

**ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ**



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Assessing the EU International Performance

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Conceptualizing the EU in International Affairs (1/3)

- ‘International presence’
 - EU has always had important externalities
 - shaping the perceptions and expectations of other international actors.
 - does not necessarily connote purposive external action
 - It derives as an unintended consequence of domestic policy-making processes (e.g. Single Market or EMU)

Conceptualizing the EU in International Affairs (2/3)

- ‘International actorness’
 - assumes deliberative and active functioning in international politics
 - capacity to act (presence indicates mostly a function of being)
 - entails a degree of independence from the external environment and a degree of autonomy from the internal constituents,
 - EU as a political entity capable of formulating purposes, reaching decisions, and engaging in purposive action

Conceptualizing the EU in International Affairs (3/3)

- ‘International Performance’
 - linked with the broader EU legitimacy crisis
 - good performance may justify the existence of an otherwise unaccountable (IO)
 - ‘permissive consensus’ thesis (if it delivers, who cares about democratic governance?)
 - beyond the achievement of agreed-upon objectives (‘effectiveness’)
 - performance is extremely prone to the ‘eye of the beholder’ problem
 - Methodological difficulties:
 - Temporal focus (time frame) and level of analysis (where)

Analytical Framework (1/4)

- Three levels of analysis
 - **Micro-level: output**
 - intra-EU process of policy-formation
 - deliverables of internal political and institutional dynamics that inform the EU international engagement
 - performance indicators: clarity, meaningfulness, relevance to the stakeholders, and inclusiveness

Analytical Framework (2/4)

- **Meso-level: outcome**
 - implementation of output and the deriving EU behavioural adjustment
 - focus on the EU efforts and actions and whether they carry out the agreed outputs and *not* on their impact
 - performance criteria: coherence, proper use of available instruments, and supply of international leadership

Analytical Framework (3/4)

- **Macro-level: impact**
 - effect of the EU international outcomes
 - challenge of establishing causality
 - Internal – external impact
 - culture of ‘quick impact’ and ‘political symbolism’ that has little if any real effect
 - external impact dimension of IOs
performance: goal attainment, problem solving and collective optima
 - Two criteria: effectiveness and efficiency

THREE LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

OUTPUT (micro-level)	OUTCOME (meso-level)	IMPACT (macro-level)
Process of policy formation (intra-EU)	EU international activation (behavioural change): how the EU takes the output at the international level	Result of the EU international activation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regime formation (set up and reform of IOs) • Handling of individual crises

CRITERIA –INDICATORS

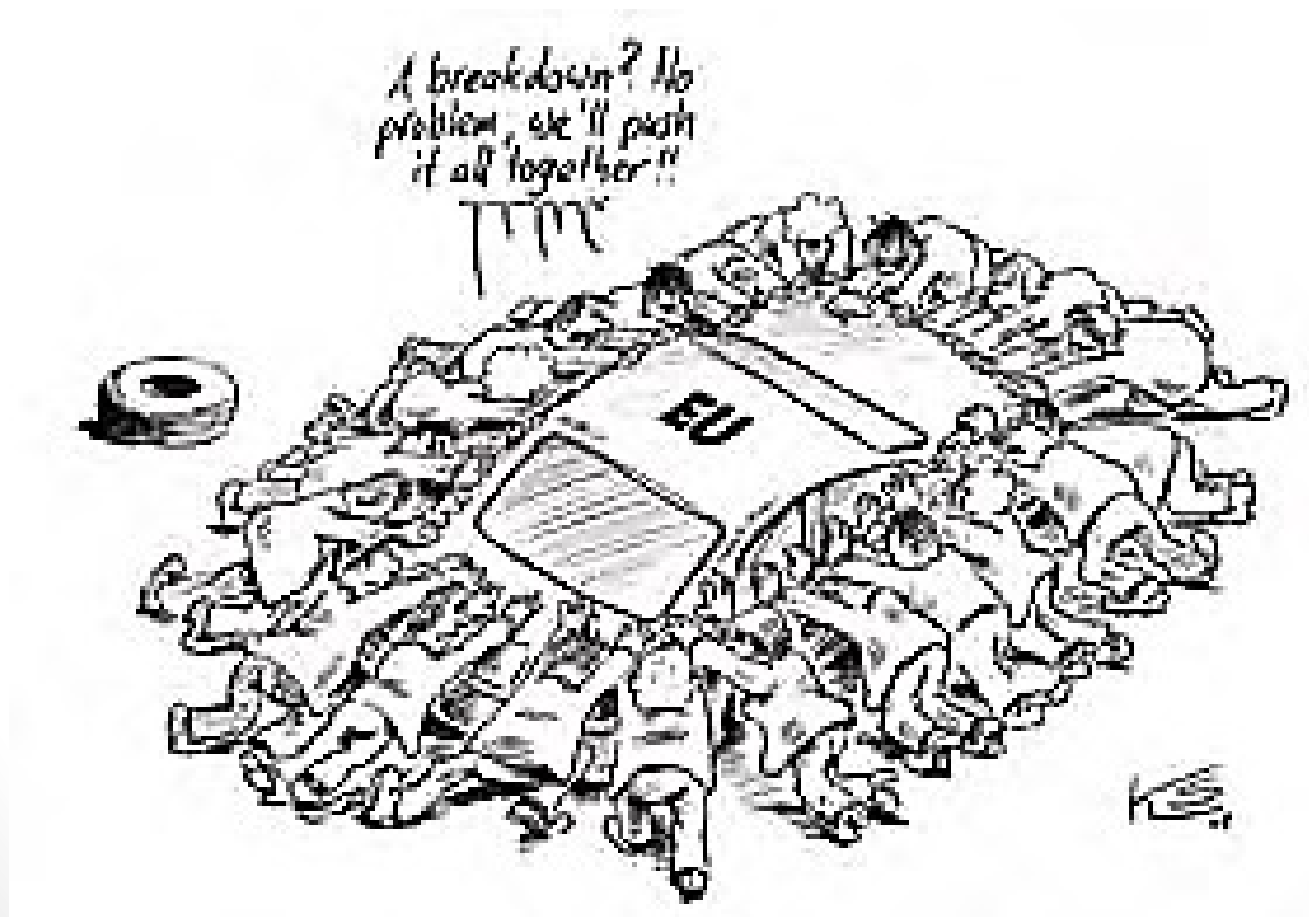
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusiveness ▪ Meaningfulness ▪ Relevance to the EU stakeholders ▪ Clarity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cohesion-Continuity ▪ Use of Available Instruments ▪ Supply of International Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effectiveness ▪ Efficiency
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PARAMETERS

- Preference homogeneity of member-states
- Competence:
 - Internal: institutional modus operandi
 - External: legal/institutional provisions (legal personality, HR/EEAS, etc) and available means
- Negotiating context :
 - Bargaining power: structural assets and institutional features
 - Role of other international actors (states, IOs, NGOs)

Parameters Conditioning the EU International Performance (1/2)

- preference homogeneity of member-states



Parameters Conditioning the EU International Performance (2/2)

- **EU competence**
 - Internal: what the EU *can* do (mostly output performance)
 - External: international EU modus operandi (means and institutional arrangements set in place to materialise the decisional output) (mostly affects outcome and impact performance)
- **negotiating context within which interactions occur**
 - bargaining power of the EU: depends on EU structural assets and its institutional features
 - role of other international actors (states, IOs, NGOs): emphasis on structure and content of the specific multilateral negotiations under examination