

The European Union at the United Nations: Intersecting Multilateralisms

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Facts and figures

- European Security Strategy (December 2003): effective multilateralism = core strategic objective of EU
- EU25 = 13% of UNGA membership
- EU member states contribute 38% of UN's regular budget; 40% of peacekeeping budget (but in April 2005, EU-25 provided 4533 personnel (6.8% out of 66,500 total) for UN missions)
- EU + member states = largest aid donor in world
- EU25 in 3 regional groups: WEOG, EUREST, Asia

Core questions of the book

- *Multilateralism*: How well does EU multilateralism fit with UN multilateralism?
- *Europeanisation*: What are the mechanisms for EU institutional coordination of member state positions within the UN, and are they being strengthened? Is there convergence among EU member states at the UN? Are EU norms being promoted and embraced by others within the UN context?

Core questions of the book

- *EU effectiveness:*
- as an international actor--do the member states act collectively at UN, produce 'output' at the UN? (internal effectiveness)
- Is EU a leader or 'frontrunner' at the UN? Does it achieve objectives, influence others? (external effectiveness)
- Does EU strengthen the UN's effectiveness? Can the EU 'rescue' the UN?

EU representation and coordination at the UN

- UNGA/committees:
- EC an observer but Commission speaks only on EC matters
- CFSP coordination mechanism for other matters; attempt to ensure cohesion in voting, to present resolutions on behalf of EU, to present EU positions/views (1300 coordination meetings a year in NY, 1000 in Geneva)
- Presidency speaks on behalf of EU

EU representation and coordination at the UN

- UN Security Council:
- UK and France are permanent members with a veto
- other EU member states can be elected from the regional groups (in theory could be 4 other EU ms: 2 WEOG, 1 EUREST, 1 Asia). January 2006: UK, France, Greece, Denmark and Slovakia (1/3 of UNSC)

EU representation and coordination at the UN

- UN Security Council:
- EU ‘caucus’ forming among those member states on the UNSC
- Article 19 consultations with non-SC EU member states
- Presidency and/or High Representative can speak on behalf of EU

Results: internal effectiveness

- More EU statements at UNSC and UNGA/committees
- EU-sponsored resolutions on human rights – mixed
- EU voting cohesion - not visibly improving every year

EU-sponsored resolutions on human rights

- Commission on Human Rights

- 1990: 3
- 1995: 9
- 2000: 9
- 2002: 11
- 2005: 7 (1 withdrawn)

- UNGA Third Committee

- 1990: 0
- 1995: 4
- 2000: 5
- 2002: 5
- 2004: 7

EU voting cohesion in UNGA roll-call votes

- 1991/2: 52.7%
- 1992/3: 54.8%
- 1993/4: 60.3%
- 1994/5: 63.1%
- 1995/6: 66.7%
- 1996/7: 77%
- 1997/8: 78.3%
- 1998/9: 85.2%
- 1999/2000: 78.2%
- 2000/01: 79.1%
- 2001/02: 76.1%
- 2002/03: 69.9%

Figure 8.1: EU Voting Cohesion in the CHR

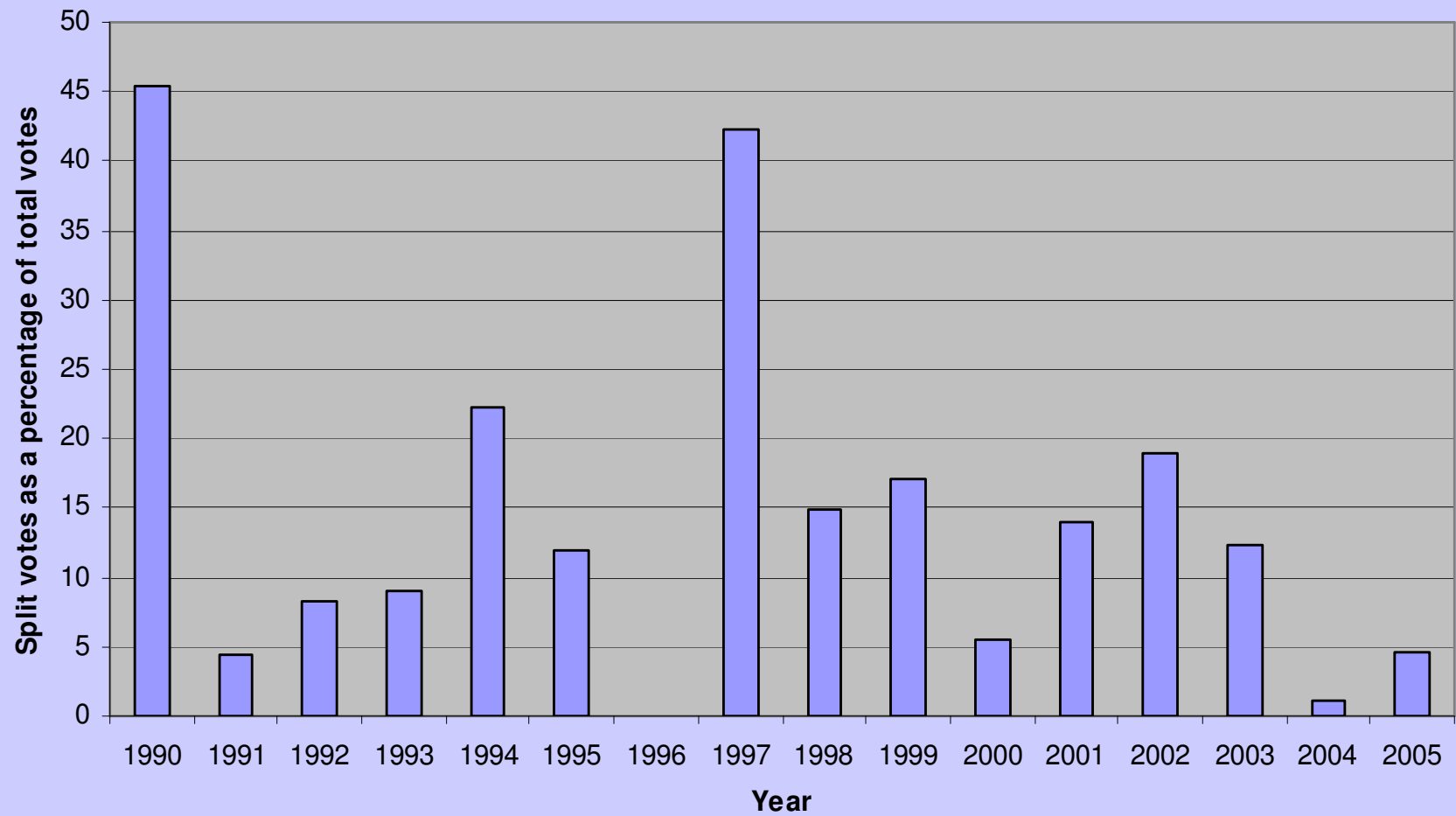
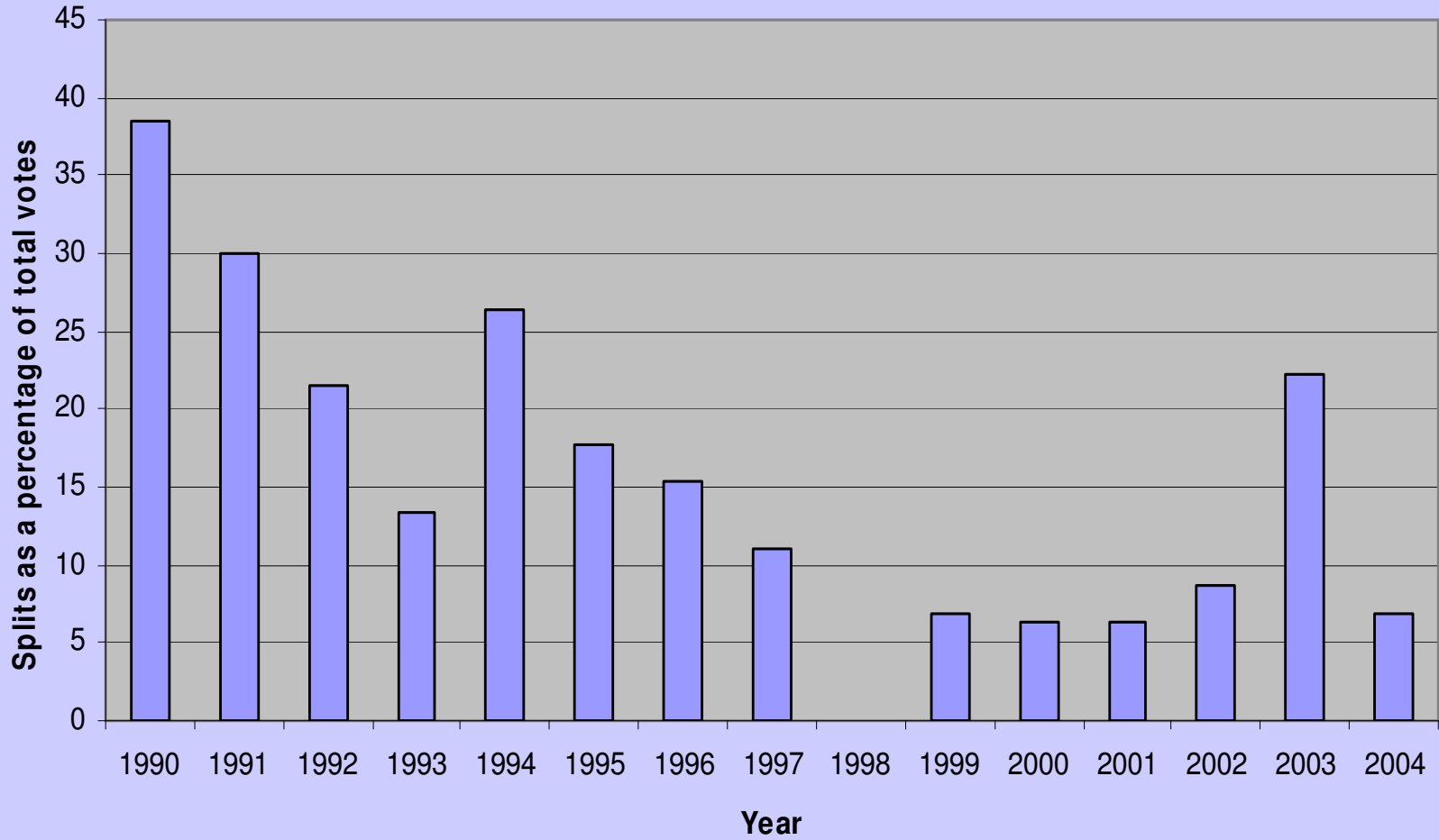


Figure 8.2: EU Voting Cohesion in the Third Committee



Results: external effectiveness

- EU is large bloc, but must act together - can attract support from its 'sphere of influence' and beyond, but can also spark automatic opposition
- Tends to be reactive, not proactive (are exceptions: eg environmental policy)
- Limited time for 'outreach'
- Inflexibility of EU positions

Results: making the UN effective?

- EU clearly an important actor at the UN - contribution crucial in many areas (incl general support for UN reform)
- But influence on reform?
 - - divided over UNSC reform and disarmament issues
 - - Blair didn't mention EU in his speech to September 2005 summit
 - - some tensions between ms and EU institutions over representation on new bodies (eg PBC)
 - - support for Human Rights Council but couldn't get UNGA to agree to proposals on HRC membership