

European Union's Failure to Tackle Crisis Situations

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ABSTRACT

For more than for decades, EU has risen to the point that it became an important global actor. Being the world's second economy has made it possible. But despite its economic power, EU seems to be unable to be a strong political actor in the tri-continent region. The fact that EU does not want to assume a role as a hard power is not the only reason. There are other factors that need to be taken into account. The problem lies in the heart of the institutional framework. Recently, EU has failed to become a major regional lider in more than one occasion: Libya, Syria, Ukraine, are the perfect examples. EU has a hard time to react in a promptly matter to external crisis situations, and this is because the foreign policy of the Union depends on the external policies of the member states, all together. So in order to react, EU needs to have all the members to agree. Intergovernmentalism is a failed policy in this matter. Having failed to find a proper response, one that would count, EU has basically just managed to impose economic sanctions in all 3 separate occasions, a solution that did not managed to resolve the problem. Instead, the inability to react more promptly, EU has opened the door for the most important member states to take matter into their own hands: France in Libya, Germany, Poland and again France in Ukraine, and that only shows that the Union as a whole is just not ready to take it to the next level in the region. This will probably not happen until EU foreign affairs will not be run almost entirely by the European Commission.

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