

What's in a name: The EU's Common Security and Defence Policy

Ann Jacobs · Aug 16, 2011



Critical analysis of the organization and implementation of the CSDP.

Criticizing the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is easy. A brief look at Europe's recent actions in conflict areas and failed states paints the picture very clearly: despite apparent ambitions in that direction, the EU still acts in the shadows of its member states, and has not yet proven itself as a convincing international 'state-fixer'.



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Nothing showcases the dispersed European agendas better than the Iraq War in 2003. Admittedly, this was before CSDP was supposedly *Common* by name, but more recent examples such as Libya show little improvement by *nature*: the EU is stuck with vague political statements, France takes pride in its military engagement, Britain retains the vestiges of Empire, while the Germans – busy counting their money – seem to think it is none

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