

The Role of New Member States in Shaping
the EU's Foreign Policy
(towards Eastern Europe)

EU Study Weeks

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Structure

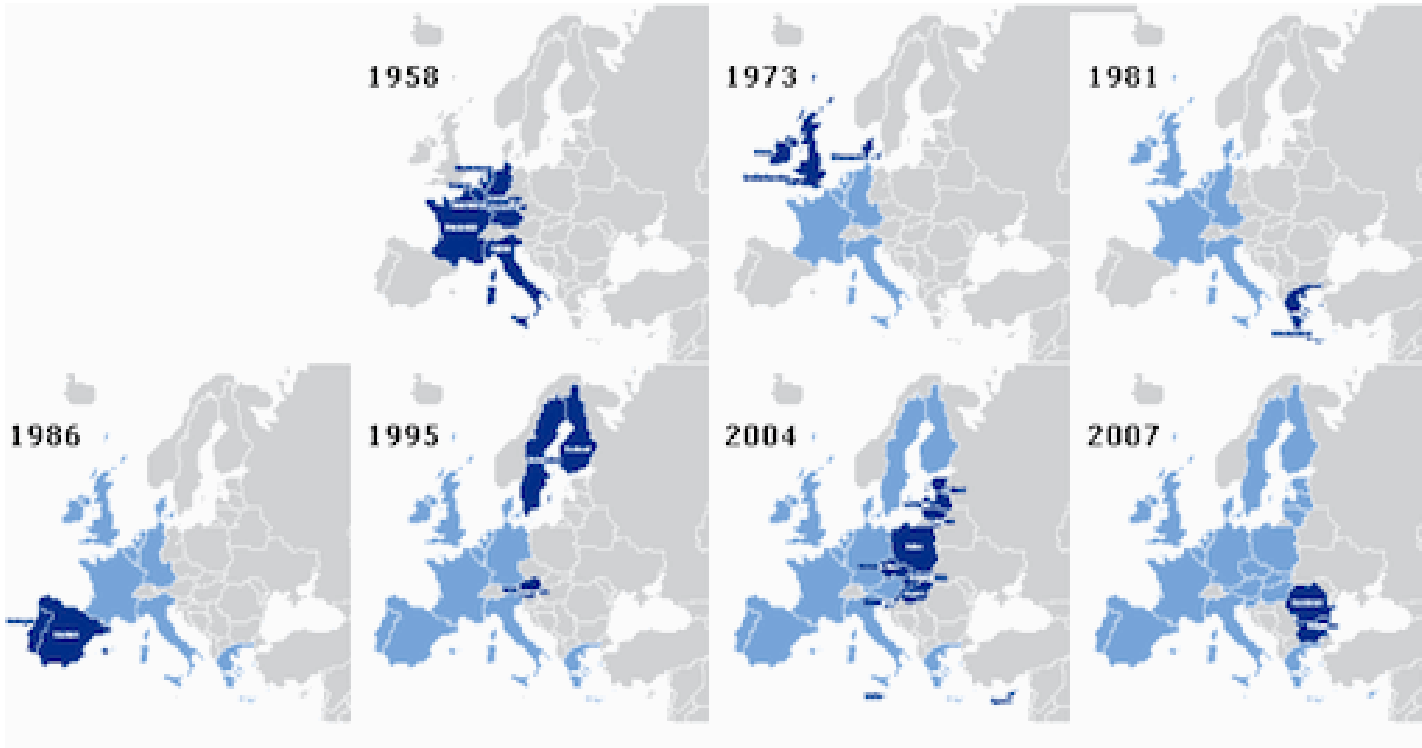
- Introduction
- Understanding EU Enlargement
 - Enlargement as the most successful EU foreign policy
 - The 2004/2007/2013 enlargement stands out
 - Foreign policy implications
- Conclusion and discussion

To start with ...

- According to the EU treaties, membership of the European Union is open to "any *European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them*" (TEU Article 49)
 - respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities

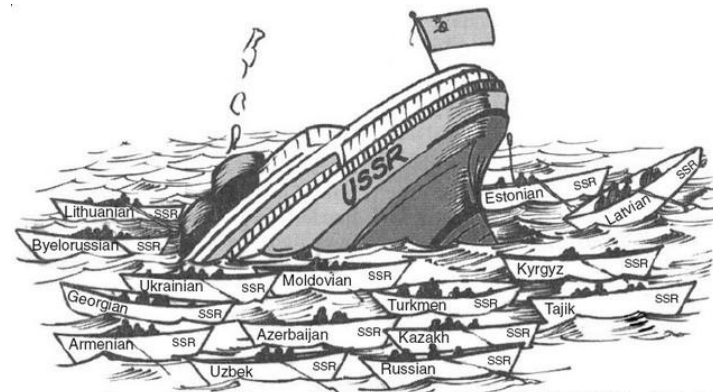


Enlargement is inherent to the EU's identity

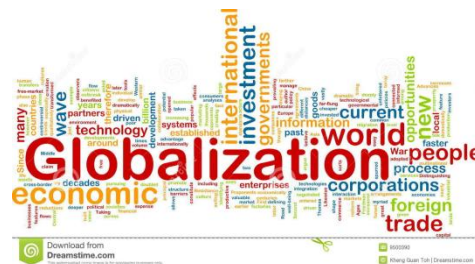


The context of the 1995/2004/2007/2013 enlargement

- The late 1980s and early 1990s see many changes to the international arena



Source: Sue Ann Kime and Paul Stich, *Global History*, N & N Publishing (adapted)



... and the EU is being called
upon

We start to see two parallel tracks:

- Streamlining enlargement policy
- Developing a foreign policy agenda

Streamlining its enlargement policy

- Why?
- What sets the new candidate countries apart?
 - Size
 - Geography
 - Military capabilities
 - History
 - Economic development
 - Political culture
 - Values
 - What more?



➤ The EU responds with the *Copenhagen criteria*

Developing an EU foreign agenda

- Why did it take until the early 1990s?
- What is the EU's foreign policy agenda
 - Common commercial policy
 - Humanitarian assistance
 - Development aid
 - Common Foreign and Security Policy
 - Civilian and military dimensions
 - Common defence (PERmanentStructuralCOoperation: PESCO)?
- What are the main difficulties the EU faces?
 - Diverging interests, the requirement of unanimity (in most areas) and coordination difficulties



... and the new member states
looking for a *policy niche*

In 2004, these two tracks cross ...

- Implications
 - Newly found interest in the East?
 - Wary of Russia?
 - A new Atlanticist block?
 - Reinvigorated human rights and external democratization policy?
 - External energy policy?
 - Promoting further enlargement as a way of stabilization?

- But, are the new member states able to influence the EU's foreign policy making?
- Depending on the extent of their Europeanization
 - Do they know how to play by the rules of the game?
 - Coalition building, persuasion, leading by example, bargaining techniques, institutional structure

Some successes (and why)

The Eastern Partnership

The Energy Union

Some failures (and why)

A Consensus on Democracy

The Energy Union

Conclusion

- We cannot understand the influence (or the lack thereof) of new member states on the EU's foreign policy without understanding "where they came from"
- The new member states do not constitute a homogeneous group!
- But they all share the desire to shape the EU's (foreign) policy
- And they succeed to differing degrees

Thank you!

And please, let's discuss ...