Preface

This book is the result of a truly collaborative project based on the synergies of our common interest in the everyday making of European Union (EU) foreign and security policy. In the past, we have all conducted research on the inner workings of the Brussels foreign policy machinery, and our findings have collectively pointed to the interplay of situated, practical knowledge and norm internalization. The fact that so many of our past informants displayed awareness of the social dynamics of the complex institutional environment in which they operate spurred an interest into how such interactions are enacted in the everyday management of contestation. The Swedish Institute of International Affairs, to which we are all associated, provided a forum to compare, discuss and develop our previous findings through engagement with theoretical tenets of practice approaches and socialization theory in international relations and EU studies. As a token of the collaborative spirit in which this book has been written, the book and the chapters bear the names of the authors in alphabetical order.

The writing of this book commenced in 2018. Since then, we have complemented and developed previous findings with new empirical materials and efforts of theorizing. This has been a tumultuous time to consider the management of contestation in EU foreign and security policy. Disintegration and rising levels of contentious politics are illustrated in the chapters of this book through interactions between representatives of EU member states and EU institutions in relation to the transformation of the international system. In 2020–2021, the final stages of collecting material for this book were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which added a further dimension of coping; both for us and for the practitioners whose work we have been observing. Despite what could be viewed as unprecedented levels of stress, we found patterns of resolute commitment to the continuity of EU foreign and security policy, as well as instances of adaptative capacity in the face of changing circumstances. If anything, our initial motivation for probing the field was strengthened during this period. It is our hope that this book will contribute to more nuanced discussions on the effects of global disarray on policy-making in the field of EU foreign and security policy.

This book has benefited from critical engagement and collegial discussions. Chapters of this book have been presented and discussed at the CEEISA-ISA 2019 Joint International Conference in Belgrade, the ISA 2021 Virtual

Conference, as well as seminars in the departments of political science at Uppsala University, Stockholm University and Lund University. Several persons have read and commented on individual chapter drafts and we would like to mention in particular Rebecca Adler-Nissen, Christian Bueger, Kristin Eggling, Filip Ejodus, Nina Græger, Maren Hofius, Henrik Larsen, Ed Page, Charles Parker, Johanna Pettersson, Maïka Sondarjee, Anette Stimmer and Larissa Versloot. We are especially grateful to the participants in a workshop on the chapters in November 2020 hosted by the Swedish Institute of International Affairs: Federica Bicchì, Magnus Ekengren, Björn Fägersten, Mark Rhinard, Tim Rühling and Roderick Parkes.

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