
Workshop Report One

**The EU Diplomatic System after Lisbon:
Institutions Matter**

University of Maastricht

18-19 November 2010



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Centre for the
Study of
International
Governance



Maastricht University

The appointment of Catherine Ashton as the chair of the Foreign Affairs Council and the creation of Union delegations all over the world have given an important boost to the emerging EU diplomatic system. However, one year after Lisbon there remain a lot of question marks about the concrete shape and future role of these new bodies. The increase in the number of players has further added to the complexity of the European foreign policymaking process. Aiming to contribute to the ongoing discussion, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Maastricht University has organised a workshop on the underpinning institutional architecture of EU diplomacy. The event took place in the broader framework of a Jean Monnet Multilateral Research Network on 'The Diplomatic System of the European Union' (DSEU) led by the universities of Loughborough (UK) (Prof. M. Smith/ Prof. D. Allen), Leuven (BE) (Prof. S. Keukeleire) and Maastricht (Prof. S. Vanhoonacker) (see: <http://dseu.lboro.ac.uk/>).

In six different panels, both academics and practitioners debated around a number of central themes related to:

- the institutional design of the EEAS;
- the training and recruitment of diplomatic staff;
- the legal dimension of EU diplomacy;
- the composition and role of EU delegations;
- questions of coordination and accountability

The workshop did not come to any clear-cut conclusions but triggered discussion about a number of key issues deserving further attention:

- the changing inter-institutional dynamics provoked by the emergence of new players, both in Brussels, the national capitals and in third countries;
- the continuing relevance of past institutional arrangements and practices in shaping the new bodies;
- the legal challenges brought about by the *sui generis* character of the EU diplomatic system;
- the importance of taking into account the changing international context when modelling the emerging EU diplomatic system and the need to move beyond the normative power approach;
- the academic challenge to make sense of the recent developments possibly through comparative and interdisciplinary approaches.

For more information, please contact Karolina Pomorska or Petar Petrov, Maastricht University (karolina.pomorska@maastrichtuniversity.nl; p.petrov@maastrichtuniversity.nl).