

**Presentation of the Final Report of the Task Force ›EEAS 2.0‹
10 May 2021, 17:30–18:45**

From Self-doubt to Self-assurance

The European External Action Service as the Indispensable
Support for an Effective Foreign Policy

EUROPA



Sieps ●●●
Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

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INVITATION

At a time when the European Union needs to act as a cohesive force to avoid becoming a pawn in the hands of major powers, EU countries are struggling to set aside their differences and focus on the common interest. Despite significant achievements, one crisis-decade and two High Representatives / Vice Presidents (HRVPs) on from the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the European External Action Service (EEAS) still suffers from a lack of buy-in and ownership by member states and other parts of the EU administration.

The tenth anniversary of the Service is an opportune moment to take stock of the EEAS' contribution to forging a more active, coherent and visible EU foreign policy. Led by the EEAS' former Executive Secretary General Pierre Vimont, a high-level group of (former) diplomats, officials of EU institutions and member states, as well as NGO representatives, academics and think tankers have conducted an independent review of the first decade of the EEAS' operation.

The report reappraises the EEAS' actual and potential mission for the years to come, considering the dynamic ecosystem within which it functions. Distilling key lessons from the first decade of operation of the Service, the report spells out 30 recommendations aimed at addressing the identified shortcomings, thereby assisting the EEAS in better fulfilling its mission and updating its *modus operandi*.

The involved organisations, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS), see this publication as their contribution to the debate on a more autonomous and sovereign Europe. The report offers a starting point for a fundamental debate on the topic of the EU's foreign and security policy. The aim is to bring the debate on the foreign policy performance of the EU onto the national levels within the framework of the joint FES project on Sovereign Europe.

PROGRAMME

17:30 SYNOPSIS OF THE REPORT

- › **Pierre Vimont**, Chair of the Task Force, Ambassador de France, Senior Associate Researcher at Carnegie Europe, first Executive Secretary General of the EEAS
- › **Ronja Kempin**, Senior Fellow German Institute for International and Security Affairs

COMMENTS

- › **Niels Annen**, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

DISCUSSION

Chaired by:
Renate Tenbusch, Director EU Office FES Brussels

18:45 END OF THE EVENT

Note: Simultaneous interpretation is provided in English and German.



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