

ABSTRACT

From its very beginning, the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) has been haunted by the so called Atlanticist-Europeanist divide. When comparing France's, Germany's, the Netherlands', and Denmark's foreign policy behaviour (including the Iraq crisis in 2003), the traditional Atlanticist-Europeanist taxonomy still proves valuable. In order to better understand the stated behavioural differences, a national identity approach appears promising. By reconstructing domestically important historical foreign policy discourses in which the respective national identity constructions were contested, the differences in foreign policy behaviour can be made comprehensible. When looking at the identity-related discourses altogether, the common ground for possible future policy changes can be identified. Only a civilian power strategy in the CFSP is apt to sustainably bridge the Atlanticist-Europeanist divide.

KEY WORDS: Atlanticists-Europeanists, CFSP, European security policies, Iraq crisis, comparative foreign policy analysis, identity and discourse

AUTHORS: Bernhard Stahl, Henning Boekle, Jörg Nadoll and Anna Jóhannesdóttir