

The Role of the Council Secretariat and the European Commission in EU Foreign Policy

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

**The Role of the Council Secretariat and the
European Commission in EU Foreign Policy**

by

Hylke Dijkstra

1. The recent institutional developments in EU foreign policy are among the most remarkable in the history of European integration.
2. Delegation in EU foreign policy is best seen as a trade-off between the efficiency gains and sovereignty costs.
3. Member states preferred the Council Secretariat to the Commission due to its lack of resources and formal autonomy.
4. The Council Secretariat exerted more influence in civilian than military crisis management. It was most influential in agenda-setting.
5. EU foreign policy is more than pursuing French interests with German money and British consent.
6. With the European External Action Service there will finally be more civil servants than scholars working on EU foreign policy. This is for the better.
7. The trouble with constructivism is that it discards the omnipresence of power in EU foreign policy.
8. International affairs are volatile, the reactions of states predictable.
9. *Commission* officials dislike tape-recorders; on several *Council* premises they simply are prohibited.
10. If Europe is becoming a museum, it surely needs a security policy.