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DRAFT REPORT

on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy – annual
report
(2019/2136(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

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The European Parliament,

- having regard to the annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the common foreign and security policy,
 - having regard to Articles 21 and 36 of the Treaty on European Union,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the declaration by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on political accountability¹,
 - having regard to the 2016 Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy,
 - having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 7 June 2017 on a strategic approach to resilience in the EU’s external action (JOIN(2017)0021),
 - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2019),
- A. whereas Parliament has a duty and responsibility to exercise its democratic oversight of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and common security and defence policy (CSDP) and should have the means to fulfil this role;
- B. whereas the EU’s external action has a direct impact on the wellbeing of its citizens and aims to ensure security and stability while safeguarding the European values of freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
- C. whereas the need for a stronger and united Europe when it comes to external relations is more urgent than before;
- D. whereas the foundations of multilateralism are challenged when universal rules and values are either called into question or taken advantage of;
- E. whereas the world is facing a global shift of powers with geopolitical competition being a leading trend in foreign politics that requires quick and adequate response mechanisms;
- F. whereas new political forces are pushing for their own global and regional ambitions

¹ OJ C 210, 3.8.2010, p. 1.

with unpredictable consequences for global security;

- G. whereas the EU's security environment is vulnerable to external pressure that prevents the EU from exercising its sovereignty;

Multilateralism at stake: urgent need for a stronger and united Europe

1. Recalls that at a moment when competing powers are increasingly challenging the rules-based global order, we, as Europeans, must defend multilateralism, international law, democracy and human rights;
2. Underlines that multilateralism is at the centre of the EU's efforts to prevent and solve conflicts;
3. Calls for a stronger, united, effective and more strategic European Union, especially given that a new European political cycle has just started and that the EU's foreign and security policy is subject to change;
4. Reiterates the urgent need to strengthen the EU's resilience and independence by reinforcing a CFSP which promotes peace, security, human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe and throughout the world;
5. Believes that the European Union needs to take on a global leadership role and unlock its political potential to think and act like a geopolitical power while defending and promoting its common values and interests in the world; reaffirms the need to secure 'EU strategic autonomy'; fully supports the Commission President's decision to transform the EU's executive branch into a 'geopolitical commission';
6. Believes that the European Union needs to be able to react to crises more rapidly and effectively and should put a greater emphasis on preventing conflicts at an early stage;
7. Stresses that the European Union has to switch from a responsive to an anticipatory approach and team up with like-minded partners to defend the global rule-based order founded on international law; recalls that the EU's CFSP is based on partnership and multilateralism, which help to unite the relevant regional and global powers; underlines the urgent need to explore new forms of alliances and find innovative mechanisms for cooperation;
8. Promotes an EU foreign policy that will unite the EU institutions and all foreign ministries behind a common and strong EU-level foreign policy; emphasises the need to build ad hoc coalitions to strengthen EU cohesion and democratic legitimacy;
9. Underscores that the European Union must use its existing instruments more effectively and act in a more unified and coherent way in order to improve its decision-making processes;

Reinforcing the European Parliament as a pillar of the CFSP

10. Underlines that the European Union can only deliver its full potential when speaking with one voice and when decision-making is shifted step by step from the national to the supranational level, taking full advantage of the possibilities offered by the EU

institutions and their procedures; stresses that the European Union should use all available means to achieve this goal, including those offered by parliamentary diplomacy;

11. Reiterates, in this respect, that over the years Parliament has developed a series of instruments and networks in the field of external action which are both distinct from and complementary to those of the European Union executive; calls therefore for a more integrated approach to EU foreign and security policy which would include a parliamentary dimension, and for interinstitutional cooperation when devising strategies towards third countries and regions;
12. Calls for the more effective and comprehensive sharing of information by the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to enable Parliament to exercise its scrutiny role in an efficient and timely manner, including in the field of the CFSP;
13. Calls for the strengthening of parliamentary oversight of EU external action, including by continuing to hold regular consultations with the VP/HR, the EEAS and the Commission, and for the conclusion of negotiations on Parliament's access to sensitive Council information in the field of the CFSP and the CSDP;
14. Notes that if/when Brexit takes place, Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the leading committee responsible for relations with third countries, should be given all the necessary information by the EU executive to enable it to scrutinise, on behalf of Parliament, the negotiation process in line with Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFUE) and to provide timely input on the future agreement(s) with the United Kingdom, which will require Parliament's consent; stresses the importance of future cooperation between the European Union and the United Kingdom in the area of the CFSP and the CSDP and recognises the need to find creative solutions;
15. Requests that, prior to the adoption of a CFSP-related strategy or communication by the Commission and the EEAS, a consultation mechanism with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and relevant bodies be established;
16. Calls for greater coherence, consistency and complementarity between the EU's external financing instruments and the CFSP to enable the European Union to tackle growing security and foreign policy challenges; considers that the simplified structure of external instruments proposed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument calls for proper checks and balances, a sufficient level of transparency, and strategic policy input and scrutiny of implementation by Parliament; stresses the need for efficient and adequate funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for 2021-2027 (IPA III); highlights the role of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), particularly in supporting peace and stability around the world; expects a timely adoption of the post-2020 instruments, so as to avoid unnecessary funding gaps;
17. Encourages the EU to further prioritise conflict prevention and mediation; underlines that this approach delivers a high degree of EU added value in political, social, economic and security terms; recalls that conflict prevention and mediation activities

help to assert the presence and credibility of the EU on the international scene; highlights Parliament's valuable contribution in the field of mediation and dialogue, especially in the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries, and calls for the further development of interinstitutional cooperation on mediation;

Strengthening the CFSP to counter global threats

18. Calls for the strengthening of the EU's capacity to act autonomously in the area of security and defence; stresses that efficient cooperation with partner organisations such as the UN or NATO is more vital than ever;
19. Believes that qualified majority voting (QMV) could make the EU's foreign and security policy more effective and would speed up the decision-making process; calls on the Council to make regular use of QMV in the cases envisaged in Article 31(2) of the TEU and calls on the European Council to take up this initiative by making use of the 'passerelle clause' contained in Article 31(3) of the TEU; encourages the Council to consider extending QMV to other areas of the CFSP;
20. Reiterates its call to explore the establishment of a European Security Council that would improve the decision-making process and lead to more effective intergovernmental cooperation in this field;
21. Welcomes the decision of the President of the Commission to build, within five years, a genuine European Defence Union;
22. Recalls that Article 20(2) of the TEU, which lays down provisions for enhanced cooperation, provides additional possibilities for Member States to move forward with the CFSP and should therefore be used;
23. Recalls that climate change impacts all aspects of human life, including by increasing the likelihood of conflicts and violence; stresses that climate security concerns should be integrated throughout the foreign policy portfolio; underscores the fact that the EU should develop capacities to monitor climate change-related risks, which should include conflict sensitivity and crisis prevention policies; underlines the need to develop a comprehensive approach to climate change and security;
24. Calls for stronger support to the EU maritime security strategy as freedom of navigation is an increasing challenge; insists that freedom of navigation must be respected at all times;
25. Calls on the VP/HR, the Commission and the Member States to continue and step up their efforts to increase their ability to confront hybrid threats by strengthening the EU's cyber defences and resilience against hybrid threats; calls, in this regard, for the development of comprehensive joint capacities and methods to analyse risk and vulnerability;
26. Promotes the boosting of the European Union's strategic communication capabilities; calls, in that connection, for further support for the EEAS Strategic Communications Division;

27. Stresses the need to benefit from the EU's competitive advantage so that it can quickly establish a strategic position in the international race of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, in order to prevent the EU from becoming dependent on digital giants;

28. Recognises the important role of the civil and military missions that form part of the CSDP in maintaining peace, avoiding conflicts and strengthening international security;

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29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European Council, the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the Member States.