

Conclusions:

The evolution of the CFSP, especially since the Treaty on European Union, can be understood as one element in the major political changes that have occurred in the Atlantic area. These systemic changes have had major political and strategic impact on Canada. However, as a single element of change, so far the CFSP has had little impact on the outside world in general and on Canada in particular. Indeed the Common Foreign and Security Policy is distinguishable from its predecessor the EPC only in its title. Thus the CFSP can be considered at most a latent problem for Canada. The CFSP is simply one aspect of the larger relationship that Canada has with the European Union. This being the case, then any problems that might be caused by the CFSP would best be handled within the framework of an overall Canadian strategy for its relations with Europe. Attempts to maintain the distinction between commercial and political relationships with Europe in operational terms often difficult to maintain. A coordinated approach towards the Union is possible despite the problematic structure of the CFSP with respect to the relationship with the other two "pillars" of the Union. Ultimately, whether Canada successfully develops such a coordinated strategy will depend on the political effort and commitment made by Canadian governments and on the key elements of the Canadian public continuing to believe in the importance of the transatlantic connection.