make recommendations to the Commission on the implementation of the budget. The historical evolution of the European Parliament illustrates its central position in the process of European integration, moving from an essentially consultative body to a vital legislative authority. Established in 1952 as the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the European Parliament has mainly played a consultative role. Nevertheless, a series of agreements, notably the Rome Accords (1957), the Maastricht Treaty (1992) and the Lisbon Treaty (2009), have gradually expanded its legislative powers.

Yordanova (2011) explains that the European Parliament has gained significant influence in the European Union over a very short period of time. This is primarily attributed to its function as a check on other EU institutions and its direct election by European voters. This remark accurately demonstrates the Parliament's increased authority, which has made it a significant participant in the decision-making process of the European Union. The legislative powers of the European Parliament have been expanded, allowing its members (Members of the European Parliament, MEPs) to actively participate in the creation of EU laws. The Parliament has the ability to co-legislate with the Council of the European Union on many topics, giving it

significant influence in shaping the political and legislative agenda of the Union. The expansion of legislative authority has played a vital role in enhancing the democratic credibility of the EU, granting European citizens direct participation in the legislative proceedings of the Union (Yordanova, 2011).

If requested by Parliament, the Commission will provide a report on the measures taken in response to these observations and criticisms. The procedure leads to approval, delay or denial of release. Parliament follows a similar process to authorize the financial records of other organizations, including its own administrative budget. Furthermore, as a supervisory entity, it has the power to exercise democratic control over all Union institutions. To put it simply; when the European Parliament gives its consent for the discharge process to continue after examining the financial files and reports of the Court of Auditors and the audits are completed; this essentially means that they have given their approval to the process of implementing the Union budget and highlights the importance of holding the European Commission and other EU institutions accountable for their financial practices. The commission investigates citizens' petitions, with the power to open investigations, and actively participates in monetary policy debates. Furthermore, the European Parliament plays an important role in the financial process by formulating the Union budget, working together with the Council and determining the long-term Union budget.

The European Parliament is made up of a number of deputies proportional to the population of each member state. These deputies adhere to the principle of degressive proportionality, according to which no state can have less than six nor more than ninety-six deputies, and the total number of deputies cannot exceed seven hundred and five. The president is the only member of the European Parliament who is affiliated based on his position, which suits him politically, rather than his nationality. This means that they group together according to their political affiliation. To top it all, the President, who is both responsible and representative of Parliament in terms of executive power, is the one who gives final approval to the proposed Union Budget. A legislative proposal, for example, can be approved or rejected by the European Parliament, or revisions can be proposed by the Parliament. Even though it agrees with the Council of the European Union on the adoption and control of the budget, the European Parliament continues to be an executive body

and has the final word on budget adoption and control because it is a directly elected institution. With all this significant weight of European construction, the European Parliament needed this influence thanks to the reforms of the Lisbon Treaty of 2009. These reforms gave the European Parliament greater importance, allowed it to have power to equality with the council of ministers. , and increased its influence among its members. Following his appointment as president of the European Commission, which gives him the power to accept or reject international agreements and the power to make financial decisions, he streamlines the system and commits to holding hearings on initiatives having collected the required number of signatures.

The European Council has its origins in the summit conferences bringing together the heads of state and government of the Member States of the Community. The inaugural summit was held in Paris in 1961, as V. Ledroit explains in his article entitled “Composition, functioning, president: everything you need to know about the European Council” (2023). At the European summit in Paris in February 1974, led by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, European leaders made the decision to meet more frequently. They then adopted the name “European Council”. The primary objective of this name change is to propose a global approach to the challenges of European integration and to promote the unity of community initiatives. The Single Act was created in 1986, confirming its existence and determining its composition (Ledroit, 2023).

The European Council was established as a European organization with the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007. The Court of Justice of the EU now has the power to consider appeals against the actions of the European Council, except those linked to the common foreign and security policy (CFSP). The European Council and the Council of the European Union are separate institutions with different missions and composition, despite their identical titles. The document establishes the political orientations and priorities of the European Union. It addresses complex issues that cannot be resolved through lower levels of intergovernmental collaboration. It also describes the common foreign and security policy and selects candidates for the presidency of the Central Bank of the European Union and the Commission. The organization in question is mainly responsible for coordinating European policy and adopting legislative texts. Its members are the

heads of state and government of each Member State of the European Union. Therefore, it plays an important role in determining and shaping the political direction of all sectors within the European Union. Additionally, he serves as a mediator, intervening to guide resolutions in times of crisis and settle disputes between member countries within the Council of Ministers (Ledroit, 2023).

The European Council has the power to take important political decisions concerning the development of Europe, such as the restructuring of treaties and institutions, the allocation of funds for the European budget, the enlargement of the European Union, positions on the world stage and economic orientations. Indeed, it is one of the seven main institutions and constitutes the pinnacle of political collaboration between the nations of the European Union. The European Council comprises the heads of state or government of all EU countries, as well as its president and the president of the European Commission. The board meets quarterly, with the option of holding additional meetings in the event of an emergency. Decisions are often made by consensus, sometimes unanimously or by qualified majority. The president, who exercises a mandate of two and a half years with the possibility of being re-elected once, has a crucial responsibility in representing the Union in its foreign affairs, like Charles Michel, who was chosen by heads of state and government in July 2019 for a term of two and a half years, has held this position since December 1, 2019. In March 2022, he was granted a second term. The first to occupy this role, since its creation, were the Pole Donald Tusk (2014-2017) and the Belgian Herman Van Rompuy (2010-2014). In addition, a public information service is available to respond to inquiries of a general nature on the functioning of the European Council.

It used to be that the leader of the government or state from the nation that was in charge of the Council of the European Union during its alternating presidency would also serve as President of the European Council. Nevertheless, the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty solidified the President of the European Council as a permanent and enduring post. The objective of this development was to establish a robust political authority for the European Union, with the purpose of ensuring consistent guidance for the actions of the European Council. The President is responsible for the management and supervision of the Council's activities, promoting unity and

agreement among the heads of state and government of EU member states, and representing the Union in diplomatic matters.

Apart, from handling duties from his role as President of the European Commission at gatherings also involves collaborating closely with the European Commission President in representing the Union on issues pertaining to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) alongside working in tandem with the Unions High Representative, for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The president is responsible for organizing European Council meetings twice a semester, as provided for in the Lisbon Treaty implemented in 2009. Before that, sessions took place twice a year. As stated by Ledroit (2023), the President has the power to convene extraordinary sessions of the Council. In addition, informal meetings take place in the country that currently holds the rotating leadership of the Council of the European Union. In March 2022, during the French Presidency of the Council, an informal meeting of EU heads of state and government took place in Versailles. The European Council generally takes its decisions by consensus, but some decisions, such as the election of its president, the appointment of the president of the European Commission, the high representative for foreign affairs and the president of the European Central Bank, require a majority qualified. The requirements of this majority are in accordance with the regulations of the Council of the European Union. It should be mentioned that the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission are excluded from participating in these votes. On certain occasions, a minister may accompany the head of state or government, just as a member of the Commission may accompany its president with the approval of the members of the European Council (Ledroit, 2023).

Daratos (2015, p.6) explains that the European Commission is a distinct institution that merges the characteristics of an executive body and an administrative organization. The institution is made up of a college of 28 commissioners, which constitutes its political branch. The management of administrative tasks is supervised by different directorates general (DG) and other administrative services. Each commissioner is responsible for supervising one or more directorates general (DG). During the period 2014 to 2019, the College of Commissioners was made up of several key positions. These positions included: President (Jean-Claude Juncker),

First Vice-President for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights (Frans Timmermans), High Representative of the Union for Business Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President - Commission President (Federica Mogherini), Vice-President for Budget and Human Resources (Kristalina Georgieva), Vice-President for the Digital Single Market (Andrus Ansip), Vice-President responsible for the Energy Union (Maroš Šefčovič), Vice-President responsible for the euro and social dialogue (Valdis Dombrovskis), Vice-President responsible for employment, growth, investment and Competitiveness (Jyrki Katainen), Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society (Günther Oettinger), Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (Johannes Hahn) and Commissioner for Trade (Cecilia Malmstrom) (Daratos, 2015).

The European Commission, established in 1958, is the primary institution of the European Union and has a pivotal position in shaping European legislation through the initiation of new legislative acts. It is the source of European rules and serves as the centre for decision-making. Furthermore, it functions as the executive branch and maintains political autonomy by guaranteeing the accurate implementation of European legislation throughout all member states of the European Union. In other words, it has the responsibility of formulating legislative suggestions and executing the resolutions made by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

German politician Ursula von der Leyen is, in charge of the Commission comprising 27 commissioners from Member States of the Union and plays a role in assigning tasks and organizing responsibilities within the leadership structure that includes the president and other officials overseeing portfolios such, as foreign affairs and security policy. The tasks of the Commission are overseen by professionals and specialists, in economics and other fields within directorates focusing uniquely in distinct areas of work (Daratos, 2015, pp. 6-8).

The commission operates autonomously from the Member States and plays a crucial and diverse role in the political and legal framework of the European Union. Its main goal is to advance the overall welfare of the European Union by suggesting legislative measures and safeguarding the collective interests of the Member States

and citizens. For instance, it is accountable for managing the budget and ensuring the enforcement of laws by monitoring their adherence. In case of any violations, it possesses the authority to impose fines. Another key feature of its function is to serve as the representative of all member states of the European Union on the global platform, namely in the domains of international commerce and humanitarian assistance. As there is no president in the European Union, the president of the European Commission fulfils the role of representing the union in international organizations. This is done by participating in important international summits and conveying the views of Europe. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy provides assistance in this endeavour.

The president sets the direction, for the Commissions activities and the vice presidents manage and organize tasks within their specific fields of knowledge. This involves setting a set of strategic goals to facilitate adaptable cooperation. In order to maintain a flexible and coordinated operation, the college establishes a list of priority projects. Furthermore, the commissioners assist the vice-presidents in presenting ideas to the college. Decisions are usually reached by consensus; however, they can alternatively be determined by a simple majority vote, with each commissioner having one vote. These recommendations are subsequently offered to the commissioners, who decide whether or not to approve them during their weekly sessions. After adoption, these measures get official status and are thereafter forwarded to the Council and the Parliament for the subsequent phase of the legislative process within the European institutions.

2.1.1. The Conduct and Practices of the European Union

The conduct and practices of the European Union are crucial to fostering collaboration, economic progress and political stability among its constituent nations. The European Union is controlled by a complex framework of treaties and regulations that shape its behaviour in several areas, including economic policy, foreign relations, the environment and human rights.

The European Union uses the idea of subsidiarity, which involves transferring certain authorities to lower levels of government when it is more efficient. This strategy ensures the distribution of decision-making power among many entities, while allowing the European Union to act as a coordinator and facilitator to resolve

common problems faced by Member States. The European Union also uses cooperation mechanisms between its member states, such as regular meetings of the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. These entities enable the establishment of shared policies, deliberation on strategic objectives and the making of collective choices. Additionally, the European Union promotes collaborations with global organizations and other entities to advance multilateral cooperation and resolve current global issues (European Union, 2021).

The European Union (EU) is guided by the ideals of safeguarding and promoting human rights, as well as respecting democratic values. The EU places significant emphasis on protecting the rights of minority groups, promoting gender parity, and combating all forms of bias and prejudice. These principles are integral to the EU's policies and activities, reinforcing its role as a global advocate for fundamental rights. In this context, they play a crucial role in fostering economic progress and ensuring political stability. These factors are essential in enhancing collaboration among Member States. Undoubtedly, the EU's economic policies, foreign relations, and human rights agenda are all shaped by existing treaties and regulations.

However, the concept of subsidiarity is more effective in delegating and directing specific responsibilities to lower levels of government, particularly in areas such as development decisions, power distribution, and problem-solving and coordinating Member States' actions. The procedures of the EU differ from the legislative meetings of the European Council, serving as a crucial tool for facilitating cooperation between Member States and promoting collective decision-making on strategic priorities to build shared policies. Furthermore, the EU continues to strengthen its collaboration with global actors and international organizations to enhance multilateral cooperation and address contemporary global challenges.

Human rights, democracy, and the rule of law are the cornerstones of the European Union's actions. These foundational elements establish the fundamental principles that guide policy decisions and strategic choices within the EU. Over time, the EU has evolved into an autonomous political entity with the authority to make laws, execute them, and administer justice. Despite the European Commission's leading role as the primary public administration at the European level, it has faced criticism for its lack of flexibility, opaque decision-making processes, and limited public

participation. While this has promoted engagement with interest groups, existing procedural mechanisms for stakeholders have been limited to informal lobbying.

The essential question to address is not merely how political stability can promote administrative efficiency, but how the relationship between these two elements shapes governance. Curtin and Mendes (2011) explain that the relationship between policymakers and the administration in the EU typically involves a hierarchical distinction between the political sphere and the subordinate administrative sphere. As a result, the administration is generally viewed as apolitical, primarily acting as an intermediary for implementing decisions made through parliamentary processes. The concept of representative democracy defines this interaction and sets the boundaries for determining the legitimacy of administrative actions.

The "legitimizing myth" of a purely hierarchical executive power was challenged long ago by the growing complexity of public action, revealing that such a structure is more theoretical than practical. The implementation of law is not merely the straightforward execution of parliamentary intent, particularly when decisions are made within intricate technical and social contexts. The concept of "political administration" reflects this dynamic, highlighting the tension between technical decisions rooted in expertise (administration) and those requiring the balancing of values (politics) (Curtin and Mendes, 2011).

In this context, there is a tradition of distinguishing between the political sphere and the subordinate administration. Despite this link, the classical view that the administration solely serves as a conduit for parliamentary normative decisions is increasingly addressed within the political system. The growing complexity of public action, the theoretical nature of a strictly hierarchical executive power, and the tension between technical expertise and political values complicate the application of law in the modern governance framework.

2.1.2. Evolution of the Discipline of International Relations

All current connections and exchanges between nations and states are referred to as international relations. These interactions may concern politics, economics, or trade. International relations refer to the interactions that take place between various nations of the world, as well as between international organizations and individual

countries. This encompasses many forms of collaboration, including trade, military, defense and security cooperation, as well as cultural and diplomatic interactions.

The discipline of international relations is influenced by economic interests, political opinions, historical links between countries, and cultural values. Players in international relations play a crucial role in the daily lives of people worldwide. These relations are overseen by governments and international organizations, which are responsible for fostering relationships between nations and international bodies. Among these players, there are national governments representing sovereign states, multinational corporations, international organizations, individuals, civil society, and the media? National governments play a significant role in expressing the interests of their nations and shaping their interactions with other countries based on those interests. International organizations, such as the European Union, the African Union (AU), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the United Nations, serve as platforms for deliberation and consensus-building on global matters.

Transnational corporations, which operate in multiple countries, have a substantial impact on the global economy and international trade dynamics. Their actions can modify economic and commercial interactions between states. Additionally, the media plays a central role in shaping public perceptions of world events, potentially influencing sentiments either positively or negatively. Individuals and civil society also play a crucial role in international relations as they have the power to elect governments and mobilize campaigns to support various causes.

Battistella (2009) notes that the international relations emerged as a distinct academic field after the First World War, with the establishment of dedicated departments, research centres, learned societies, and specialist publications. The first 'International Politics' post was established at the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth, funded by benefactor David Davies (Battistella, 2009, pp. 77-145).

In examining the rise of international relations theory, it is important to recognize the intrinsic complexity of its development, influenced by numerous historical, political, and social factors. Throughout history, international relations have shifted significantly, moving from imperial systems and hegemonic alliances to a new world order prioritizing the sovereignty of individual nation-states. This transformation is closely tied to the concept of spheres of influence, which have played a key role in

reflecting the competitions and aspirations of dominant nations while helping to establish the interactions and norms that govern international relations. Battistella (2009) highlights the importance of understanding the motivations and methods of international actors in their pursuit of national goals. An analysis of spheres of influence shows how these concepts were used to rationalize territorial expansion and political influence, emphasizing the complex nature of international dynamics and the need to account for the divergent interests of state actors to gain a comprehensive understanding of global issues (Battistella, 2009).

A nuanced perspective on spheres of influence, such as that presented by Hast 2014, expands our understanding by highlighting their potential role as mechanisms for maintaining international order and preventing major conflicts. This recognition of the diverse interpretations of this concept underscores the importance of considering the various dimensions of spheres of influence, as well as the historical and theoretical justifications that underpin them. Additionally, contributions from authors such as Ó Tuathail and Tsygankov enrich the critical reflection on geopolitics and foreign policy, offering diverse perspectives on global dynamics. Their works emphasize the importance of understanding the interests and influences of international actors when analysing interactions between states and addressing contemporary challenges.

Undoubtedly, the commitment to peace and collaboration among nations has been a vital factor in the advancement of international relations as a field. The pursuit of global peace and stability has prompted research and discussion on how nations can cooperate to resolve disputes and improve shared well-being, highlighting the enduring significance of this field in achieving global peace and cooperation. Thus, the development of international relations theory is the result of a complex process shaped by various factors. By engaging with the research of leading scholars, understanding of the complex dynamics underlying international relations can be deepened, guiding efforts toward fostering a more harmonious and cooperative global environment (Hast, 2014).

3. THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The European Union (EU) functioning as a body, in affairs focuses its foreign policy and external interactions through a sophisticated blend of influence factors including power dynamics, shared norms, established institutions and interactions with international players. Different theoretical viewpoints, in the realm of International Relations provide perspectives for comprehending the actions and relationships of the EU with worldwide participants. This section will examine five key theories in international relations: Realism, liberalism, constructivism, critical theory and institutionalism, and how they relate to the international aspects of the EU.

Through the analysis of these theories and their deconstruction process entails an understanding of the European Union's position in a world with multiple power centres and sheds light on the impact of both internal and external factors, on its diplomatic approaches and efforts to promote its values and standards worldwide. The various theoretical perspectives provide a means to conduct an examination of the EU's endeavours outside its borders by offering perspectives on both its achievements and constraints as a player, on the global stage. Scott et al., (2017) provide an in-depth examination of the various theoretical perspectives that form the foundation of international relations in their work on theories of international relations. They highlight the diverse theoretical perspectives that shape our understanding of interactions between state and non-state actors on a global scale. This diversity is essential as it reflects the lack of consensus on the best theoretical approach in international relations. A relevant citation from their work demonstrates the complexity of achieving a unified global theory in this domain. By encouraging engagement with these diverse perspectives, the authors advocate for a holistic approach to global issues. This approach allows analysts of international relations to develop a nuanced understanding of international dynamics and avoid potential biases associated with a single theoretical perspective.

Several prominent methodologies in the field of international relations theory offer diverse viewpoints on the characteristics of global interactions. Realism, one of the oldest methodologies, emphasizes the competition for power and security between nations in a chaotic global system. In contrast, Liberalism takes a more optimistic

view, advocating for cooperation, commerce, and international organizations to promote peace and economic well-being. Constructivism focuses on the importance of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping international reality, challenging conventional notions of power and security.

The integrating of these different approaches, analysts of international relations can better understand global issues and interpret the complex interactions that characterize the contemporary international system. The diversity of theoretical approaches thus provides a range of conceptual tools for interpreting challenges and opportunities in international relations (Burchill et al., 2017).

Understanding the nature of relations forms a crucial foundation, for various theories that help us make sense of how the world operates on a global scale. This thesis delves deeper into these concepts in Chapter 3 to offer an approach, to examining the principles of this field. As someone studying science and international relations the aim of this chapter is to offer a thoughtful analysis presenting insightful viewpoints, on the different ideologies that have influenced how we perceive global relationships whether it involves countries or organizations beyond government. This chapter will delve into problems, from angles with the goal of enhancing comprehension of the issues faced by today's global community.

3.1. The Realism and the European Union's Foreign Policy

Realism, as a theory of international relations, predominantly views states as rational actors seeking to maintain their power and security in an anarchic global environment. When applied to the European Union (EU), realism highlights how member states and external actors influence each other (Hyde-Price, 2006). In realist terms, the EU functions more like a collection of states rather than a unified entity encompassing all European countries. The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the EU is often analysed through the lens of these deeply rooted member state interests, particularly in cases of divergence, such as those between Germany and other countries. For instance, divergences over energy policies or relations with powers like Russia demonstrate that national interests can take precedence over common foreign and security policies (Smith, 2004). In this view, the EU lacks a strong central authority capable of effectively coordinating the foreign policies of its member states, which explains the limitations on the EU's role as a global actor.

International crises, such as tensions in the Middle East or Eastern Europe, further illustrate the difficulty of delivering unified responses on behalf of the EU, let alone influencing international developments. Internal fragmentation undermines the Union's ability to act cohesively and protect its strategic interests (Hyde-Price, 2006).

Realists also view competition with other great powers, like the United States or China, as being fundamentally about power and influence. To ensure its position on the international stage, the EU has attempted to balance its approach by developing military capabilities, creating strategic partnerships, and promoting free trade. However, these efforts are often frustrated by internal disagreements or limited resources (Rosamond, 2014).

Historically, realism refers to a broader literary trend that emerged in the late 19th century, emphasizing the examination of reality in its raw, unadulterated form. In international relations, realism is often described as an explanatory theory that seeks to understand the causes of events rather than influence their direction. Realism or strategic thinking centres on the inherent nature of humanity, positing that individuals are inherently self-interested and will go to great lengths to survive and protect their interests.

Realism holds that the state is the sole player in international relations and occupies a central position in asserting that international relations are primarily defined by interactions among states. The state serves as the custodian of national interests, and its actions are driven by rational self-interest. This perspective emerged during a time when power was considered the primary instrument of international relations, particularly in periods of extreme conflict, such as the French Revolution and World War II. Realists, reacting to the devastation of such events, emphasized the concept of "balance of power," arguing that peace can only be maintained through a balance between competing states (Jeangène, 2020).

Zarka (2020) highlights the importance of the state in international relations, emphasizing that conflict is an inherent aspect of these interactions. He suggests that international stability relies on a system of forces that balance each other effectively, a key tenet of realist thought. The realist movement views the state as the dominant

actor on the world stage, and international relations are shaped by the competitive dynamics between states striving to maximize their influence (Zarka, 2020).

Realism, by its very name, suggests an anti-utopian approach, focusing on the analysis of real-world constraints rather than idealistic aspirations. Realists understand that policies are influenced more by the distribution of power than by personal beliefs. Realism promotes maintaining a rational and objective perspective, acknowledging the world as it is rather than as it is idealized. The attitude of prudence, inherent in realist thinking, guides' diplomatic and strategic behaviour, considering the complexities of international politics, including passions, ideas, and the potential for violence. Realism was a dominant theory in the field of international relations from the 1930s through the end of the Cold War (Jeangène, 2020).

The author highlights that realism promotes moderation and directs diplomatic and strategic behaviour while raising awareness of the complexity of international relations and the forces that lie behind its ideologies, acts of violence, insanity, and passions. As per the author, this current exerted significant influence on the field of international relations and emerged as a crucial perspective during a pivotal era in history, spanning from the early 1930s until the conclusion of the Cold War. In 2020, Zarka argues that authors such as Thucydides, Machiavelli, and Hobbes, who wrote the renowned book *Leviathan* in 1651, supported a realistic view of international relations. These authors emphasized the chaotic nature and the tendency for conflict within international society. Emerging in the United States following the conclusion of the First World War, this perspective on international affairs represents the repudiation of the idealistic endeavour and the rejection of Wilsonian idealism. Within the realism movement, the oldest writers are Hans Morgenthau, Henry Kissinger, George Kennan, and Raymond Aron, who was the primary exponent of realist thought in France (Zarka, 2020).

It goes without saying that Marxism, its theoretical rival, rejected it. Marxism asserts that the world is determined by economic relations and is considered an alternative analysis. Sociology, awareness of social relations and economic determinism are what make a country realistic. The school of realism is therefore criticized for its inadequate study of non-state actors, who play an important role in international

affairs. Furthermore, it is criticized for its lack of adaptation to small and medium-sized nations.

Realism is a standing theory, in the field of relations that suggests the world operates without a central authority and states prioritize their own interests for survival and security purposes. Prominent realist thinkers like Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz highlight the significance of power dynamics and rivalry among states. Although not a nation state entity itself the European Union (EU) functions within a framework where power dynamics still play a role, in shaping its behaviours. From a standpoint, within the scope of European Union interests lies an examination of how the EU conducts business and engages with Russia and China through a lens. One illustration is how security issues and power dynamics greatly impact EU Russia relations. Despite advocating for principles like democracy and human rights the EUs reliance on energy resources – through ventures, like Nord Stream 2 pipeline highlights how practical interests can sometimes take precedence over ethical considerations (Smith 2004, p.67).

Realists maintain that finding a ground, between ideals and practical considerations is a defining characteristic of how global players conduct themselves. Despite expressing concerns, about Chinas human rights situation in Europe; it is interesting to note that when it comes to boosting interests with China through agreements like Comprehensive Agreement, on Investment (CAIN) practical considerations often take precedence over sticking strictly to ideological principles (Walt, 1979).

Realism highlights the increasing importance of the European Union, in security and defence regarding strength and security policies. The establishment of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) serves as an example of the EU acknowledging the importance of strength in affairs. Recent efforts such, as the EUs Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF) are geared towards bolstering the EUs capacities (Hyde-Price, 2006 pp.218-220). Realist scholars believe that these changes indicate that European Union is taking steps to enhance its independence in response, to challenges, like terrorism and Russian aggression (Buzan 2008).

Realism offers an insight into how the EU handles its relationships, outside its borders by highlighting interests and military strength as key factors to consider. The

EU often acts like a power in its affairs despite its talk of ideals and values. This Realist perspective is crucial for grasping how the EU operates on a scale and in its interactions with significant players such, as Russia and China (Smith 2004; 69; Waltz 1979; 115–120).

3.1.1. Liberalism and the European Union's Promotion of Cooperation

Liberalism is based on the defence of individual freedom, private property, peace and equality before the law. This means defending individual rights, individual liberty, and limiting the power of government. It appeared in response to the monarchical absolutisms of the time, defending private property, free enterprise and representative democracy. This political and economic approach was influenced, for example, by thinkers who helped consolidate the economic foundations of liberalism, by promoting economic laissez-faire, such as John Locke, Adam Smith and Jean-Baptiste Say.

This is really what Liberals believe, co-dependence, internationalism and the importance of collective institutions in preserving peace and prosperity. When applied to the case of the European Union, this theory can help us better assess diplomacy and external relations as part of what are essentially cooperative institutionalized processes (Smith, 2004). From a point of view the European Union is seen as a model of effective international collaboration where member countries willingly give up some of their sovereignty to accomplish common goals. European Union institutions (for example, the European Commission and the European Parliament) have a critically important function in developing as well as implementing externally consistent policies. These institutions all reinforce the coordination of member states and in combination, provide a governmental like image that help unite us for purposes on an international level (Lavenex and Schimmelfennig, 2011).

The EU's common commercial policy is a good demonstration of this approach: the Union simultaneously negotiates and concludes international trade deals on behalf, with one voice, in an effort to bolster free trade objectives as well as economic growth or global peace. The EU wants to be a shining light for economic cooperation and common standards, as evidenced in agreement projects like the Transatlantic

Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), or negotiations with developing countries (Smith, 2004).

In diplomacy, liberalism emphasizes the EU's promotion of human rights and democracy as well: The EU tries to promote these values and sustainable development along with good governance in the other regions of this globe, via its neighbourhood policy as well as affiliations with international organizations like United Nations etc. The sense of the EU as a credible actor who seeks to foster stability through cooperation and dialogue is further strengthened by its peacekeeping missions and development initiatives (Manner, 2002, pp. 235-241.).

Even more, liberalism understands non-state actors and civil society as important players in the international dimension. The EU seeks to integrate these actors into its decision-making processes and diplomacy, helping the Union develop an inclusive foreign policy approach (Lavenex and Schimmelfennig, 2011).

Von (1927) argued that a coherent political program called "Liberalism" was formulated by philosophers, sociologists, and economists in the 18th and early 19th centuries, its global application has been imperfect. Initially, England and the United States adopted liberal values, which were later embraced by the European continent and finally other areas. Nevertheless, even in England, which is widely seen as the embodiment of liberalism, proponents were unable to achieve all of their goals. Globally, only certain elements of liberalism were embraced, while essential components were either dismissed or discarded shortly thereafter. Therefore, it is an overstatement to assert the existence of a universal liberal age; liberalism never really realized.

Nonetheless, the brief ascendancy of liberal ideas significantly transformed the world, fostering tremendous economic growth. Liberation of productive forces led to increased subsistence means. Pre-World War I, global population burgeoned, and living standards soared, with reduced child mortality and enhanced life expectancy owing to improved conditions. This prosperity wasn't exclusive; workers in industrialized nations and colonies lived better lives than nobles of prior eras, enjoying ample food, education for their children, and cultural engagement.

Furthermore, social mobility flourished in nations embracing liberalism, with the apex of society predominantly occupied by self-made individuals, not those born into

privilege. Barriers between social classes dissolved, fostering equal rights among citizens. Political and religious persecution waned, and international conflicts diminished, prompting optimism for lasting peace (Von, 1927).

Liberalism champions individual liberty as crucial for personal fulfilment and views private property as pivotal for economic freedom and prosperity. Its goal is the collective well-being rather than benefiting select groups. This influential political ideology has expanded to encompass social dimensions, prompting debates on the balance between individual freedom and state intervention in economic and social realms.

Liberalism has long been acknowledged as a theory, in International Relations (IR) which directly influences how the European Union promotes collaboration and partnership efforts on a scale. The essence of liberalism centres on the belief that economic interconnectedness institutional structures and democratic principles contribute to fostering cooperative relationships between nations. Robert Keohane asserts that "global collaboration is not just achievable but sustainable when it is ingrained in a system of regulations and standards that govern interactions, among countries" (Keohane, 1984 p. 51). In the European Union's efforts to foster collaboration extend, to institutions, like the European Commission and the European Parliament which work together in a manner to encourage unity among member states and external allies.

Keohane elaborates that global organizations help costs of transactions and enhance transparency by offering ways to enforce agreements (Keohane 1984; 83–86). These values are evident, in the EU's initiatives to create structures such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which promotes economic relations, with nearby nations. The EU showcases liberalisms trust, in the impact of interconnectedness and the promotion of democratic values through its support for free trade agreements and environmental standards along with human rights policies. Additionally the EUs dedication to working with organizations like the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) emphasizes the belief that global governance frameworks play a crucial role, in handling international affairs and averting conflicts. The EU uses these organizations to advance values such, as democracy and human rights not within its member countries but on a broader scale—a clear

indication of how liberalism influences the EUs interactions with other nations and regions. By serving as a real world example of liberalism in practice demonstrates that fostering cooperation among countries is possible by upholding established norms within institutions and through a dedication, to governance and economic unity.

Liberalism differs from realism by emphasizing the importance of cooperation, institutions, and economic interdependence in fostering peace and stability. Figures such as John Locke and Immanuel Kant as well as scholars such as Robert Keohane suggest that nations and global organizations can establish lasting collaboration, through trade, international institutions and democratic leadership. The European Union, as a progressive organization, is widely considered a shining model of liberalism in action. The formation of the EU was the result of liberal ideals after World War II and was intended to foster unity as a means of avoiding future discord in Europe (Moravcsik 1998; 155–160). The EU Single Market and Common Commercial Policy embody values centred on commercial and economic interconnectivity. Through the removal of trade barriers and the establishment of common rules and regulations, the European Union has established an area of economic collaboration that brings benefits to each of its member countries (Keohane & Nye 1977, pp. 49-53).

The European Union's trade policies also show perspective, in action. They negotiate trade agreements, such as the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and CETA, with Canada for their member countries. These agreements support trade and are based on the idea that economic collaboration promotes increased stability and peace. (Lavened & Schimmelfennig 2011, p. 89). As part of the defence of values and the protection of human rights, liberalism emphasizes the importance of organizations in advancing the values of governance and human rights throughout society. The European Union's foreign policy prioritizes these principles through initiatives such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENSP) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The ENSW seeks to increase stability and prosperity in neighbouring regions by supporting changes and upholding human rights standards (Manners 2002; pp. 235–238). European Union aid initiatives often come with conditions that require recipient countries to

implement changes to their programs. This position is rooted in the ideologies described by Kant in 1795, which suggest that democracies are more inclined to collaborate and less likely to engage in conflict with each other (Moravcsik, 1998, p. 165). The EU's support for democracy and human rights is also evident through its involvement in bodies such as the United Nations and its commitment to agreements such as the Paris Agreement on climate change. Liberalism offers a foundation for comprehending how external relations are managed by EU countries. The EU's focus on trade partnerships, democracy principles, and upholding human rights is deeply ingrained in values. Their policies demonstrate a dedication towards encouraging collaboration and harmony. This liberal strategy has empowered the EU to play a role in advocating for standards and beliefs through its diplomatic efforts.

3.1.2. The Constructivism and the EU as a Normative Power

Constructivism highlights the significance of ideas, norms and identities in international relations. It sheds a new light on the EU's formulation of identity in its international projection and finally an interpretation for why is it that this way foreign policy practice followed (Manners, 2002).

A constructivist perspective insists on looking at the EU not just as a political and economic body but also as how it is normative actor that has help formulated and constituted these. Collective values, they include norms, approaches or maybe even identity. The idea of the EU as a 'normative power' means that the Union changes by changing norms: democracy, human rights and social justice being some examples rather than through coercion or military (Manners, 2002). It is this normative identity that has been shaped by the particular history of European integration and the common will to prevent a repeat of Europe's historically violent clashes (Diez, 2013).

This is exemplified well in the EU's enlargement policy, where candidate countries are invited to import into their domestic systems an approximation of European norms and practices. It not only changes the political and economic structures of candidate countries, but also plays a role in shaping or strengthening common identity and values within EU. It also coincides with the goals of creating a "circle of friends" sharing not only values and principles, but to some extent political regime type (i.e., democracy and pluralism) in order to reinforce regional stability by means for normative socialization European neighbourhood policy (Diez, 2013).

Constructivism also focuses on the role of discourses and perceptions in shaping how international relations are understood. The construction of both the concept and practice making EU foreign policy are affected by internal debates among members the European Union about migration, security or climate change. How the EU views and codifies security threats, as an example, dictates its political responses and diplomatic postures– proving that all interests are ultimately in part social or ideational constructs rather than purely material factors (Manners, 2002).

Furthermore, the EU's interactions with other international actors also contribute to shaping its identity and role on the global stage. Strategic partnerships, multilateral negotiations, and participation in international organizations provide platforms where the EU can both influence and be influenced by global norms and ideas, thereby reinforcing its position as a key player in global governance (Diez, 2013).

Constructivism is a theory of psychology, sociology and pedagogy that views humans as active and constructive beings who create and transform the world according to their own will. This means that the reality of society is influenced by the perceptions and interpretations of individuals and states and is not solely determined by material factors. It is a theoretical approach in social sciences that challenges materialist or individualist perceptions. According to constructivism theory, learning is an evolving process in which individuals shape their understanding and view of the world by engaging in experiences and introspection. Jean Piaget (Piaget 1952; 25-27), a figure of constructivism, argued that knowledge is not simply received but constructed when individuals interact with their environment. He characterized that growths as a progression of phases in which learners actively understand information.

Piaget's theory begins with the sensorimotor phase, from birth to two years, when babies discover the world by touching and moving objects around them to learn to manipulate objects and better understand their environment. During this phase, toddlers grasp the concept of object permanence. Start creating images of their immediate surroundings.

- During the phase known as the stage (ages 2, to 7) children begin to engage in symbolic thinking by using language and imagination while finding it challenging to grasp intricate logical ideas fully as highlighted

by Piaget. In these stages children usually exhibit thought patterns where they have difficulty seeing things from viewpoints, than their own.

- In the stage (ages 7, to 11) children begin to hone their logical reasoning abilities within tangible situations only Their capacity expands to executing operations such as categorizing items and grasping concepts like conservation (for instance volume and mass) along, with comprehending reversibility.
- Around the age of 11 and entering the stage of development come a significant milestone, in cognitive growth where individuals gain the capacity for abstract thinking and hypothetical reasoning along with the ability to approach problems in a systematic manner. This advanced cognitive stage allows for a comprehension of ideas like hypothetical deductive reasoning crucial, for scientific and ethical deliberations.

Piaget's theory of constructivism suggests that learning is a subjective journey in which individuals interpret their surroundings through cognitive frameworks shaped by past experiences. This emphasis, on growth underscores the significance of how people derive meaning from their interactions, with the environment (Piaget 1952; 25-27).

Constructivist theories emphasize that learning is a dynamic and individualized process through which individuals acquire the conceptual tools necessary to make sense of their environment. According to this perspective, knowledge is actively constructed, rather than passively absorbed, as individuals engage in building and organizing their understanding through their actions and experiences. Constructivists argue that reality is not an objective entity but is shaped by the subjective interpretations formed through an individual's internal cognitive processes, such as memory and prior knowledge. This subjective reality is projected onto the external world, enabling individuals to interpret and navigate their surroundings. Learning, therefore, is viewed as an active and iterative process where meaning is derived from personal experiences and the contextualized organization of information, rather than being directly transmitted from external sources (Piaget, 1950; Vygotsky, 1978).

Noëlting, (1977), cites the opposition of the Piagetian notion by opposing two perspectives on the interpretation of knowledge. According to Piaget, Aristotle considered knowledge as an appropriation of the "forms" of reality in the external world, where the subject "becomes" the object. In contrast, for Kant, knowledge was seen as an incorporation of the object into the interior forms of the subject, where the object "becomes" the subject or becomes identified with a part of its knowing activity.

On the other hand, Piaget proposes a resolution to this opposition through "interactionism". In this sense, for him, the unity of conduct is already structured in the form of "schemas", structured actions carried out by an organism on an object that it "transforms". So, he uses the term "assimilation" to describe this transformation of the object by a schema of the organism. However, even at the level of balanced activity, it is necessary to adjust the scheme according to the location of the object's components in space. Piaget calls this adaptation "accommodation", emphasizing that it does not affect the structure of the schema in understanding, but rather its extension and quantification. This refers to the mechanism of learning which is done through adaptation which consists of two mechanisms, assimilation which is the integration of data from the environment into previous schemes, and accommodation which designates the modification of the subject's schemes in function of the data (Noëlting, 1977). For example, when a child tries to grab something with their hand or fingers they already have a way of doing it. They have to change the way they move their arm and fingers based on the shape and where the object is located in space. This back and forth, between the child and their surroundings helps them get better at moving and thinking. Teachers help by setting up situations that let kids practice and adjust to make sense of things accurately through repeated practice.

Both critical theory and institutionalism offer perspectives for understanding the diplomacy and international relations of the European Union alongside realism and liberalism. Critical theory looks at power and the inequalities that are fundamental to the international system, emphasising a demand for changes in these structures as necessary means of creating more just conditions domestically. By referring to the

abandoned moon landing plan, this enables a detailed description of how internal and external dynamics have influenced its diplomatic relations (Rosamond, 2014).

Critical theory would regard the EU as an actor in reproducing and even potentially subverting past power relations. On the one hand, some criticisms contest that EU trade and economic policies reinforce global inequalities by privileging powerful member states' interests as well as those of economic elites over those living in developing countries. Trade agreements, which have become asymmetric and protectionist agricultural policies are commonly given as examples of maintaining economic and social domination (Rosamond, 2014).

Nevertheless, the EU also does its part to promote social justice and sustainable development worldwide. The development aid policies, the human rights commitments and its position on climate change are part of attempts to shape international structures in order to create a more just world (Diez, 2013). Despite being far from perfect, its endorsement of multilateralism and advocacy for international organizations such as the United Nations reveals an EU partial to inclusive and participatory global governance (Rosamond, 2014).

Critical theory secondly foregrounds contradictions within the EU, especially with respect to democratization and representation. The criticism primarily concerns the alleged lack of democracy in decision-making practices within the Union, and an imbalance regarding influence which big power members or special interest groups are said to have on these. These internal dynamics have implications for whether the EU foreign policy is legitimate and effective, which in turn limits its scope to act as a democratic or progressive actor on international stage (Rosamond, 2014).

Critical theory also enforces a reflection about the discourses and narratives that supported EU diplomacy. It is based on the query of how and why the Union has framed its identity in opposition to an allegedly hostile oriental 'other', which at times accompanies hegemonic nor paternalist policies. Critical theory of international relations Challenges the constructions provided by post-positivist critical theorist offer counter models for diversity, inclusion and social justice international relations (Diez, 2013). There by Institutionalism addresses the role these international and regional institutions play in shaping state-to-state interactions, as well as linkages between states and other actors. In the context of the European Union, this theory

shows us that what is crucial for conducting diplomacy and external relations are institutional structures (Keohane and Martin, 1995).

The EU is held up as the exemplar of successful institutionalism, with a tapestry of institutions having been established to help manage and orchestrate collaboration between its member states. In the formulation and implementation of its foreign and security policies, key functions are also performed by actors such as the European External Action (EEAS) or Council of EU (Smith, 2004).

The institutionalist approach would argue that such structures allow the EU to resolve coordination and transaction problems through conflict resolution, collective decision-making and policy implementation mechanisms. The EEAS, for instance, is the EU's diplomatic service which delivers Union foreign policy in coordinated manner with national diplomatic efforts and global organisations likewise increasing consistency and visibility of European presence at world level (Smith, 2004).

Institutionalism, too, stresses the provision of institutional rules and norms to regularize expectations and reduce uncertainty in international politics. The EU has clear rules and frameworks for engagements with other international actors, both internally and externally; through agreements or treaties, both of which can create access to various forms of cooperation in a multilateral regime. The EU's capacity to negotiate and stick to complicated international agreements also demonstrates the robustness and efficiency of the institutions (Smith, 2004).

The important point to emphasize is that the institutionalist approach does not serve this as an excuse for all EU policy towards Africa (instead insisting on politicization) while acknowledging legitimate problems of bureaucratization and rigidity in how these relative gains are realized. This can make the Union slow to react and sometimes inflexible in its decision-making especially when international crises occur. Besides, tensions between the EU level and national states make it more difficult to have a coherent foreign policy (Rosamond, 2014).

Institutionalism suggests that in spite of the lacklustre state constructing process the EU institutions aid both internal and external stability within Europe. By constantly adjusting and reinforcing its institutional framework, the EU can enhance its capacity to address global challenges and defend their interests and values in the international arena (Keohane and Martin, 1995). Exploring the connection of each theory to the

diplomatic and external relations strategies of the European Union involves examining how each viewpoint aids in grasping the challenges faced by the EU underscoring the importance of integrating both institutionalism and critical theory to form a comprehensive framework. Show their importance by making a conjunction of this thesis to explain how they are linked and the reason for their choice. Examining the EU's external relations and diplomatic strategies through various international relations theoretical perspectives provides a nuanced understanding of its behaviour on the global stage. The main theories of international relations, realism, liberalism, constructivism, critical theory and institutionalism, are used to explain the foreign policy and external relations of the EU. Deconstructing these theories provides a holistic perspective on how the EU is evolving in an increasingly multipolar world, taking into account internal and external influences, as well as its efforts to project global norms. Realism offers a perspective in which the EU can be seen as a conglomeration of states, each pursuing its national interests in an anarchic international system. Realism highlights the influence of member states and external actors on each other, emphasizing that the EU, despite its collective identity, is often driven by the interests of its powerful member states. A key example is the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), where divergent national interests, particularly between major powers such as Germany, reveal the challenges of achieving a unified foreign policy. The EU's difficulty in responding coherently to international crises, such as those in the Middle East or Eastern Europe, highlights the limits of the Union as a global actor within the realist paradigm. Furthermore, competition with other major powers, such as the United States and China, illustrates the EU's difficulties in balancing its military capabilities and strategic partnerships, often hampered by internal disagreements and limited resources.

EU institutions, such as the European Commission and the European Parliament, play a crucial role in developing and implementing coherent external policies, thereby strengthening coordination between member states. The Union's common commercial policy, which promotes free trade and economic growth, demonstrates the liberal emphasis on cooperation and collective action. Furthermore, the EU's promotion of human rights, democracy and sustainable development, both in its neighbourhood and globally, aligns with liberal ideals of fostering stability through cooperation and dialogue. The inclusion of non-state actors and civil society in EU

decision-making processes further underlines the liberal vision of a more inclusive and participatory approach to foreign policy. Constructivism shifts attention to the importance of ideas, norms and identities in shaping international relations. This theory highlights the role of the EU as a normative actor, where its foreign policy is not limited to political and economic interests but also aims to project its collective values and identity. The EU's normative power, rooted in its history of integration and its desire to prevent past conflicts, is evident in its enlargement policy, where candidate countries are encouraged to adopt European norms and practices. This process not only strengthens the internal identity of the EU, but also promotes regional stability through normative socialization. Constructivism also highlights how internal debates within the EU, such as those on migration, security and climate change, shape its foreign policy and diplomatic strategies. The Union's interactions with other international actors also contribute to the formation of its identity and its role in global governance.

Critical theory challenges existing power structures and inequalities within the international system, advocating for transformative change. From this perspective, the EU is seen as both a reproducer and a potential overturner of past power relations. Criticism of EU trade and economic policies, seen as reinforcing global inequality, highlights the dominance of powerful member states and economic elites. However, the EU's commitment to social justice, sustainable development and multilateralism demonstrates its efforts to shape a more equitable international order. Critical theory also raises questions about the democratic legitimacy of EU decision-making processes, highlighting the influence of powerful member states and special interest groups. These internal contradictions have implications for the EU's ability to act as a progressive force on the global stage. Furthermore, the discourses and narratives that underpin the EU's diplomacy, particularly in the construction of its identity as opposed to an "other", are critically examined, revealing the complexities and contradictions of its approach to international relations. Institutionalism focuses on the role of institutions in shaping state interactions and international cooperation. The EU, with its complex institutional framework, is often cited as an excellent example of successful institutionalism. Institutions such as the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Council of the EU are key to the formulation and implementation of the Union's foreign and security policies. These structures

facilitate coordination, conflict resolution and policy implementation, allowing the EU to present a more coherent and visible presence on the global stage. Institutionalism also emphasizes the importance of rules and norms in reducing uncertainty and regularizing expectations in international politics. The EU's ability to negotiate and adhere to complex international agreements demonstrates the strength and effectiveness of its institutional framework. However, institutionalism also recognizes the challenges posed by bureaucratization and rigidity, which can hamper the EU's ability to respond quickly and effectively to international crises. Despite these challenges, the continued adaptation and strengthening of its institutions allows the EU to strengthen its capacity to address global challenges and defend its interests and values on the international stage.

Scholars such, as Alexander Wend and Nicholas Onuf have contributed to the theory of Constructivism which highlights the significance of ideas and identities in influencing interactions of just focusing solely based material interests as, in Realism or Liberalism. (Wendt, A.1999).

The normative identity of the European Union is manifested according to Ian Manners (2002) who described the EU as a "power", suggesting that its interactions with countries are influenced by its commitment to promoting values such as democracy and human rights alongside the state of right. The European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union (ENPI program and Eastern Partnership) embodies this approach by aiming to share its principles with countries in Eastern Europe and regions such as North Africa and the Middle East (Manners 2002). The role of the European Union as an actor is influenced by its encounters with integration. Over years of conflict, the EU has built an identity based on peace, collaboration and respect for the rule of law. This identity guides the EU's initiatives as it strives to uphold these principles through its trade agreements, development support, and diplomatic efforts (Wendt 1999, pp. 135-140). Indeed, as it explores social interactions and self-discovery, constructivism also clarifies how EU values are disseminated through methods of socialization by which nations and stakeholders adopt the values advocated by the EU itself. For example, under its European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU offers benefits and political collaborations to neighbouring countries in exchange for reforms in line with EU standards, such as

promoting democracy and the protection of human rights, as well as market promotion of liberalization (Lenz, 2013; pp.211-215). The objective is to encourage these nations to adhere to customs and strengthen their links within European society.

Constructivist theory posits that international entities such as the EU are motivated by their shared identities and values rather than simple tangible gains (Checkel, 1999). An illustration of this is how the EU's emphasis on human rights provisions in trade agreements demonstrates how its normative identity influences its interactions with nations. The South Korea-EU Free Trade Agreement and the Cotonou Agreement with the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries contain clauses that support environmental conservation rights and social equality, demonstrating the EU commitment to respect global standards (Manners in 2002, p. 241). One of the roles played by the EU as a force in climate change diplomacy and spreading standards is reflected in its involvement in global climate diplomatic efforts. The European Green Deal and the EU's active participation in the Paris Agreement negotiations demonstrate the Union's commitment to promoting standards. The EU has always advocated for climate goals not within its borders, but also in its interactions with other countries (Falkner 2007). This illustrates the idea of constructivist theory that international actors have the capacity to influence norms through their behaviour and communication.

The European Union's involvement in climate diplomacy demonstrates the concept of norm diffusion in action as it attempts to share its principles with countries and regions by including climate-related terms in its trade and development strategies. The EU advocates for sustainability standards through these measures. Consolidate its leading position in environmental management (Wendt 1999). Adopting a constructivist perspective allows us to examine the EU's interactions with countries by highlighting the influence of norms and identities on its conduct. The EU's decisions are influenced not by benefits but also by its belief in promoting values such as democracy and environmental preservation. This perspective helps clarify why the EU prioritizes encouraging nations to adopt standards through means such as trade agreements and international cooperation efforts (Checkel, 1999).

3.1.2.1. Institutionalism and the European Union's Role in Global Governance

Institutionalism emphasizes how institutions impact state conduct and support collaboration efforts; a prime example is the EU, with its institutional system lauded for effectively coordinating member states interactions and joint endeavours worldwide (Keohane & Martin 1995). The European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Council of the EU play roles in developing and enacting the security policies of the Union. They offer channels, for resolving disputes and harmonizing strategies to minimize ambiguity in relations (Smith 2004). Institutionalism additionally underscores the importance of rules and norms, in standardizing expectations. Ensuring that nations follow established frameworks for collaboration.

The EUs institutional framework excels, in engaging in and executing agreements like trade deals and climate pacts—a testament to the strength of its structures and their adeptness, in handling multilateral diplomacy with precision and effectiveness. However, institutionalism also sheds light on obstacles the EU encounters such as bureaucratization and inflexibility that may hinder decision making and impede the Unions agility in responding promptly to global crises (Rosamond, 2014). In light of these obstacles, institutionalism suggests that the EUs institutional structure offers a basis, for handling both external affairs. By adjusting and reinforcing its institutions the EU can improve its ability to tackle issues and advocate for its interests and values, on the global platform (Keohane & Martin, 1995).

Neo institutionalism highlights the significance of institutions in promoting collaboration and resolving disputes, among nations according to scholars such as Robert Keohane (1984). They suggest that these institutions lower transaction costs and establish a platform for cooperation while guaranteeing enforcement of agreements made between parties governments often analyse the European Union from a perspective because of its distinct governance system and its influence, on global governance mechanisms. The European Union as an entity serves as a demonstration of institutionalism, in action through its system of institutions such as the European Commission and Parliament as well as the European Council and the European External Action Service (EEAS). These bodies work together to align the policies of the 27 EU member countries and enable the Union to present a position on international issues (Keohane & Nye 1987; 63-67). The Treaty of Lisbon

solidified EU policy by creating the role of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who will act as the Union's representative in diplomatic discussions and negotiations.

Institutionalism describes how EU governance systems facilitate collaboration not between member states but also with external actors. The EU's institutional structure allows it to engage in trade agreement negotiations to address security challenges and deal with emergencies in a united approach (Keohane, 1984). The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as well as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) are established channels through which the EU interacts with its partners and advances its policy objectives (Smith 2003). From a perspective of multinational cooperation and global management of institutionalism in the EU context, adds its commitment to cooperation and its strong commitment to organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The EU plays a role in governance by leveraging its influence within these institutions to uphold values such as respect for human rights and environmental sustainability while promoting fair trade practices (Keohane & Martin 1995; 42-45). The Common Commercial Policy (CC/CAP) of the European Union allows it to engage in trade negotiations for its member countries and ensures that European standards and values are integrated into trade regulations.

The leading role of the European Union in negotiations on climate change illustrates the effectiveness of practices in action. The formation of the Paris Agreement was greatly influenced by the efforts of the EU, which championed climate goals and fostered agreement among international actors (Keohane, 1984; 120–125). By formalizing its approach to climate diplomacy through initiatives such as the European Green Deal and the External Action Plan on Climate Diplomacy, the EU is showing how institutional structures can foster collaboration on issues of concern. Institutionalism also sheds light on the EU's expansion strategy which has proven to be a tool, in its foreign policy efforts. The EU utilizes a process known as conditionality to offer membership to nations that fulfil economic and legal criteria. This approach aims to foster stability and prosperity in neighbouring regions. The inclusion of countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Baltic states, into the EU illustrates how institutions can encourage collaboration and unity (Schimmelfennig

& Sedelmeier; 2005; pp; 10-12). The expansion process is directed by the framework of the EU to guarantee that prospective members align with norms and standards prior, to becoming part of the Union.

3.1.2.1.1. Critical Theory and the EU's Role in Global Inequality

A deeper analysis provided by theory sheds light on relations, through the lenses of power dynamics and social disparities within the global framework. Viewed through this lens the European Union is perceived as perpetuating established power hierarchies while also holding the potential to challenge these inequities. According to theorists the trade and economic strategies of the EU frequently contribute to widening disparities by prioritizing the interests of influential member nations and economic elites, over those of underrepresented communities and developing nations (Rosamond 2014). On the other hand critical theory acknowledges that the EU has the ability to play a role, in promoting justice and bringing about meaningful change. The EUs initiatives in development aid upholding human rights standards and leading efforts in combatting climate change are all part of its endeavours to foster and more balanced order (Diez, 2013). Despite facing criticisms for its policies, the EUs advocacy, for multilateralism and embracing governance demonstrate its dedication to reform international frameworks to address past injustices and power differentials.

Critical theory also examines the power structures, within the EU. Raises concerns about the perceived lack of democracy in its decision-making processes. The dominance of member states and interest groups calls into question the EUs credibility, in shaping policy and promoting progressive ideals globally. These internal conflicts underscore the difficulties the EU encounters in aligning its values with the complexities of real-world politics. Scholars like Robert Cox and those influenced by Antonio Gramsci have developed Critical Theory as a way to analyse and question the power dynamics in relations. They suggest that institutions like the EU may actually benefit nations and elites more, than promoting progress and democracy on a global scale.

Critical analysts suggest that the EU's trade and development strategies towards regions like the Global South are influenced by incentives. One example is the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which have suffered setbacks due to the

persistent imbalance in trade relations between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The EU presents these agreements as instruments intended to stimulate growth. Critical theory shows how they can effectively increase their dependence by forcing ACP countries to open their markets without sufficient guarantees for their own industries (Cox, 1981). Examined through the lens of critical theory, it reveals that the EU's interactions with foreign countries are neither impartial nor benevolent; rather, they serve to maintain the superiority of companies and nations. Examples, such as EU subsidies, have faced backlash because they have disrupted trade and impacted farmers in less wealthy countries who struggle to compete with European products heavily subsidized (Falkner, 2017). Critical theorists argue that these decisions reflect the motivations that influence EU strategies.

Gramsci's idea of hegemony plays a role, in Critical Theory by highlighting how those in power maintain their dominance not through force but also by gaining consent from others. When it comes to the EU's interactions with neighbouring areas such as the Balkans and Eastern Europe they can be viewed as a way of exerting influence. The EU utilizes strategies like the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Eastern Partnership to encourage economic changes that're in line, with European standards while also providing financial incentives to encourage compliance (Linklater 1998).

Critical Theory challenges this perspective by suggesting that the European Union's advocacy, for democracy and human rights is sometimes biased and influenced by motives. An illustration of this is the EU's handling of Turkey and the Western Balkans; it has faced backlash for prioritizing security interests over efforts towards advancement. When urging countries to make changes for the good of society, the EU also provides assistance to governments in regions such as the Gulf States, where national interests take precedence over considerations (Cox 1987 p130-135). Critical theory takes a close look at how the EU engages with these nations, revealing how power structures and financial motivations frequently influence its choices. Instead of advancing development and democratic principles, EU trade deals, aid efforts and foreign policies often perpetuate current inequalities. Critical theory challenges the

EU's self-image as a guide, highlighting discrepancies between its stated principles and its actions in the real world.



4. EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS

Diplomacy refers to the process and skill of dialogue and negotiation between various governments. It is characterized by the facilitation of communication to resolve disputes between entities or governments, the advocacy for nonviolent solutions, and the protection of national interests. Diplomacy involves the engagement of skilled individuals in creating mutually beneficial agreements and the effective administration of diplomatic expertise.

Furthermore, diplomacy is often described as a strategy of reconciliation, a field of social organization based on interests and rights. In his 1917 publication *The Guide to Diplomatic Practice*, diplomat-linguist Ernest Satow defines diplomacy as "the use of intelligence and tact in conducting official relations between the governments of independent states" (Satow, 1917, p. 3). Harold Nicolson, in line with the definition of diplomacy found in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, describes it as the process of managing international relations through negotiation. Nicolson further elaborates that diplomacy involves the use of ambassadors and envoys to adjust and handle these relationships, framing diplomacy as both a profession and an art (Nicolson, 1963, p. 56).

Pierson Dixon's analysis (1964) highlights the fundamental principles of diplomacy and emphasizes their continued relevance. Nearly two and a half centuries ago, French diplomat François de Callières clearly defined the best methods of diplomacy in his work *On the Manner of Negotiating with Princes* (1716), which became a practical manual for diplomats across Europe. Callières stressed that loyalty is the foundation of trust, honesty is the best policy, and harmonizing the real interests of the parties involved is the key to successful negotiations (Callières, 1716).

According to Callières, a diplomat's primary responsibilities include: first, understanding the political, social, and cultural dynamics of the country they are stationed in; second, faithfully and accurately conveying their government's viewpoints with integrity; and third, building a trustworthy relationship with the host government to facilitate negotiations. In today's world, with an increase in the number of sovereign states and the growing need for peaceful conflict resolution,

diplomacy has assumed an even more prominent role in international affairs than ever before (Dixon, 1964).

As referenced by Badel and Jeannesson (2014, pp. 6-24), the term "diplomacy" reportedly first appeared in 1790. A Global History of Diplomacy Its initial use was in a speech delivered to the National Assembly on April 2, 1790, published in *Le Moniteur*. By 1798, the word was included in the Dictionary of the French Academy. The term "diplomat" was first used by Robespierre in 1792 to replace "negotiator". In 1801, Louis-Sébastien Mercier referred to it as a neologism in his work on neology, defining "diplomat" as "an agent appointed by a power to negotiate with another on mutual interests." In England, philosopher Edmund Burke used the term in 1796, as noted by historian Walter Alison Phillips, who authored the *Encyclopædia Britannica* article "Diplomacy" in 1910. The term quickly spread across Europe, with equivalents such as "diplomacia" in Spanish, "diplomazia" in Italian, and "Diplomatie" in German (Badel and Jeannesson, 2014).

Diplomacy serves as the means by which governments present their international stance and engage with other global entities. Summits, declarations, discussions, and meetings are instrumental in establishing the recognition of states. This process is a reflection of how a state executes its foreign policy. Diplomatic recognition involves various political players, including diplomats, civil officials, and political leaders, and can significantly impact the global stage and the dynamics of international relations.

Diplomacy operates at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Bilateral diplomacy refers to interactions between two parties that maintain direct diplomatic contact, such as Germany and France. Multilateral diplomacy occurs when states in a region seek to promote their common interests and manage their differences through agreements, such as in the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Additionally, other diplomatic channels, such as cultural diplomacy and parliamentary diplomacy, are often employed by states to define and strengthen their international relations.

The act of observing has always played a role, in activities since the early days of its inception. According to Condillac's *Thesaurus of Synonyms* a diplomat is likened to a spy due, to their duties; however what sets them apart is their position as they work within the bounds of international law representing their country. According to the

Vienna Convention, on Diplomatic Relations from 1961's definition of diplomats are given privileges and protections to fulfil their responsibilities that involve observing and documenting details about the social situations in the country they are stationed in. This knowledge of countries and their domestic affairs has long been a duty of diplomats; in order to keep their government informed (Vienna Convention 1961 Article 3).

For example; this mission has persisted since the times of François Louis XIV, and Napoleon, remaining unchanged to this day. Despite advancements in media and communication technologies, the unique perspectives offered by professional political observers remain crucial. Diplomats, often stationed in foreign nations for extended periods, gather intelligence, interpret it, and provide strategic advice to their respective governments.

Negotiation is another critical function. While high-level agreements are often finalized at summits involving heads of state, diplomats are tasked with drafting, implementing, and detailing these agreements. They negotiate ceasefires, peace treaties, and the specifics of official communiqués and Security Council resolutions. For instance, the complex negotiations leading to UN Security Council Resolution 1441 prior to the Iraq War and the Dayton Accords ending the Balkan conflicts were spearheaded by diplomats. This negotiating role extends to trade treaties, cultural agreements, and various international accords. Representing a nation encompasses more than mere participation in public ceremonies. Diplomats embody their country abroad, communicate its policies, and defend its positions on the international stage. Modern representation also involves engaging with media and public forums to articulate and promote national interests. Finally, promotion refers to the economic aspect of diplomacy, which has significantly expanded in recent years. Diplomats assist business leaders and exporters, facilitate market entry, offer advice, and act as consultants. In centralized economies like China, the ambassador's role is pivotal in navigating official channels to enable trade. Even in more open markets like the UK, Germany, and the US, diplomats provide strategic advice and introductions, serving as invaluable consultants in economic activities. These functions highlight the multifaceted role of diplomats in international relations, combining traditional and modern aspects of diplomatic practice (De L'estang, 2004).

De L'estang (2004) suits diplomatic missions or even compares the role of a diplomat to espionage and demonstrates how the negotiation function is essential in the face of summits and meetings at the highest political level, thus emphasizing their responsibility to carry their flag national abroad and to explain the country's politics. Finally, the function of selling is included in the fact that it is linked to the economic aspect, participates in supporting national businesses and participates in the facilitation of economic exchanges, particularly in countries with state trading such as China.

As Petiteville (2006) notes in *European Cooperating Diplomacy* (2006, pp. 97–150), European diplomacy is not just about a shared foreign and security policy. External community relations encompass several mechanisms such as collaboration, association and trade agreements, institutionalized alliances, and development aid. These mechanisms are part of a cooperative diplomacy approach that supports the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and is strongly intertwined with it. It is frequently observed that Community tools are often used to address the perceived limitations of the CFSP and so strengthen European diplomacy.

Cooperative diplomacy in the European Union (EU) serves as a means of community mediation for European foreign policy. It aims to support various aspects such as development processes, democracy, human rights, humanitarian and environmental action, regional integration, as well as conflict prevention and resolution. This helps solidify the EU's position as a "civilian power". The extent of its operation is worldwide and is grounded in the intricate network of external contacts developed by the EU with its surrounding areas, major nations, and regional organizations. European diplomacy is manifested through Community external relations, cooperation agreements, and institutionalized partnerships. This enhances the influence of the European Union as a civil power. It functions as a form of community mediation that is dedicated to promoting development, democracy, human rights, humanitarian action, environmental protection, regional integration, and conflict prevention on a large scale (Petiteville, 2006).

4.1. The Historical Evolution of the Treaty of the European Union

The Treaty of the European Union has undergone substantial changes during its historical development, beginning with the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 and culminating in the present-day European Union. Throughout its course, this trajectory has been marked by significant moments, including the Treaties of Rome in 1957, which served as the foundation for the European Economic Community (EEC) and EURATOM, and the Maastricht Treaty of 1992, which officially established the European Union, introduced the euro currency, and granted European citizenship. Following then, the European Union has undergone several enlargements, including more member nations like the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark in 1973, and subsequently Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia in more recent years. The enlargements have been followed by substantial institutional reforms, as demonstrated by the Lisbon Treaty of 2007. This treaty strengthened the authority of the European Parliament and provided a stable presidency for the European Council.

The European Union has faced significant economic and political obstacles, such as the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID-19 epidemic, which have played a crucial role in assessing the unity of the union and initiating measures to provide assistance and implement changes to strengthen the union. Moreover, the EU's ability to come together and stand together against the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine demonstrates its durability and cohesiveness in the face of external challenges. Essentially, the development of the Treaty of the European Union represents a progression towards greater integration and the ability to adapt in the face of complex difficulties. This has strengthened the EU as a dynamic and united institution, committed to achieving peace, prosperity, and togetherness (Lequeux, 2024).

Stratenschulte (2010) states that in the period following World War II, which began around 20 years after World War I ended, Europe made a strong and deliberate effort to avoid similar destructive conflicts from happening again. From 1945 to 1950, a group of European policymakers, including notable individuals like Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, Alcide De Gasperi, and Winston Churchill set out on a mission to establish the European Union as it is known today. Western Europe developed new

mechanisms to promote economic and political unity among European states in order to ensure long-lasting peace and prosperity. On May 9, 1950, Robert Schuman, who was the French Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time, suggested the joint administration of coal and steel production. These resources were crucial for manufacturing weapons during wartime. The goal was to prevent any country from secretly arming itself against others. During that period, coal played a similar function to that of oil and natural gas today, acting as the main source of energy. The European Coal and Steel Community, which laid the groundwork for the present-day European Union, were formed in 1952, bringing together six adjacent countries: Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands (Stratenschulte, 2010).

The origin of contemporary Europe arose from a logical need based on the preservation of peace and prevention of violent conflict. The main objective was to build a peaceful, unified, and prosperous Europe, with a particular emphasis on settling past conflicts between France and the Federal Republic of Germany, in order to prevent any future violence and destruction. The main focus of this effort was to promote peace and unity throughout the continent by integrating economies, with the goal of facilitating mutually beneficial transactions between states to protect their own interests.

The aftermath of World War II's devastating effects and the enormous toll it had on human life emerged as the catalyst for the Union's establishment and the beginning of European integration. The post-war era seemed to acknowledge the lessons learned from fighting, as nations recognized the urgent need for peace. In order to develop and maintain a long-lasting foundation for peace, it was deemed essential to implement a strategy of reconciliation and form a consultative council. As a result, the construction procedure began.

The establishment of the coal and steel economic community was the first significant step towards achieving long-lasting peace and achieving energy independence. This initiative was led by erstwhile enemies France and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Union was established by the Treaty of Paris in 1951, with participation from six countries, including France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, and the Netherlands. The coal and steel economic community

was the initial effort that marked the beginning of the Union's formation. Its aim was to combine essential resources for the manufacturing of weapons during conflict.

As observed by Rosato (2010), Europeans assumed that a fixed exchange rate system was necessary to support their economic community in order for it to endure. According to Van Ypersele, the establishment of the European Economic Community occurred within the framework of global monetary stability.

Later on, this path continued and came together to create another organization called the "European Economic Community," which was formed during the Rome Convention in 1957. The primary goal of the Union was to strengthen and unite the economies of all member nations. This led to positive outcomes such as the removal of customs barriers and the creation of a unified market, which eliminated the need for border checks when goods crossed between member states.

A new era of collaboration was announced. The success of these initiatives, particularly the Treaty of Maastricht, had a significant impact on all levels and exerted a tangible influence on the economy. This led to the creation of "the European Community," which later developed into the European Union (Rosato, 2010).

4.1.1. European Member States and Europe-USA Relations

Union is primarily described as a connection or association that occurs between two or more entities, whether they be objects or individuals, resulting in the formation of a collective entity. When individual states come together, a collective entity known as a union is formed. The European Union consists of 27 member nations located on the European continent, out of a total of 50 states.

The relations between the European Union and its member states are crucial since they play a pivotal role in the examination of foreign policy. Consequently, this relationship is characterized by a harmonious equilibrium between the autonomy of individual nations and collaboration within the European framework. Their connection underwent rationalization, modification, and harmonization after significant growth in 2004, when former Soviet republics joined for a closer union.

Bulmer and Lequesne (2020) highlight that within the European Union (EU) there is both an intergovernmental structure, in place where member states maintain

influence over decision making processes despite the existence of supranational bodies like the European Commission and European Parliament alongside the Court of Justice of the EU. While these bodies hold power in their right member states play a crucial role in shaping EU policies through entities such, as the Council of the European Union and the European Council, which directly represent national interests and sovereignty. Gaining a clear understanding of their involvement in this process is essential for fully understanding the integration process and the administration of the European Union. Therefore, the European Union is essentially established based on the combined efforts of its member nations.

Over the years since its establishment in 1957, the European Union has seen an increase in the number of Member States, growing from 6 to 28. However, with the United Kingdom's exit in 2020, the current number of countries is 27. The United Kingdom was a member for 47 years before leaving. The European family is categorized into four distinct groups: the trio of Baltic nations, including Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, and the pair of islands consisting of Cyprus and Malta. Denmark, Sweden, and Finland are classified as Northern European countries. Greece is considered part of South Eastern Europe. Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, and Bulgaria are all part of Eastern Europe. Germany, France, Spain, and Italy are the four largest and wealthiest countries in Western Europe, which also includes Portugal, Luxembourg, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Ireland. This illustrates a substantial expansion over the course of several decades. The process of integration and entrance to the European Union naturally involves a protracted procedure of consensus, accession talks, and adherence to the fundamental ideals of the Union. An illustration of this may be seen in the case of Romania and Bulgaria, who submitted their applications for membership in 1995 and were admitted as members in 2007, after enduring a rigorous process of examination and undertaking extensive measures to tackle corruption problems over a period of 12 years. Turkey has been seeking membership since 1990; however, their bid is still awaiting acceptance (Bulmer and Lequesne, 2020). By doing this, the Union shows its member states that the European Parliament has to speak for all of them and that a competent presidency has to focus on creating a unified framework that can speak for them internationally. In addition, she contributed to the development of a comprehensive plan for integration that

sought to enhance and establish European policies while still enabling member states to maintain a significant degree of their own sovereignty. The Lisbon Treaty exemplifies this phenomenon by strengthening the authority of the European Parliament and simplifying the decision-making procedure among member states.

The implementation of the euro as the designated currency of the European Union has encountered delays. Zeff and Piro (2015) emphasized the progression of this implementation, together with the economic difficulties and financial downturns that the European Union encountered over a period of time.

Despite facing challenges, the European Union persevered and achieved significant progress, including engaging in international talks, stabilizing the Balkans, mediating disputes like the peace process in Syria, and attracting new candidates for European integration. The ongoing continuity and progress in European integration have facilitated the re-evaluation of previous ideas and the formulation of novel theoretical frameworks. Neo-functionalism prioritized the concept of collaboration across several functional domains, resulting in a more comprehensive integration process and the advancement of other sectors. This entails collaboration among member nations and a gradual relinquishment of sovereignty, resulting in a progressive shift towards more profound political integration.

The idea of inter-governmentalism suddenly became prominent as a way to understand the process of integration. The belief is that individual countries play a role, in promoting cooperation in Europe by making decisions that influence integrations path in economics and trade. The main goal, for member states is not to establish a union but to work together in certain areas to enhance their own well-being domestically. The primary purpose of EU institutions is to enforce compliance with the promises made by all member states. However, the advantages of collaboration within the EU may differ based on the size and level of economic advancement of each country. States, as the primary actors, must collaborate to enhance their economic and trade well-being (Zeff and Piro, 2015). It is generally acknowledged that Member States play a crucial role in the integration and governance of the European Union (Bulmer and Lequesne, 2002). They hold a prominent role in the decision-making process of the European Union, whether it is in the European Council, intergovernmental conferences, or political entities like the

Council and its subsidiary committees. Furthermore, they have a crucial function in executing European policy by furnishing the requisite administrative framework for the EU across diverse domains. These players frequently view the European dimension as an expansion of their national policy domain rather than a separate activity. As a result, many European policies are shaped by national decision-makers who are not actively engaged in European matters (Bulmer and Lequesne, 2002).

A United Europe has long been seen as a possible answer to the problem of how to stop centuries of strife; that is, how to bring an end to the bloodshed that has plagued Europe. Starting in 1946, Winston Churchill advocated for the establishment of the "United States of Europe", while Jean Monnet, from the early 1950s, actively worked towards fostering more cohesion among European nations, mostly through a gradual process. The Marshall Plan incentivized and actively advocated for European governments to collaborate for their mutual advantage, while the emergence of the Cold War heightened, sharpened, and further amplified the need for collective endeavours. The experiences of the League of Nations and the United Nations have also provided encouragement and served as standards for functioning unions, while emphasizing the difficulties faced when individual governments cooperate within international institutions. Zeff and Pirro (2015) observe that throughout the late 1940s, several Europeans were contemplating novel strategies for integration.

Created in 1947 under the auspices of American advisors, the Organization of European Economic collaboration (OEEC) aimed to ease interstate collaboration and meet the requirements for receiving Marshall Plan funding. The Council of Europe initiated a fresh endeavour for the integration of Europe in 1948. The decision-making procedures inside both of these bodies continued to be intergovernmental, demonstrating a more "unionist" approach rather than a federalist one. Monnet and other individuals acknowledged that the normalization and collaboration between Germany and France were crucial requirements for any significant advancement of the European Union. By 1958, it became evident that the OEEC had not achieved its goal of promoting European unity. However, attempts to integrate Europe persisted with the establishment of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris in 1948. An unprecedented step was proposed in the Schuman Declaration of 1950, which called for a high shared authority to supervise

the production of coal and steel in a Franco-German cooperation. This program provided the opportunity for other states to participate in this endeavour by combining their resources for mutual advantages, but relinquishing governmental authority over this industry. This declaration facilitated enhanced economic collaboration in several functional domains. The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was established in 1952 when six governments signed the Treaty of Paris. These laws established the guidelines that member nations were had to adhere to, therefore altering the dynamics and connections among European states (Zeff and Piro., 2015). Despite this, the nations decided to work together and give up some control over decision-making to the Coal and Steel Community since they knew that earlier integration efforts, like the OEEC, had failed to bring Europe together and fulfill its demands. Zeff and Pirro (2015) assert that in 1958, these countries accepted the Treaty of Rome and amalgamated to establish the European Community (EC), thus merging the ECSC, EURATOM, and the Economic Community European. This consolidation aimed to enhance collaboration on intergovernmental decision-making.

In 2010, Gowland Turner and Wright argued that Britain purposefully decided against participating in the phases of integration because of its strong connections, with the Commonwealth and worries about losing sovereignty. This issue was crucial as Britain believed its worldwide impact and historic bonds were vital to its character. Furthermore, difficult diplomatic ties with France at that time added challenges to Britain's engagement, in unity making cooperation more difficult. Before the expansion, in 1973 took place the original six member states had developed a bond of goals and collaboration which helped them effectively handle the challenges of integration. Despite challenges and uncertainties, on the journey to establish a front completely intact posed various obstacles to overcome. The road to success was far from guaranteed as conflicts often arose among the founding members and in their interactions with the European Community itself. Internal disagreements were prominently highlighted during the «chair crisis which unfolded when Charles de Gaulle's withdrawal, from institutions symbolized Frances's discontent with certain integration aspects. The crisis eventually resulted in the Luxembourg Compromise. This agreement brought back a process of decision-

making involving member states and helped foster a more cooperative atmosphere (Gowland et al., 2010).

In the field of international relations, recognizing both commonalities and significant distinctions is crucial. Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, a representative of the Union of European Federalists, provided a comprehensive analysis of the distinctions between the European Union and the United States in a video shown on Euro news' U Talk channel. He emphasized many clear differences between the two entities. As an illustration, the European Union presently consists of 27 member nations, whereas the United Nations comprises 50. Similarly, the population of the European Union surpasses 500 million, whilst the population of the United States is about 300 million. In Europe, joining the Union is a personal choice that necessitates a political decision, but in the United States, being part of the Union is an established reality that does not need formal membership (Euronews, 2011). In light of this, the United States and the European Union are now one entity, with a combined population of almost 800 million, and they are collaborating to make the world a better, more peaceful place by upholding international law, multiculturalism, and the United Nations Charter. Their alliance is founded on core shared principles, including the democratic procedure, human rights, and adherence to legal principles, unrestricted business activity, and the alleviation of poverty. The primary objective of this foundation is to enhance the global system by forming a collaborative alliance that can effectively tackle the existing global concerns. Despite being the primary providers of humanitarian relief and sustaining millions of jobs through their economic connections, their collaboration fosters a climate that promotes global stability. This encompasses the active promotion of peace and security on a global scale, as well as the joint efforts to tackle significant global security issues like as terrorism, transnational crime, and the spread of nuclear weapons. Due to their strong economic connections, which account for almost one-third of the global GDP in terms of purchasing power, they are the primary trading partners and have the greatest bilateral trade relationship in the world. Being the primary investors in each other and the preferred marketplaces for investment, they have a significant role in the global economic landscape.

As an institution, the US is a federation headed by a president, but the EU is somewhere in the middle, functioning as both a federation and an international organization. In terms of budgeting, the US budget accounts for around 20% of the US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is centrally administered. On the other hand, just 1% of the European GDP is handled at the European level by the Commission. In contrast, the European Union functions under the framework of treaties that need unanimous approval from all 27 member states, whereas the United States works under the authority of its Constitution. There are notable disparities between economic and social models. Europeans place significant emphasis on environmental concerns and the ecological transition. This is seen in their heightened awareness of climate change, preference for healthy food, support for sustainable transport systems, and utilization of renewable energies. These elements are often of lesser importance in the United States (Euronews, 2011).

The United States-European partnership is a rock of stability for Europe in a world of geopolitical unpredictability and global conflicts. The transatlantic alliances, forged in the aftermath of World War II and bolstered over time, are pivotal in tackling shared concerns such as the Russian menace, the ascent of China, and the perils of terrorism and cyberspace.

Hubert Védrine asserts that Europe finds reassurance in the enduring robustness of the Atlantic Alliance, notwithstanding recent strains. The Trump administration created tensions, especially due to its contentious environmental position, but industrial collaboration continues despite external restrictions. Nevertheless, increasing disparities, particularly regarding China and the Middle East, may result in a progressive separation. Védrine contends that the trajectory of Europe-U.S. ties will be contingent upon the conduct of specific European nations. He promotes the establishment of a recalibrated alliance based on two fundamental principles, despite internal obstacles and uncertain actions from the United States. The fate of this alliance will depend on the strategic decisions made by Europeans and their capacity to manage a progressively multipolar and unpredictable global context (Védrine, 2020).

The alliance between the European Union and the United States is based on democratic ideas, which serve as the foundation for their partnership. Despite

encountering several challenges, the United States has always supported the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. The transatlantic cooperation is very economically advantageous due to its enormous trade and investment connections. Ensuring continuous communication and strong collaboration between different sectors is crucial, since any disruptions in this economic interdependence can have significant consequences. In terms of security issues European countries should work together with the United States in an approach to tackle problems such, as terrorism, regional disputes and cyber-attacks. Organizations such as NATO play an important role in the collective security arrangement since they are needed to maintain a robust transatlantic front. Furthermore, cultural and educational interactions between the EU and the US promote mutual understanding and minimize societal tensions, supporting shared values and encouraging long-term collaboration. Strategic alignment on global issues establishes Europe and the United States as global leaders, with long-term strategic objectives and strong partnerships serving as foundations for promoting global stability, prosperity, security, and democracy (Wickett, 2018).

4.1.2. Trade and Commercial Commitments of the European Union

Beckerman (1956), examines how distance influences the trade structures of Western European countries. He asserts that distance has long been a critical factor affecting trade patterns. Beckerman hypothesizes that to accurately assess trade structures; the "absence of transport costs" must be considered, applying coefficients to normalize each country's export data.

The European Union (EU), as the world's third-largest economy, has a substantial influence on global commerce, representing one-sixth of it through its 27 member states. The European Union's internal market guarantees the unrestricted flow of goods, services, capital, and individuals, highlighting its significant economic value. It is crucial to examine several facets of the European Union's trade and commercial endeavours, with a specific emphasis on both commerce within Europe and trade with other countries, as well as their trade agreements. Following the Second World War, Western Europe, which had suffered significant destruction, took steps towards achieving regional peace and stability by promoting democracy and protecting human rights. The 1950 Schuman Declaration was a significant milestone that

included the consolidation of the coal and steel sectors in Western Europe under a single governing body. The objective of this integration was to mitigate conflicts and curtail the manufacturing of weapons of war. At the outset, six countries participated in this endeavour, establishing the groundwork for the European Union. During the next forty years, there was an increase in economic and security collaboration, and additional countries became members. The establishment of stronger connections has greatly diminished the probability of hostilities, resulting in Western Europe experiencing an unparalleled period of calm over the previous 80 years (Beckerman, 1956).

The creation of a unified market and the use of a common currency have raised the European Union to a prominent economic and political institution. The European Union's combined GDP in 2022 amounted to \$16.6 trillion, positioning it as a significant global contender, trailing only the United States with a GDP of \$26 trillion and China with a GDP of \$19 trillion. The economic prowess of the European Union (EU) is mainly dependent on three major countries: Germany (4 trillion \$), France (2.7\$ trillion), and Italy (\$1.9 trillion). These nations collectively contribute to more than half of the EU's economic output, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Germany, home to 83.4 million people, is the most populous member of the European Union (EU), followed by France with 68.4 million, Italy with 59 million, Spain with 48.6 million, and Poland with 36.6 million. Collectively, these countries form a significant portion of the EU's population distribution. While Spain and Poland are influential in terms of both population and economic contributions, they are not the most densely populated nations within the EU. However, they play crucial roles in shaping the overall dynamic of the European Union. Together, these nations Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and Poland—account for 66% of the EU's population. Economically, they dominate the region, with their combined gross domestic product (GDP) contributing substantially to the EU's total. When factoring in economies like the Netherlands and Belgium, the top five economies alone make up around 70% of the EU's total GDP, which stands at approximately \$16 trillion. Expanding to the top 10 economies, they account for about 85% of the EU's

economic output, with less than half of the 27 member states collectively contributing \$14 trillion. (European Commission, 2023)

The distribution of economic power highlights the pre-eminence of the largest economies in shaping EU policy and direction, while the population spread underscores the importance of both populous and strategically vital countries. The remaining EU countries, although less populous such as Romania, with 19 million, the Netherlands with 17.9 million, and Belgium with 11.8 million, still contribute to the union's diversity and economic strength. The least populous member states, such as Malta (563,000) and Luxembourg (672,000), further illustrate the wide demographic range within the EU. Despite their smaller size, these countries still play vital roles in the political and economic landscape of the union.

An observable pattern exists in which the economic size of member nations is directly related to the length of time they remain in the EU. Out of the six original members who established the organization, namely Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Belgium, five of them are ranked in the top 10 economies within the European Union. Ireland and Denmark, both of which became members in 1973, hold the 9th and 11th positions in the rankings, respectively. The 10 most recent members joined the group after the year 2004. If the United Kingdom had not withdrawn in 2020, it would have retained its position as the second-largest economy, with a GDP of \$3.4 trillion. The United Kingdom joined the European Union in 1973 (Rao, 2023). Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 represent sectoral analysis of the EU.

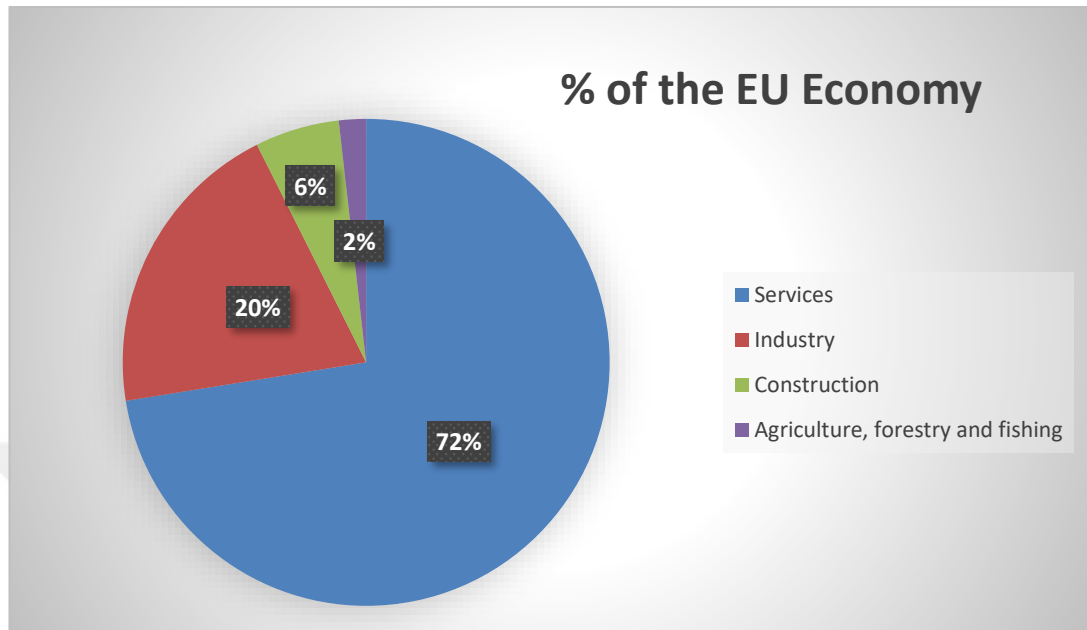
Table 4.1: EU sectoral analysis

Rank	Sector	% of the EU Economy
1.	Services	72.4%
2.	Industry	20.1%
3.	Construction	5.6%
4.	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.8%

Source: (Rao, 2023)

The European Union Economy, Estimated at \$16 Trillion.

Figure 4.1: Representing sectoral analysis of the EU



Source: (Rao, 2023)

Following the description of the data shown in the image above the chart, this pie chart offers a breakdown of the different economic sectors of the European Union as a proportion of the overall economy. The results indicate a substantial dominance of services, comprising 72.4% of the economy. This sector comprises a wide array of activities, including financial services, transportation, communications, and professional services, that make a significant contribution to value generation inside the European Union. On the other hand, the industry sector accounts for a significant but smaller portion of the economy, amounting to 20.1%. The sector encompasses manufacturing, energy production, chemical industry, and information technology. It continues to be a vital foundation of the European economy, but it has experienced a relative decline compared to the services sector.

The construction sector, accounting for 5.6% of the European economy, plays a crucial role in the development of physical infrastructure and metropolitan areas. While services and industry have a larger proportion, construction still plays a significant role in driving economic growth and creating jobs.

At 1.8%, agriculture, forestry, and fishing are the least important economic sectors in Europe. While these activities may not provide a significant economic impact on the

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the EU, they are essential for ensuring food security, preserving the environment, and maintaining rural customs.

The European Commission (2021) states that the new approach to EU trade policy is "Open, Sustainable, and Assertive," highlighting the dominant role of the EU in international trade, particularly in relation to China and the US. The European Union's success is heavily dependent on foreign commerce, and its economy is considered one of the most globally accessible. The European Union views its trade policy as crucial for advancing its principles and exerting influence, in addition to the economic advantages it brings. The European Union's commerce with third nations reached a total of 4,067 billion euros in 2019, establishing the EU as the foremost global commercial force, surpassing both China and the United States. Despite holding a prominent position as a leader, accounting for 31.2% of world commerce, the EU remains the second-largest importer (after the United States) and exporter (following China). Based on the January 2021 Eurostat data, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a substantial influence on the European Union's international commerce. In 2020, the export of products from the euro area had a decline of 9.2% in comparison to the previous year, while imports likewise witnessed a reduction of 10.8%. However, the trade surplus reached 234.5 billion euros, a little increase from the 221 billion euros recorded in 2019. Trade inside the Eurozone also experienced a decline of 8.9% compared to the previous year. In 2020, China surpassed all other countries to become the European Union's primary commercial partner, with a notable rise in both imports (5.6% increase) and exports (2.2% increases). Conversely, there was a substantial decrease in commerce with the United States, with imports falling by 13.2% and exports down by 8.2% (European Commission, 2021).

Trade policy is an exclusive competency of the EU and is considered one of the common policies of the European Union. This allows the EU to protect its interests with a unified approach. The European Union is dedicated to a robust multilateral trading system founded on established regulations. The entity has sole authority to create laws regarding all matters pertaining to trade and to finalize international trade pacts.

The European Commission is tasked with representing the European Union in relation to third nations and international organizations. It is incapable of pursuing various trade strategies; it only presents one on the world stage. Nevertheless, the European Union Council, which represents the governments of the Member States, is involved in the consultation process with the Commission during the drafting of agreements. The Council casts votes on the endorsement of the agreement, and the European Parliament possesses the authority to reject these accords when approving them. If a treaty encompasses many domains with shared jurisdiction, then it is mandatory for all Member States to ratify it. In this scenario, it is a mutual agreement in which both the European Union and its Member States are participants. Both Member States and the EU have a duty to collaborate throughout the process of negotiating, finalizing, and carrying out the agreement.

This exclusive jurisdiction is established by the treaties. As per Article 206 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Union's trade policy aims to promote the balanced growth of global trade, gradually eliminate limitations on international trade and foreign direct investment, and reduce customs barriers and other obstacles. Moreover, the creation of a free trade zone among its Member States is one of its fundamental principles, and the promotion of global commerce is one of its goals, which is why there are coordinated endeavours to diminish trade obstacles. Europe swiftly embraced uniform regulations with regards to third nations, in addition to establishing a single market and a customs union. In 1968, a uniform customs duty was implemented for all goods originating from outside the European Union.

In order to accomplish its objective of liberalizing global trade, the European Union (EU) has prioritized the establishment of bilateral trade agreements with nations that are not part of the EU. Multiple categories of trade agreements have been finalized:

Economic Partnership partnerships (EPA) facilitate the economic growth of African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations; Free Trade Agreements (FTA) strive for mutual market access with developed and rising nations; Association Agreements (AA) encourage more comprehensive political partnerships.

The European Union is currently in trade discussions with several third nations and entities, including Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Mexico, Canada, MERCOSUR, Chile,

Australia, and New Zealand. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) becomes effective on November 21, 2019, and the investment protection agreement must be approved by all EU Member States through ratification. Vietnam implemented a FTA in August 2020, while Mexico secured an agreement in April 2018. CETA, a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, came into effect in September 2017. MERCOSUR negotiations concluded in June 2019, involving Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Chile is currently negotiating to modernize its existing FTA, while Australia and New Zealand are currently negotiating for an FTA.

In 2020 the EU and China came to an agreement, within the Comprehensive Agreement, on Investment (CA). The main goal of this pact is to make it easier for both sides to invest in each other's economies; despite this progress though the agreement still awaits signing and ratification (European Commission, 2021). A trade agreement, known as the TCA, was struck on December 24, 2020, and came into effect on January 1, 2021, in order to lessen the consequences of Brexit on the United Kingdom. While certain agreements are being implemented, others are experiencing delays. An example of this is the 2019 deal between the European Union and MERCOSUR, which is now being scrutinized by many European countries, including France. The deal has received criticism for its inadequate environmental safeguards, with member states specifically calling for Brazil to do more.

An analogous scenario prevails in the United States. In 2016, following the election of former President Donald Trump, the European Union and the United States decided to cancel the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TAFTA) deal. Amidst a worldwide trend towards economic nationalism and growing public concerns about environmental preservation, the European Commission has formulated a fresh approach to EU trade policy. The recently revealed European trade policy, announced on February 18, 2021, is based on the ideals of resoluteness, ecological sustainability, and inclusiveness.

The European Commission is adjusting its trade strategy to prioritize ecological and digital change, as well as multilateralism. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, the Commissioner for Trade, has stated that Europe will only account for 15% of global growth in the next ten years, with the remaining 85% occurring outside of Europe.

Consequently, despite the crisis promoting isolationism, it is not the ultimate answer. Adopting a protectionist approach and focusing solely on domestic commerce would only worsen economic prospects, considering the significant trade surplus enjoyed by the European Union. The European Union (EU) strives to maintain its status as a liberalized economy while guaranteeing that its global obligations actively promote worldwide transformation and safeguard against unjust trade practices, as outlined in the principle of open strategic autonomy. The Union has declared many aims, which encompass stimulating economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, making future trade deals contingent upon adherence to the Paris Agreement, strengthening the EU's capacity to safeguard its interests, and revamping the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Additionally, the EU seeks to ensure competition compliance by developing trade defence instruments against unfair competition practices. Its goal is to establish fair and equitable trade with countries outside the Union, which requires a reform of European trade regulations, particularly regarding foreign direct investments (FDI), anti-dumping measures, and trade defence.

The European Union has made its trade policy its preferred instrument for international influence. The significance of its trade diplomacy stems from its belief in its own integration model based on market liberalization, is founded on trade as its main external competence, and is justified by its dominant position in global trade. The concept of commercial integration has consistently been intertwined with the endeavour to create a unified Europe. It is the basis of the functionalist reasoning of the founding fathers of the Treaty of Rome. European integration mostly involves the process of integrating through commerce. Additionally, it is greatly indebted to the simultaneous process of integration through legal means, particularly influenced by the Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC). The legal principles that were originally established in the field of trade have been expanded to other areas, such as the protection of fundamental rights and individual liberties. This expansion has occurred due to a phenomenon of influence spreading from the four freedoms outlined in the Treaty. It is part of the larger process of unifying and harmonizing laws to create a single internal market. The Copenhagen criteria, established in 1993 for EU admission, emphasize the mutual compatibility of the two aspects: Europe discreetly identifies itself as a trading democracy, prioritizing free commerce and the rule of law. Trade serves as the foundation of a federal construction process that

deliberately avoids explicitly stating its name. In the United States, the freedom of "interstate commerce" has been regulated by federal law since 1887 and constitutes significant portions of the Supreme Court's comprehensive legal principles.

The European Economic Community (EEC) established its unity with its partners by means of commerce, which was important in its formation. The establishment of a customs union, which served as the foundation for its integration, inherently involved the establishment of a unified trade strategy, known as the "external dimension of the internal market", was enabling Europe to establish itself as a global player. The issue of exclusive assignment of competence has often been settled in favour of the Union, notwithstanding some ongoing disputes with the member states (Delpech and Paugam, 2005).

5. CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY

Modern diplomacy has demonstrated its impacts and is more important than ever. As Pierson Dixon (1964) noted, the objectives of diplomacy are manifold as nations maintain varying relations with each other. While states pursue common interests, most are concerned with the security and prosperity of their own countries. The more political administrations work and exert all their efforts towards closer collaboration between nations and the harmonization of their interests, the more diplomacy finds the opportunity to be exercised (Dixon, 1964).

As for the difficulties encountered by the EU in light of the emergence of new global powers, (Sebastian, 2012) noted that, with the bipolar order fading away, the EU is confronted with the same difficulties encountered by other emerging powers. The emergence of nations like China, India, Brazil, Turkey, and South Africa, along with the resurgent influence of Russia on the global political stage, are challenging Europe's position and necessitating a re-evaluation of its plans and capabilities.

The establishment of the European Union as a prominent player in the global arena is crucial in order to confront these emerging issues. The European Union must not only ascertain its position in this evolving global landscape, but also formulate efficacious policies and tactics to engage with these burgeoning powers. This entails the cultivation of vigorous and versatile diplomacy that can effectively adjust to the intricate dynamics of global political and economic governance. Therefore, Europe must confront the task of preserving its position and exerting its influence while adjusting to emerging geopolitical circumstances. This necessitates meticulous contemplation of its interests, values, and long-term objectives, along with the capacity to collaborate with these burgeoning powers on matters of mutual concern while safeguarding its own interests and values. Essentially, the EU has to deliberately and aggressively position itself to address the problems presented by developing nations and actively contribute to global governance (Santander, 2012).

Europe is being confronted with a range of intricate and dynamic issues. One of the primary difficulties is in effectively handling diplomatic relations with rising global powers like China, Russia, India, and Brazil. While the Union has consistently aimed

to advance its principles and interests globally, it must now tactfully balance collaboration and rivalry with these influential antagonistic entities among the growing nations. Michelle Alliot-Marie, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense of the European Union, asserts that despite Europe's economic prowess, it continues to lack political influence, rendering it a political dwarf. This idea is well-founded and supported by data, even if it pertains to a country with significant economic influence worldwide. In terms of politics, the leadership is incapable of resolving significant global issues, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Iranian situation, and the Ukrainian crisis. While the European Union continues to be a significant force in philanthropy, generously investing in the development of other nations, its track record in diplomacy is not a tale of triumph.

The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the bipolar bloc structure led to the emergence of new global actors, there has been a rise of new national entities in the global arena. These countries, known as rising powers, originate from diverse backgrounds, encompassing the former communist bloc (China, Russia), non-aligned countries (India), and past authoritarian or dictatorial governments in Africa (South Africa) or Latin America (Brazil, Argentina). India, China, and Brazil stand out as notable examples of countries experiencing significant economic growth, indicating a potential restructuring of global economic and political dynamics.

Trépan (2008) emphasizes the intricate difficulties that Europe encounters when dealing with the rise of these newly emerging powers in the context of global operations. She highlights the necessity for Europe to implement a deliberate and forward-thinking strategy to tackle these difficulties and capitalize on the possibilities presented by this global economic shift (Trépan, 2008, pp. 6-54). Nevertheless, she highlights that growing nations like India and China adhere to unique cultural and civilizational norms, which might result in misinterpretations and inadequately tailored initiatives by the European Union. Hence, this cultural divide presents substantial obstacles in terms of reciprocal comprehension and economic collaboration.

European and American corporations are attracted to emerging economies due to the substantial profit potential they provide. Nevertheless, this increase in influence also gives rise to apprehensions within society, namely over the transfer of manufacturing

operations to nations with lower wages. The rise of multinational corporations enables a direct link between manufacturers and customers for a wider variety of products and services. This is accompanied by a significant rise in relocation patterns, which poses a challenge to the conventional international division of labour. The ascent of rising nations embodies all the essential components of a significant geopolitical shift.

The term "emerging countries" has superseded the term "newly industrialized countries" that was utilized in the 1980s. These nations are often characterized by their swift incorporation into the global economy, demonstrated by their substantial exports and the liberalization of their financial markets to international investment. Their swift assimilation is evident in the substantial rates of economic expansion, as demonstrated by the remarkable statistics for China, India, and Brazil in contrast to those of the United States and the European Union (for instance, between 1995 and 2005, China experienced an 18% growth in merchandise exports, India saw a 13% growth, and Brazil had a 10% growth, while the United States only had a 4% growth). In comparison, EU nations have maintained an average yearly growth rate of about 2% over the past decade, but China's growth rate has varied around 10%. In 2007, the rate for India was at 8%, while Brazil had a rate of 4%. The fast expansion has been facilitated by foreign direct investments, namely in the industrial and services sectors, which have also facilitated the transfer of technology. China has successfully attracted a substantial portion of foreign investments, namely in the manufacturing industry, with prominent worldwide corporations like Nokia, Siemens, and Sony (Trépant, 2008).

The rise of populism and nationalism within the Union represents yet another major challenge that European diplomacy must confront. Isabelle, (2024) has defined these two political concepts. Populism is an ideology (or political movement) that promotes the "people" - whether imaginary or real, majoritarian or identitarian by developing a discourse based on a triple mistrust:

- 1) towards certain elites (parties, deputies, officials);
- 2) towards an alleged hidden system (conspiracy) that would betray the fundamental interests of the people;

3) towards international entities or movements - companies, organizations, migrations, etc. Associated sometimes with the right and sometimes with the left, populism is also a political style: simple doctrine, strong and charismatic leader, structured mass organizations.

Nationalism, in her view, is a political ideology that promotes the independence of the nation-state, or at least the unity of the national community based on specific objective criteria (typically ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and/or religious) and subjective criteria (such as national sentiment, revered figures, and shared aspirations) that have developed gradually. Nationalism is a belief system that places importance on a sense of belonging to a particular community, generally with the intention of differentiating itself from another group, and at times, even opposing it.

Nationalism, in essence, is an ideology that seeks more sovereignty or self-governance for a nation. It holds the belief that existing powers, within a bigger body, impede its progress or are inadequate. Nationalism manifests in diverse ways across different periods and throughout numerous nations. It has served as a significant catalyst for the decolonization movement in Africa and Asia. Nationalism is evident within certain populations in bigger nations, such as Chechnya in Russia, Quebec in Canada, the Basque Country and Catalonia in Spain, Timor in India, Tibet in China, and the Kurdish community in Iraq. Typically, nationalism is linked to patriotism, which refers to a deep sense of national identity (such as American nationalism). Nationalism had a direct role in causing the First World War and also fuelled the emergence of rivalries that ultimately led to the Second World War, such as German nationalism (Lacroix, 2024).

Populism represents a challenge for Europe by influencing foreign policies, disrupting decision-making processes regarding trade, and exacerbating tensions related to managing migratory flows. Despite their impact on public debates, populists generally have limited influence on concrete political decisions, with traditional parties and governments often retaining control over major policy directions.

Balfour et al., (2016), explained why the rise of populism poses a major challenge for Europe. They measured to justify from several angles that this ideology impacts foreign policies. Populist parties have a significant influence on foreign policy

debates, polarizing discourse, simplifying messages, and proposing often unrealistic solutions based on a return to national sovereignty. This influence has complicated the identification and implementation of adequate political solutions, especially regarding crises in Syria and Ukraine, the influx of refugees, and the integration of immigrants into society. On the other hand, it has an influence on international trade relations, whose direction or Populist leaders often criticize trade agreements such as the TTIP, using these platforms to fuel anti-globalization sentiments. Despite their ability to influence the tone of trade discussions, their concrete impact on political decisions regarding trade is limited, with traditional parties and governments retaining control over major trade negotiations. While populist parties still exploit divisions within European societies on migration issues, simplifying political choices and criticizing the EU for its lack of transparency and bureaucratic nature. Their influence has contributed to a paralysis of political responses to the refugee crisis, exacerbating tensions and reducing the chances of identifying common solutions, which participate in the repercussions on managing migratory flows, a subject that has not always found a successful solution for the Union even if it prioritizes reducing the arrivals of migrants who pass through the Mediterranean, a process that requires strong initiatives to manage the flows (Balfour et al., 2016)

It presents the European Union with a complicated and multidimensional problem. It challenges the fundamental principles of European collaboration, weakens the unity inside the EU, and jeopardizes its capacity to protect its interests and uphold its values in the global arena. Europeans must confront the task of combating populist tendencies and enhancing cohesion and cooperation inside the EU in order to tackle present-day global concerns. Populist movements in Europe have had influence on the foreign policy of their respective countries by raising doubts about their relationships with other member states of the European Union. For instance, several populist administrations have endeavoured to broaden their global alliances by distancing themselves from EU institutions and forging stronger ties with nations like as China and Russia. The current inclination to challenge established alliances and prioritize alternative relationships has the potential to undermine the unity of Europe and hinder the European Union's capacity to act collectively on the global platform.

As stated by (Destradi et al., 2021), populism has the potential to politicize foreign policy institutions and consolidate decision-making processes, ultimately leading to the adoption of revisionist political stances. For instance, several populist administrations in Europe have employed populist rhetoric to rationalize drastic alterations in their foreign policy, contradicting the inclinations of their constituents over matters like EU or NATO affiliation. Furthermore, the increasing popularity of populist movements might pose a threat to established international standards and institutions that involve many nations, thereby putting European collaboration and regional stability at risk. Populist administrations frequently want to diminish their reliance on conventional partners and broaden their foreign connections, thereby undermining the EU's standing on the global platform (Destradi et al., 2021).

A trend emerges that questions founding principles and rejects its ability to act unitedly on the international stage. According to (Carine 2019), the European Union has faced a rise in populism, as evidenced by the Brexit victory in the UK in June 2016, as well as the strong showings of several populist parties across Europe, notably in Italy, Austria, and Germany, in various elections. At the same time, a rise in nationalism is also observed, particularly in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where nationalist parties oppose Brexit and the withdrawal agreement. Similarly, in Catalonia, the referendum on independence in 2017 and the events that followed highlighted nationalist sentiments. Despite being distinct ideologies and discourses, both populism and nationalism question the European project, either by criticizing its functioning and institutions or by advocating for changes in its composition. Through the examination of various nationalist and/or populist parties in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, and the UK, this study aims to explore how the progression of nationalism and populism could pose challenges to the EU in the short and medium terms (Berbéri, 2019).

Current complex security issues are also other challenges to manage such as terrorism, migration, and climate change, demanding close cooperation among member states to strengthen the ability to act communally and adapt to new security realities. Furthermore, the emergence of economic powers like China, India, and Brazil questions the traditional international division of labour and raises concerns related to the relocation of production to low-wage countries. This economic

evolution underscores the need for Europe to rethink its trade and industrial strategies to remain competitive in a constantly changing globalized environment.

Emerging economies offer profit prospects to European and American companies, but also generate social concerns related to competition and globalization. The increasing integration of these emerging powers into the global economy raises questions about fairness, sustainability, and the impact on European workers and industries, requiring thoughtful reflection on current policies and regulations. Finally, the emergence of China, India, and Brazil heralds a multipolar world that could shift the economic and political centre of gravity on a global scale. This transformation of the global geopolitical landscape highlights the importance for Europe to adapt to new economic and political realities while seeking to maintain its influence and competitiveness on the international stage.

Nationalism in Europe is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has gained momentum in recent years. This study aims to examine the dynamics and challenges associated with this rise of nationalism, shedding light on the underlying motivations as well as the implications for social cohesion and European integration. Indeed, nationalism in Europe is manifested through a surge of nationalist and populist political parties, such as the National Front in France and the Alternative for Germany in Germany, which promote discourses centred on national sovereignty, national preference, and resistance against supranational institutions. According to Halikiopoulou and Vlandas (2019) claim that an important distinction lies between traditional ethnic nationalism and emerging civic nationalism. While ethnic nationalism is based on criteria such as ethnic origin and common descent, civic nationalism emphasizes shared values and principles within society. This evolution enables nationalist parties to adopt a more inclusive and less discriminatory discourse, while justifying their anti-immigration positions.

The increasing prevalence of nationalism in Europe presents significant obstacles in terms of fostering social unity, promoting intercultural interactions, and maintaining democratic government. Nationalist rhetoric has the potential to intensify conflicts among various populations, incite fear and hatred towards foreigners, and challenge the core values of unity and inclusivity upheld by the European Union. Furthermore, nationalism has the potential to result in heightened political polarization, which in

turn can exacerbate societal fragmentation and impede the exchange of ideas and collaboration across European nations. The motives for the rise of nationalism in Europe are manifold and intricate. Economic concerns, especially during times of economic uncertainty and globalization, play a major role in this rise. Nationalist parties capitalize on these concerns to advocate for anti-immigration and protectionist policies, portraying nationalism as a response to the economic and social challenges faced by European citizens.

Factors on the economic, social, and political levels have all contributed to the growth of nationalism across Europe. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of these processes is crucial in order to formulate efficient strategies and foster a diverse and inclusive perspective on European identity. The challenges presented by nationalism highlight the necessity for the European Union to enhance its cohesion, solidarity, and flexibility in response to an ever-evolving context (Halikiopoulou & Vlandas, 2019). Furthermore, in the context of multinational operations, Inès Trépant (2008) highlights complex challenges that Europe faces in the context of the rise of emerging powers, emphasizing the need for a strategic and proactive approach to address these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities offered by this global economic change. Trépant (2008, pp. 6-54) aptly depicts the current situation by highlighting Europe's historical imposition of its worldview as a model of an advanced society. However, emerging countries such as India and China operate according to distinct cultural and civilizational parameters. This cultural disparity can lead to misunderstandings and ill-adapted strategies on the part of the European Union. Consequently, this cultural divergence poses significant challenges in terms of mutual understanding and economic cooperation.

5.1. Adaptation to New Geopolitical Challenges

Global geopolitical dynamics have undergone significant transformations in recent decades, posing new challenges to European diplomacy. This section explores the key contemporary challenges facing the European Union (EU) and the resulting adaptation strategies. The European Union is confronted with a series of major geopolitical challenges that require strategic adaptation to maintain its stability and position in an evolving global environment. In his work "The Return of Great Power

Rivalry: Democracy Versus Autocracy from The Ancient World to the US and China".

Kroenig (2020) highlights several key elements that shed light on relevant perspectives for understanding the challenges facing the European Union in its adaptation to new geopolitical challenges. "While the United States has dominated the global stage for the past few decades, this supremacy is now being contested by the emergence of new global actors." This statement elucidates the author's perspective on the current geopolitical climate, which he uses to analyse the effects on world geopolitical stability. This pertains to the rise of new contenders that are threatening the United States global dominance, particularly Russia and China, who have emerged as significant rivals. For instance, Russia's assertive activities, including invasions in Ukraine and Georgia, as well as its participation in Syria, demonstrate its position as a regional and global force. China's dynamic and swift economic growth, along with its military expansion, has altered the balance of power not only in Asia but also globally.

The European Union must face the obstacles presented by these emerging geopolitical problems. Hence, it is imperative for the European Union to formulate risk mitigation policies and strengthen its collaboration with global counterparts in order to efficiently and harmoniously address these difficulties. The European Union must evaluate its alliances and strategic partnerships in light of the escalating tensions between the United States, Russia, and China. These tensions directly impact the security and stability of the European Union, especially in areas such as energy security, cybersecurity, and migration.

The EU is highly dependent on imported natural gas and oil to fulfil its energy requirements, which poses a significant challenge to its energy security. Competitions between dominant nations for the control of energy resources and transportation pathways might result in interruptions in the European Union's energy provision, impacting its energy resilience and economic steadiness. One of the most significant concerns to tackle in Europe is the energy crisis, which has become even more pressing since Russia announced that it will cease supplying natural gas from Moscow. Securing Europe's energy supply will pose a substantial and enduring challenge. European countries should coordinate their efforts to tackle this issue of

energy and food security. On top of that, cyberattacks are becoming standard tactic for big powers' confrontational methods. The European Union is susceptible to cyber-attacks emanating from nations such as Russia and China, who have exhibited their capacity to carry out sophisticated cyber operations against governmental institutions, corporations, and key infrastructures. These assaults have the potential to jeopardize the security of confidential information, impair critical services, and erode confidence in digital systems.

Geopolitical tensions and conflicts in specific regions can result in significant migration of individuals, including refugees and migrants, towards the European Union. Conflicts between powerful nations can worsen these tensions by intensifying regional disputes and generating unstable circumstances that prompt people to seek asylum in Europe. This can exert pressure on the ability of EU member states to receive and integrate migrants, and perhaps give rise to social and political conflicts within the Union (Kroenig, 2020).

5.1.1. Strengthening the Coherence and Effectiveness of European Diplomacy

European diplomacy plays a vital role in promoting peace and stability within Europe, as well as in enhancing the European Union's position on the global stage. Achieving a more integrated common foreign and security policy necessitates addressing institutional challenges and considering reform perspectives. Coordinating the foreign policies of member states represents a significant challenge in terms of multilateral governance and unanimous decision-making. Additionally, public diplomacy and strategic communication are essential for advancing the EU's image internationally.

The history of Franco-German cooperation in foreign and security policy provides a tangible example of successful collaboration. Agreements between France and Germany aimed at aligning their military strategies and tactics illustrate the importance of working together to achieve common approaches. Moreover, personnel exchanges between the armed forces of both countries and the establishment of Franco-German operational research institutes demonstrate a commitment to enhanced cooperation in the defence domain. The establishment of joint commissions to study and compare ongoing armament projects in both countries underscores the importance of collaboration from the project formulation

phase, thereby enhancing security cooperation. Furthermore, the potential establishment of Franco-German cooperation in civil defence indicates the governments' willingness to strengthen cooperation in key security areas. Therefore, strengthening the coherence and effectiveness of European diplomacy requires an integrated and collaborative approach among member states. By overcoming institutional challenges, improving the coordination of foreign policies, and enhancing public diplomacy, the European Union can promote a unified and influential global image, thereby contributing to peace and security in Europe and beyond (Hill and Smith, 2000).

In order to boost the consistency and efficiency of European diplomacy, it is imperative to implement institutional changes that will solidify the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), promote the coordination of foreign policies among member states, and bolster the significance of public diplomacy and strategic communication. These endeavours are crucial in establishing the EU as a powerful and unified global participant capable of safeguarding its interests and principles on the international platform.

The Lisbon Treaty was a significant milestone in the history of the European Union, with the objective of enhancing its position as a global player. One important aspect of this development is on strengthening the consistency and efficiency of European diplomacy. Koehler (2010) argues that the Lisbon Treaty empowered the European Union to have a unified and consistent diplomatic approach, hence strengthening its role as an international actor.

Koehler (2010) asserts that the Lisbon Treaty strengthened coordination structures among Member States, enabling the EU to offer cohesive stances in international discussions. The consolidation of diplomatic stances among the Member States has bolstered the EU's reputation and global influence. In addition, the Lisbon Treaty enhanced the efficiency of European diplomacy by simplifying decision-making procedures. The treaty granted more authority to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, resulting in expedited and more effective decision-making in matters of foreign policy. The consolidation of skills and abilities in one single location enabled the European Union to react with greater

speed and consistency to global issues, thus amplifying its influence on the global arena.

The Lisbon Treaty significantly enhanced the coordination and efficiency of European diplomacy. The EU's increased influence and coherence as an international player resulted from the consolidation of Member States' viewpoints and the streamlining of decision-making procedures. These modifications allowed the European Union to more effectively safeguard its interests and advance its principles on the global platform, signifying a significant achievement in the development of its foreign policy (Koehler, 2010).

On his part, Brodin (2024) stresses the need for EU member states to work together for successful and consistent foreign policy. Nevertheless, he highlights the ongoing challenges, namely with the formulation of development cooperation strategies by former colonial powers like the United Kingdom and France. These initiatives, which are commonly seen as tools for exerting political and economic power, may clash with the objectives of European allies (Brodin, 2024, p. 52).

The modification of the European Community Development Policy Declaration has encountered opposition from certain member states, like Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Sweden, who favour retaining authority over national cooperative policies. France supports a unified development plan and more collaboration between the Commission and member states. In order to enhance the consistency and efficacy of European diplomacy, it is essential to foster the integration of development programs, synchronize operational measures, and guarantee alignment of aims with other community policies. Significant advancements have been achieved since the reform in 2000, especially via the creation of Europe Aid and the allocation of powers to Commission delegations.

The European Union should see its member states as advantageous mediators in its interactions with emerging nations, utilizing their historical and cultural connections with certain regions. This strategy would bolster the Union's leadership in the present global setting and foster greater transparency and predictability in aid.

To improve the logical consistency and efficiency of European diplomacy, it is necessary to enhance cooperation among member states and the Commission, as well as align development strategies and overcome impediments associated with national

interests in order to promote a unified approach. By taking this action, the European Union may enhance its influence on the world arena and make a more impactful contribution to the advancement of global development and solidarity (Brodin, 2024).

European Union (EU) diplomats must work to improve the consistency and effectiveness of their efforts, as pointed out by Jennings (2010). Jennings examines the obstacles inside institutions and proposes ways to strengthen the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), coordinate member states' foreign policy, and acknowledge the crucial importance of public diplomacy and strategic communication in improving the EU's worldwide reputation. The development of the EU's CFSP has faced substantial institutional obstacles, mainly owing to complex decision-making procedures and member states' desire to protect their sovereignty. The Lisbon Treaty included measures to strengthen the CFSP by establishing entities such as the High Representative/Vice-President and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The purpose of these new bodies is to improve the consistency and effectiveness of European diplomacy by strengthening the coordination of member states' activities at the European Union level.

Given the EU's three-pillar structure and the need for unanimous decisions, it is clear that coordinating the foreign policy of member states is no easy feat. The EU's external actions' cohesion was hindered by the overlapping powers of the different pillars prior to the Lisbon Treaty. The structural reforms implemented by the Lisbon Treaty aim to enhance the coordination of member states' foreign policy within the EEAS, thereby enabling more unified and consistent external activity. However, public diplomacy and strategic communication are crucial in boosting the EU's worldwide image. Public diplomacy enhances the EU's credibility and influence in global affairs by increasing the visibility and consistency of its external initiatives. Strategic communication facilitates the efficient spread of EU ideals and the promotion of its fundamental principles, including democracy and the respect for human rights. By integrating these aspects, the EU can strengthen its standing as a reliable and united global participant (Jennings, 2010).

5.1.2. The Challenges of Sustainability and Global Responsibility

Climate change is a significant obstacle that the global society is now grappling with. European diplomacy is essential in driving worldwide efforts to reduce the impact of environmental issues and advance sustainability. The European Union (EU) is distinguished by its prominent role in advocating for ambitious policies that aim to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate the shift towards renewable energies, and safeguard biodiversity. In addition, the European Union endeavours to facilitate the mobilization of efficient global collaboration by uniting both governmental and non-governmental entities towards shared goals in order to address the issue of climate change. The adoption of this cooperative method is crucial in tackling this worldwide issue and guaranteeing a viable future for subsequent generations.

Several important points are brought out by Vooren et al., (2013) include the importance of trade agreements promoting European values and environmental standards; the role of the EU as a leader in international efforts to combat climate change; the importance of trade agreements promoting human rights by highlighting the European Parliament's demand for human rights clauses; and the diversification of international partnerships, which shows the EU's dedication to strengthening ties with different groups. Considering the importance of sustainability and global responsibility in today's international relations, it is necessary for global actors to take a comprehensive and active approach. In this context, the European Union (EU) plays a crucial role in promoting these principles through its policies and interventions on a global level.

European diplomacy in the fight against climate change highlights European leadership and international cooperation. Faced with the climate crisis, the EU has taken a leading position in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energies. The European Parliament, as cited in a report, advocates for a trade strategy that integrates environmental values and standards into international trade agreements. This demonstrates the EU's commitment to combating climate change while fostering effective international cooperation for common environmental goals.

There are tensions between democratic principles and security imperatives when it comes to the EU's efforts to promote human rights and the rule of law in its foreign relations. While the European Union places great importance on upholding human rights in its foreign policy, there are instances where these principles may clash with security and geopolitical considerations. The European Parliament strongly advocates for the incorporation of human rights provisions in EU trade agreements, underscoring the significance of balancing security and democracy in the EU's foreign affairs.

The potential for a comprehensive and varied European diplomacy emphasizes collaborations with non-governmental entities and developing areas. The European Union aims to enhance its sphere of influence by engaging in partnerships with key allies such as the United States, Japan, and China. This collaboration is intended to bolster regulatory coordination and actively contribute to the establishment of global standards. These collaborations provide the European Union with the chance to take a prominent position in global regulation, therefore advancing inclusive and diverse diplomacy in addressing current concerns related to sustainability and global responsibility.

The promotion of sustainability and global responsibility by the EU through its environmental diplomacy, defence of human rights, and diversified partnerships illustrates its commitment to a balanced and coherent approach in its international relations. These issues underscore the importance of collective and concerted action to address global challenges and promote common values of sustainability and responsibility on a global scale (Vooren et al., 2013).

The challenges of global sustainability are complex and must be analysed through communication, education, politics and governance so that this theme mobilizes the public in favour of sustainable practices in the sense that communication will make it possible to disseminate scientific information necessary to raise awareness of global sustainability. Secondly, education should be a place that promises environmental management and sustainable living to future generations, because lifelong learning can empower individuals by developing their knowledge about sustainable development and the efforts that this work requires.

To reach the sustainable development goals, it is crucial to establish coherence and alignment across various policy areas and distribute governance among local, national, and international actors to ensure the achievement of sustainability objectives. International cooperation, including global partners, will resolve cross-border problems to achieve collective objectives for sustainable development. This common approach will lead to a more sustainable and resilient future, as it aims to resolve problems and promote collective goals (Vooren et al., 2018).



6. CONCLUSION

European diplomacy is at a critical juncture, necessitating deeper integration to confront contemporary geopolitical challenges. Advancing a more cohesive Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) requires institutional reforms to reconcile the diverse national interests of member states and streamline the complex structures within the European Union (EU). Key measures, such as enhancing the authority of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP), building a more integrated European diplomatic service, and strengthening cooperation mechanisms between EU institutions and member states, are essential steps towards fostering a unified and effective CFSP.

The coordination of foreign policies among EU member states is often hindered by the unanimity decision-making mechanism, limiting the EU's ability to adopt clear and coherent positions on the international stage. Faced with increasingly complex geopolitical challenges, a revision of the EU's decision-making process is needed to foster effective and responsive multilateral governance. This could involve a gradual transition to qualified majority decision-making in areas of foreign and security policy, while respecting the national interests of member states.

Public diplomacy and strategic communication play a crucial role in promoting the EU's image globally. By enhancing the visibility of the EU and effectively communicating its values, policies, and actions, the EU can strengthen its legitimacy and influence on the international stage. This requires increased coordination between EU institutions, member states, and non-state actors to develop integrated and impactful communication strategies tailored to specific geopolitical challenges.

The way the European Union manages its affairs and interacts with countries shows a mix of different approaches to global leadership and cooperation when viewed through various theories of international relations, such as realism, liberalism, constructivism, institutionalism, and critical theory, to explore the role of the European Union on a global scale. From a realist perspective, the European Union's (EU) actions are shaped by its position within a global environment characterized by power dynamics and the pursuit of national interests. While the EU promotes

normative values such as democracy and human rights, its foreign policy often reflects pragmatic considerations rooted in geopolitical and strategic calculations. For example, in the context of energy diplomacy with Russia, the EU has pursued agreements that ensure energy security despite broader political tensions. Similarly, its strategic engagements with China demonstrate a balance between advocating for normative principles and addressing economic and political imperatives, illustrating the intersection of idealism and realism in its international relations.

The European Union's (EU) actions often reflect an acute awareness of global power dynamics, aligning with realist principles centred on security and self-preservation. This perspective is particularly evident in the development of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which underscores the Union's commitment to enhancing strategic autonomy and addressing external threats. By prioritizing measures that bolster its capacity to navigate external risks, the EU highlights the pragmatic considerations that shape its foreign policy, reflecting a balance between normative values and strategic imperatives.

The EU's involvement in trade agreements and its active participation in organizations, as well as its initiatives to defend human rights and democracy, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), reflect liberalism's vision of fostering stability through collaborative efforts. The EU's external policies reflect ideals, advocating governance and economic cooperation while upholding democratic values.

Constructivism is crucial, in defining the identity of the European Union as a power that emphasizes democracy, human rights and environmental sustainability in its interactions on the world stage. The EU's diplomatic strategies are greatly shaped by its view of itself, as an influence seeking to promote these values worldwide. The EU's dedication, to development and combating climate change is evident in its expansion strategies and climate policies like the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. It shows the EU's commitment to promoting values such as peace and development while solidifying its position, as a global leader advocating for environmental sustainability and governance reforms. Nevertheless, as highlighted in the study findings the EU faces obstacles, in this position because it needs to juggle

its goals with the requirements of global politics particularly when dealing with nations that do not espouse similar beliefs.

Institutionalism highlights the significance of the EUs governance systems, like the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) play a role in enabling the Union to function effectively worldwide. These systems are essential for fostering consistency and efficiency in the EUs engagements and partnerships with bodies such, as the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Within the EUs framework lays the capability to partake in diplomacy—a vital aspect of its foreign policy approach as indicated by research findings. Despite the establishment of these structures ensuring a level of coherence the EU faces challenges in harmonizing the interests of its member states, which occasionally hinders its ability to project a united front internationally. The thesis suggests that additional reforms are essential to improve the effectiveness of these institutions and harmonize priorities, with shared EU goals.

The analysis of Critical Theory brings attention to the power dynamics and unequal relationships that continue to exist in how the EU engages with developing countries when it comes to trade interactions— in connection, to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Research has revealed that these agreements with Pacific nations often maintain dependencies and disparities instead of facilitating genuine economic progress as intended. Critical Theory offers a critique of the EUs policies by pointing out that despite the Unions professed commitment, to promoting fairness and sustainable development through its trade deals; in some cases, these agreements might actually strengthen existing hierarchies. The impact of member countries and influential interest groups adds complexity to the decision-making procedures of the EU and sparks worries regarding equality and openness, in governance affairs. The study underscores the importance of the EU addressing these gaps to foster cooperative relationships, with emerging nations to guarantee that its initiatives foster advancement instead of upholding current standards.

This research not only enriches our knowledge of diplomacy in academia but also shows how the EU's external relations are evolving in a world of rapidly changing geopolitics. By combining these models, this study establishes a basis for investigations into EU foreign policy and its effects on global governance. As the EU

faces obstacles and changes ahead, how it juggles power dynamics, encourages collaboration and stays true to its norms will shape its impact on the global stage. In conclusion, this comprehensive study of the diplomacy and external relations of the European Union through the lens of international relations theories has allowed for an in-depth exploration of the complex dynamics governing the EU's global interactions. Through systematic analysis, the study highlights the growing significance of the EU as a key player in international affairs, as well as the unique challenges and opportunities it faces.

The examination of key EU diplomatic institutions reveals the diversity of mechanisms and actors involved in the formulation and implementation of its foreign policy. Additionally, analysing the EU's external relations within the context of international relations theories provides insight into the underlying motivations and strategies guiding its interactions with other global actors. By adopting an interpretative approach, this research goes beyond mere facts to explore the deeper implications of the EU's actions and policies on the global stage. This perspective underscores the complexity of the issues facing the EU and the need for a nuanced and flexible approach to effectively address these challenges. Ultimately, this thesis contributes to enriching our understanding of European diplomacy and its role in contemporary international relations. It emphasizes the importance of further research to better grasp the future developments of EU foreign policy and its impact on the global stage. In conclusion, this comprehensive study of European Union diplomacy and foreign relations using international relations theories has offered in-depth insight into the complex dynamics that regulate EU contacts across the globe. This study laid the foundations for future investigations into the role of the EU in global governance while contributing to the scholarly debate on European diplomacy in modern international relations. In the future, more in-depth studies will be needed to understand how the EU continues to adapt to a rapidly changing geopolitical environment and how its foreign policy plans will change in response to these difficulties.

In a world where diplomacy has historically contributed to numerous positive outcomes since World War II, a series of unprecedented conflicts marked by power struggles are now being confronted. Global powers are no longer seeking to fairly

defend opposing parties but are instead aligning against each other for political, economic, or cultural reasons. This scenario has led to widespread disorder, a lack of commitment to human rights, the resort to armed conflict, and the division of blocs along opposing ideologies.



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