

The European Parliament in EU external relations

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I. Introduction

- Presentation – LS ...
- Starting point – External relations + EP's role in general

II. The European Parliament

- The directly elected democratic representatives
- Functions – legislature, budgetary authority, political debate and accountability
- Organisation – plenary and committees - delegations

III. EU External action

- Aims
- Powers and competences – CFSP – CCP, development and technical cooperation – but also external aspects of internal policies
- Instruments – legislation, international agreements, representation and debate + enlargement...

IV. Legislation in the field of external relations – role of EP

- CFSP – non legislative
- CCP, development and technical cooperation
- External aspects of internal policies
- OLP
- Recent big files – reform “package” CCP – NDICI and IPA III

V. International Agreements

- The conclusion
- Why should EP have a role?
- Procedure – the respective role of the institutions
- EP's main role – consent
- Refusal – very rare
- Shortcomings...

VI. Scrutiny of International Agreements by EP

- under Article 218(10) TFEU – an expression of a democratic principle on which EU is founded
- The right to information – Scope and meaning
- Access to information – modalities
- Scrutiny in EP – EP RoP
- Examples of EP Resolutions – specific case of TCA

VII. Representation – and accountability (political control)

- HRVP- COM
- Legal framework for holding the external representation accountable
- Means of accountability
- Some specific issues
- Accountability to be distinguished from – legislative role, role in consent and consultation procedure and the access of the public to documents

VIII. Other aspects of EP's role in external relations

- Elections observation...
- EP delegations
- Interparliamentary bodies ... ACP-EU, EU-UK...

IX. The Common Commercial Policy and the democratic debate

- An exceptional transparency initiative – TTIP
- How FTAs (and related matters) are dealt with in EP
- Central issues in the debate – freedom to regulate, investment protection, human rights, transparency... (recent development in energy)...
- Influence of the debate in EP

X. Recent developments

- Russia
- China
- Conference on future of Europe – proposals concerning external relations
- Trade package
- COVID 19

Recommended reading

- Judgment of 14 June 2016, *Parliament v Council* (Tanzania Agreement), C-263/14, ECLI:EU:C:2016:435.
- Judgment of 24 June 2014, *Parliament v Council* (Mauritius Agreement), C-658/11, ECLI:EU:C:2014:2025.
- Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission, OJ L 304 of 20.11.2010, p. 47.