

International Organisations and Development

The Role of the European Union in the Global Governance Lesson VII

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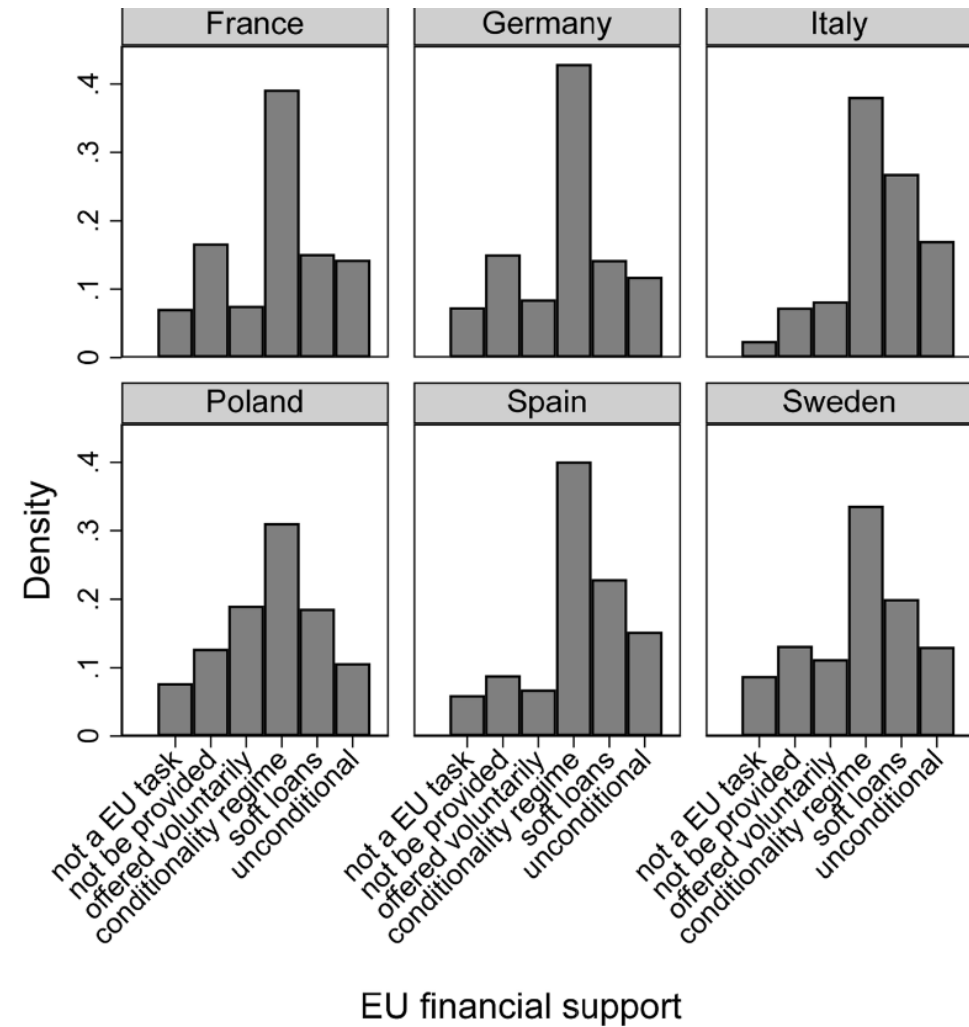
Can the EU be a chief actor of global governance?

- The size, geopolitical properties and economic power of the EU suggest it should be
- At the same time, however, such role would require resources that are not under the control of the EU: monopoly in foreign affairs, military power, a common interest, a single voice....but most of these resources are privileged domains of states, not of the EU!
- Despite all possible limits, the EU has emerged as a global power (with a recognised leadership in fields such as climate change - often in cooperation with the UN - and in IOs such WTO) and also for fundamental financial assistance to EU member states.

Fig 1: Should EU Member States Help Each Other?
 (Data from RESCEU survey, 2016)

Main finding: the share of respondents who oppose European solidarity overall limited, various forms of intra-EU solidarity supported by a majority of citizens.

Source: Mariotto, C., & Pellegata, A. (2023). Should EU member states help each other? How the national context shapes individual preferences for European solidarity. *Comparative European Politics*, 21(1), 42-63.



The EU as a normative power

- The power of the EU lies in the ability to change the international community promoting its values by use of persuasion rather than coercion
- The value system of the EU is broad (concertation, supranationalism, human rights, rule of law, etc.) while specific interests may vary a lot among its member states depending on the situations and issues at stake
- As such, the EU goals in the global scene tend to be broad and in defence of fundamental values rather than focused on strategic interests

Soft power

- Use of commercial incentives and sanctions (access to the Common market, embargos, etc.) to induce third parties to adopt a given behaviour (the EU is the largest export market for over 80 countries).
- Trade is the main tool of the EU in external relations: since the Commission is the main actor of the EU trade policy, the Commission is also the main actor of the EU external relations (promoting EU values, policies and regulatory practices)
- Aids to third countries: the EU + its member states are the main donors to developing countries at the global level
- The EU has established privileged trade relations with many countries (including the former colonies of the European states)
- The EU has a Neighbourhood policy to aid and stabilise neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe and North Africa

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

- CSFP was established by the Treaty of Maastricht, that entered into force in 1993, and was further reinforced by later treaties such as the Amsterdam Treaty (1999), the Nice Treaty (2003) or the Lisbon Treaty (2009)
- CSFP is only one face of the EU external relations (together with trade policy, neighbourhood policy, enlargement, etc.) mostly consisting of civilian missions and special representatives in troubled regions
- Its main aims are:
 - to safeguard the EU's values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity;
 - to consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;
 - to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security;
 - to assist populations, countries and regions confronting natural or man-made disasters.
- Among others, the EU plays a role in the Middle East Peace Process, in diplomacy (non-proliferation) with Iran and in strengthening the stability of the Western Balkans, including Kosovo
- The European Council defines the principles and general guidelines for the CFSP as well as common strategies that are then implemented by the Council of Ministers
- CFSP is chaired and represented by the EU's High Representative (assisted by the European External Action Service) who sits both in the Council of Ministers and in the Commission