

## **Theories and Approaches in the Study of European Foreign Policy** (FORNET working group meeting, LSE, 7-8 November 2003)

*Theory – why?*

*Approaches – not all are theoretical*

*How far have we come?*

- 1950s and 60s: practitioners predominate: federalism (EDC) v. intergovernmentalism (Fouchet).
- 1970s history and institutional analysis predominated
- But not wholly a-theoretical: Duchêne, Goodwin, Morgan, Allen, Wessels, Taylor, Bull, Pijpers
- Now wide interest in EFP: IR, European studies, political science

*Current priorities*

- History
- Institutional analysis
- Legal approaches
- Political science:
  - Comparative (domestic) politics
  - Political philosophy
- International Relations
  - Integration theory
  - Europeanisation (top-down; sideways; bottom-up; externalisation): but impact of **enlargement?**
  - (Liberal) institutionalism; foreign policy regime.
  - Foreign Policy Analysis/capability-expectations gap
  - Problems of collective action in international relations: politics of scale; 3-level games; international society (English School).
  - Geopolitics: boundaries of Europe; EFP's functions in international system – multipolarity? Systems theory: EFP as system and/or sub-system.

*Conclusions*

- EFP was lightly theorised; now at risk from the heavy brigade.
- Must resist colonisation of domestic politics approaches
- Risk of confusing methodologies with theories (IR)
- No one EFP theory possible
- Normative position-taking = an approach, but not a theory in itself.
- Fragmentation into theoretical ghettos possible as numbers increase.

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