

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0375/05  
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to the Commission

Subject: Common foreign policy

Four figures are all that is needed to demonstrate the giant leap made between the Maastricht Treaty and the current draft Constitution: the 'High Representative' has an annual budget of EUR 45 million and a small army of 270 diplomats and other officials under him; the future European Foreign Minister will be in charge of a budget of over EUR 6 billion earmarked for the Union's external action, and 600 officials from the Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations – 870 people altogether.

Equally as important is the provision giving the future Foreign Minister access to all the diplomatic telegrams of all EU Member States. If this is complied with, the Foreign Minister will be able to monitor governments' moves even before any joint decision has been taken, if indeed such a decision is possible. The Foreign Minister would also be able to warn the representatives of the countries he or she supports in order to isolate those of countries of whose actions he or she disapproves. On a daily basis, the Foreign Minister will be able to monitor each Member State's position on every decision in order to enforce strict discipline, especially as, by then, there will be an option of taking decisions by qualified majority. Lastly, the Foreign Minister will be in charge of all the Commission's representatives in EU Member States and non-member countries, creating a diplomatic service to rival the diplomatic services of the Member States and monitor their activities.

If, one day, these provisions come into force as part of the common policy, what steps will be taken with the Member States to address the fact that Foreign Ministries everywhere will have become surplus to requirements?