



European Security and Defense Policy – (ESDP) – Online Course

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The Precautionary Principle and WTO Law: Divergent Views Toward the Role of Science in Assessing and Managing Risk

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Description: This document presents the divergent political views of the EU and US toward the usefulness of science as a tool to understand and manage uncertainties surrounding public health and environmental risks. The author chronicles concerns that have arisen regarding food safety, chemicals management, waste disposal, industrial pollutants and climate change. He concludes that the resolution of these issues is likely to have a profound legal, social and economic impact on all WTO member governments and industries.

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General note: © 2004 John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Parent Publication: [Women and Children](#)

Course

The question of how Europe can contribute to, and assure its security has kept European policy-makers busy ever since they embarked on the journey of European integration in the 1950s.

During the Cold War, Western Europe prospered under the security umbrella provided by the United States. Europe also catered to its own security interests through a process of closer economic integration. Peace and liberty in Western Europe were advanced through economic and social progress.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the European Union (EU) had a great interest in raising the stability, security, and wealth of the adjoining regions. Since then, the EU has implemented a policy of projecting security through stabilization and association processes.

Course Content

This course provides an introduction to European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). It discusses the most important aspects of ESDP and related questions. This includes an overview of the history of ESDP, European Union (EU) institutions concerned with implementing ESDP, EU civilian and military capabilities, the relationship between the EU and NATO, and EU operations carried out within the framework of ESDP.

About the Course

In the autumn of 2003, the [NATO Defense College \(NDC\)](#), located in Rome, Italy, approached the [Geneva Centre for Security Policy \(GCSP\)](#) with a request to develop a two-hour e-learning course on ESDP in English. The GCSP, in turn, invited the [International Relations and Security Network \(ISN\)](#), at the [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich \(ETH Zurich\)](#), Switzerland, to jointly develop the proposed course. Every year, the NDC runs strategic-level courses on political-military issues designed to prepare selected personnel for NATO and NATO-related appointments, and undertakes other programmes and activities in support of NATO. Officers and officials from the alliance's Cooperation Partner countries participate in these programmes.

In preparing the ESDP course, it was envisaged that it would be structured in such a manner as to be suitable for both pre-Senior Course preparation and 'outreach' purposes to other defence colleges, while also capable of standing independently and of being further developed for use by others.

The course was first published in July 2004. Last update of the course: January 2006. The course will be updated annually.