Preface

This study traces the foundation and development of European Community (EC)/European Union (EU) policies in respect to the sea. Starting with the Treaty of Rome of 1957 establishing the European Economic Community (EEC), it outlines the formal treaty competences and their developments through successive treaty reforms, including the Treaty of Maastricht establishing the EU in 1993, up to the latest major treaty reform, the Treaty of Lisbon, signed in 2007 and in force since 2009.

The study gives an overview of the main policies which have been developed, including the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Common Maritime Transport Policy (CMTP), and the marine environmental and safety policies, as well as the more recent security and defence cooperation, which includes – or have included – fights against pirates, especially off the coasts of Somalia, and smugglers of illegal immigrants in the Mediterranean Sea. These developments have given the ‘Blue Europe’ a naval dimension. The study further looks at the decision-making procedures as they are outlined in the treaties and how they have developed over time. The functional scope of the Blue Europe has expanded over time, and there have been efforts to improve the institutional capacity. However, the institutional capacity remains weak when it comes to naval operations because this latest component of the Blue Europe has largely not adopted the so-called Community method used for the initial EU sea and ocean-related policies. While the early Blue Europe policies included ‘pooling and delegation’ of sovereignty to supranational institutions the more recent Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) remains intergovernmental cooperation among the member states. The latest development, a stronger border control and coastguard, however, does operate under the treaty’s Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSP), where the Community method now applies.

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