



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Public Lecture No.1

***The role and performance of the European
Council as actor in the international system***

15 October 2019

Middle East Technical University, Ankara,
Turkey

TRACK Teaching and Researching
the European Council

Title : „The role and performance of the European Council as an actor in the international system”

Date : 15 October 2019

Venue : Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Participants : 47

Wolfgang Wessels, CETEUS/ University of Cologne, held a public lecture on “The role and performance of the European Council as an actor in the international system” at the Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey) on 15 October 2019.

He therefore compared the legal words (treaties) and real world regarding the following key issues: First of all, Wessels highlighted the relevance of the European Council, which holds considerable power as the key institution of the European Union. Moreover, he provided an overview about the legal structure of the EU’s institutional architecture and the two pillar system of the EU’s external affairs.

In this context, Wessels reflected on the problematic of the internal decision-making: He emphasized that in spite of the veto power of the EUCO’s members and their aim to defend national interests, reaching consensus is often marked by a complex process. The lecturer informed the students about the consensus facilitating role of the President of the EUCO, the impact of package deal and power constellations within this institution.

Wessels further elaborated the EUCO’s current activities regarding the Union’s neighborhood, trade and accession policies as well as military and civilian mission.

In the final open discussion with the participating students, the performance of the European Council and whether or not this key institution reinforces the role of the EU in the international system as a thriving power were evaluated.

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