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Título del Capítulo: The Consequences of the Enlargement of the EU for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and For the Common European Defence Policy.

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Resumen del capítulo: The advent of an enlarged Europe, with 12 new members, a constitution, economically integrated by the Euro and armed with a rapid-response force is an authentic "geopolitical big-bang", perhaps the most transcendental event on the international stage in this new century.

The big-bang metaphor hints at the expansive and healthy effect of a possible European unification as it implies the creation of a political entity sui-generis which would be extraordinarily engorged and would heal the ideological wound which kept Europe artificially divided for 50 years. Therefore, this will be a mied Europe, leading toward multi-racial societies; it will comprise 500 million inhabitants and its economic power and institutional mechanism, including the military one, which not even the growth of China will overshadow.

However, if the social, economical and identity aspects of the enlargement are distinctively positive, less clear is its impact in the emergence of a coherent Common Foreign and Security Policy. The endeavour is assailed by a number of problems that are combined with a number of already abundant shortcomings in the current Union at 15: unity of ideas with regard to foreign policy, definition of borders, the vulnerability of overstretching the Union, the temptation of creating separate areas of influence around the big countries and, centrally, the regression of a Common Defence Policy, now in rapid advance. In brief, to retard the deepening of political integration.