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# ISEAS Seminar on Regional Integration in Europe and Southeast Asia.

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Topic: Basic Principles of the European Union and its role in the World

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- ❑ Economic internationalisation.
  - ❑ Transfer of sovereignty.
  - ❑ Qualified majority voting in the Council.
  - ❑ Link to domestic political systems.
  - ❑ Case studies: 1) Economic and Monetary Union. 2) EU and WTO.
  - ❑ EU links to groups of countries.
  - ❑ Common Foreign and Security Policy.
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# I. Economic Internationalisation.

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- ❑ Trade, services, capital movements jumped out of national box.
  - ❑ Political systems forced to follow but how?
  - ❑ Multinational companies play the game.
  - ❑ Political, legal and psychological problems in this context.
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## II. Transfer of Sovereignty

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- ❑ Transfer – not surrender – of sovereignty.
  - ❑ Sovereignty (power) not static but can be increased and exercised at several layers at the same time.
  - ❑ Globalisation makes the conventional notion of sovereignty meaningless.
  - ❑ Domestic rules interact with economic internationalization and international rules to enlarge room of manoeuvre to shape our preferred model of society.
  - ❑ Best to do it together with other countries pursuing congruous political objectives.
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### III. Qualified Majority voting (QMV).

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- ❑ Watershed in 1986 with The Single Act. Unanimity→QMV.
  - ❑ Opens the door for more decisions.
  - ❑ More important. Changes the negotiation climate.
  - ❑ Member states forced toward compromises and explain themselves.
  - ❑ Make them more likely to be stakeholders.
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## IV. Link to Domestic political System.

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- ❑ EU legal acts either directly applicable or to be transformed into national legislation.
  - ❑ Governments have to explain/defend these decisions.
  - ❑ Ensure political support for EU and further progress. OBS what happened to the proposed EU-Constitution!
  - ❑ Can only be done with strong links – Council-Parliament-Commission; various consultative bodies.
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## V. Case Studies – EMU, WTO.

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### EMU.

- ❑ The long march – 1969→ 2002.
  - ❑ Economic interdependence→Congruous economic policies→EMU→reap the benefits of a de facto situation.
  - ❑ Background. Exchange rate adjustment no longer effective economic policy instrument.
  - ❑ Record so far.
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# V. Case Studies – EMU, WTO.

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## WTO.

- ❑ Common External Trade Policy (CET) sovereignty transferred, the Commission negotiates.
  - ❑ Mandate approved by the Council by QMV.
  - ❑ Each member under pressure, yes, but also enhanced possibilities for pursuing national interests, EU weighs more than one of the member states.
  - ❑ The challenge is to convince the other member states that `our` problem must be on the list.
  - ❑ Common denominator between national interests, European interests, responsibility for international trade system.
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## VI. EU links to groups of countries.

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- ❑ Former colonies, what is now the ACP countries. Development assistance and trade links.
  - ❑ Broader links being pursued. Case in point: Barcelona process or Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. 1995. 35 members. Broad agenda. Record.
  - ❑ Trade links.
  - ❑ Major player if not THE major one.
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## VII. Common Foreign and Security Policy.

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- ❑ Intergovernmental not supranational.
  - ❑ Common strategies – unanimity. Ex: Mediterranean.
  - ❑ Common positions. Ex: Myanmar.
  - ❑ Joint actions. Ex: Aceh.
  - ❑ Opening for QMV when implementing decisions taken by unanimity.
  - ❑ Record.
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