The EU as a Unity and the Duty of Sincere Cooperation:

From the Aspect of Jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the EU

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The Treaty of Lisbon changed the European Union substantially. One of the major changes is within the field of external actions by the EU. The aim of the changes is to create coherence and consistency within EU external polices. Two institutional reforms were made in order to fulfill this aim. One is the creation of the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security (HR) and the other is the establishment of a European External Action Service (EEAS). HR represents the Union in matters relating to the common foreign and security policy and is assisted by the EEAS. The EU can speak with one voice on the international scene owing to HR and the EEAS.

Although measures in the field of common foreign and security policy are binding, the Court of Justice of the European Union has no jurisdiction in this field and how the EU forces its Member States to comply with those measures is an issue. Thus it is important that the Member States support the Union's external policy in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity.