

***Slowly moving towards a European Defense - the feasible compromise between
France and Germany***

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ABSTRACT

The subject of this dissertation is the influence that the French and German national interests had in determining the evolution of the Common Defense Policy and Security (CSDP). In fact, the primacy of national interests (notably French and German) in relation to Community interests is observable in the evolution of the CSDP until the present day: advances in the CSDP have only occurred if they are in the interests of France and Germany. The main research question of this dissertation, which will be your starting question, is the following: "What are the national interests of France and Germany that have determined the evolution of the CSDP of the European Union, from its beginnings to this day? "

This dissertation is not intended to go into the technical details of the missions and military assets of the CSDP but will, instead, focus on the politico-military institutions and structures created within it. The timeframe for the dissertation begins in 1999 with the creation of the European pillar of the European Defense and Security Policy as the "pillar" of the Treaty of Amsterdam. Furthermore, the dissertation is based upon the premise of the supremacy of state interests (as determined by individual EU Member States) in relation to Community interests (common to all EU Member States

and their institutions). This approach will therefore favor a “Realist” theoretical approach to International Relations, in contrast to an “Institutionalist” or “Liberal” approach.

The author will conclude that the CSDP has not yet evolved towards a true European army because there has not yet been a convergence of French and German national interests in that regard, as well as the fact that advances in the CSDP are strongly conditioned by the existence of NATO and the national interests of the “Atlantist” powers (United States and United Kingdom).

Keywords: French-German Axis, Great Powers, National Interest, (state) Power, Defense and Security Policy