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## European Union representation at the United Nations towards more coherence after the Treaty of Lisbon

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# Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

*“European Union Representation at the United Nations: Towards More Cohesion after the Treaty of Lisbon “*

Xi Jin

1. Conventional wisdom among EU foreign policy scholars and EU political elites tends to posit a positive relationship between EU coherence and effectiveness. However, greater coherence does not necessarily translate into increased effectiveness.
2. Institutions, once created, “take on a life of their own”, serve to structure the preferences of individual and collective actors, and thereby influence the ultimate policy outputs.
3. Rooted in new institutionalism, the principal-agent theory contributes to overcoming the impasse between neofunctionalism and intergovernmentalism in interpreting regional integration.
4. The EU should focus on improving coordination and concertation at the UN Security Council in a pragmatic way instead of blindly striving for a single EU seat or seeking an increase in numerical representation.
5. Enlargements do not necessarily contribute to reduced EU representation coherence because the negative effects caused by a higher degree of preference heterogeneity can be offset by persistent socialization processes and institutional adaption.
6. The Treaty of Lisbon is a step in the right direction, but it may not be able to achieve the goal of creating a more coherent EU foreign policy and a defragmentation of EU external representation, if the remaining agency problems and new institutional complexities are left unaddressed.
7. President Van Rompuy and Baroness Ashton have not yet fully met the ultimate goals of their job descriptions, namely to lead the EU to ensure its representation coherence in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).
8. Future studies on EU foreign policy and external relations may need to pay more attention to functionality rather than effectiveness, to process rather than outcomes.
9. So it is that whenever Heaven invests a person with great responsibilities, it first tries his resolve, exhausts his muscles and bones, starves his body, leaves him destitute, and confounds his every endeavor. In this way his patience and endurance are developed and his weakness are overcome.  
*Mencius* (Translated by David Hinton)
10. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.

William Faulkner