

Introductory remarks

This paper results from work developed within COST Action *New Challenges of Peacekeeping and the European Union's Role in Multilateral Crisis Management*, which deals with multilateral peacekeeping missions around the world, with a special focus on European Union (EU) peace missions. By pooling knowledge and networking, the Action sought throughout the four years of its existence to contribute to pave the way for the elaboration of a vision on the EU's role on peace operations. Inspired by developments within the United Nations (UN), such as the Capstone Doctrine which sets out the guiding principles and core objectives of UN Peace Operations in the 21st century, the Action envisaged to stimulate exchanges among researchers on how, why, when and with whom the EU should envisage common peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions. This publication, as an Action's output, seeks to highlight and discuss internal and external issues that were identified as fundamental to EU's action. This reports directly to inner dynamics related to the underlining rationale of CSDP and of the politics of EU member states, including questions about legitimacy and credibility, as well as modeling aspects, such as the comprehensiveness and reach of CSDP. More deeply, matters related to decision-making procedures and implementation on the field are also discussed, as bridging the conceptual and operational dimensions of CSDP in its various configurations. The paper finalizes with a section on perspectives and recommendations for the EU's role and place regarding peace operations.