



**2015/2104(INI)**

30.9.2015

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the role of the EU within the UN – how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals  
(2015/2104(INI))

Rapporteur: David McAllister

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Takes into account both the complex institutional set-up of the United Nations (UN) as an international organisation of states and the specific nature of the European Union (EU) as a supranational union holding enhanced observer status within the UN since 2011, having the right to speak in debates, to submit proposals and amendments, to raise points of order and to circulate documents on the basis of UN Resolution 65/276 on 'Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations' of 3 May 2011; underlines that the actual legal subjects of the UN are sovereign states of the world community, including the EU's Member States; calls, with a view to increasing effective global cooperation, for a better liaison between both UN players and the different UN structures (agencies, funds, programmes, Commission and committees) by improving overall coordination and coherence; in this context, believes that the EU should behave as a genuine global actor within the UN and should strive further to improve its leverage and visibility on the international stage, in line with the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Lisbon;
2. Believes that the enhanced status of the EU within the UN should pave the way for closer cohesion and cooperation; calls on the Member States, in order to make it possible to lend greater weight to the role of the Union in foreign policy, positioning the EU as a single international actor so as to improve its internal coordination in that area, to agree in advance on a common position on all relevant issues, and to consider ways to provide all necessary tools for achieving a truly common Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; recalls that the post of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was introduced, pursuant to Article 18 TEU, with the aim of enabling the Union to speak with one voice in international forums, and not least in the UN, and that therefore the High Representative should be given the opportunity to perform her role in full, as the EU's principal external representative;
3. Requests that the UN, the Commission and the Council keep Parliament fully informed regarding their coordination, so as to involve Parliament in the definition and revision of the EU's foreign policy goals;
4. Supports the UN reform agenda for expressing effective multilateralism, while acknowledging the enhanced status of the EU at the UN General Assembly following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009 and the adoption of UN Resolution 65/276 of 3 May 2011 on 'Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations';
5. Calls for the necessary negotiations, procedures and reform of the UN Security Council to be carried out to enable the EU to become a permanent member of that body, with one permanent seat and one single vote;
6. Recalls that the basic principles of the two international entities are common to both, and emphasises that these shared values should be targeted as the main ground for working together; stresses that a solid and stable EU-UN partnership is fundamental to the work of

the UN under all three pillars – peace and security, human rights and sustainable development – and is also key to the EU’s role as an active global protagonist; reaffirms the central role of preventing and combating the causes of violent conflicts and of finding solutions to new challenges;

7. Underlines that a UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA), created under Article 22 of the UN Charter, could be a starting point for the democratisation of the UN, in order to enhance the democratic accountability and transparency of global governance and to enable greater public participation in the activities of the UN;
8. Is committed to making the UN system and its multiple institutions and structures better suited to new global challenges and developments, and to increasing its transparency, accountability and effectiveness by avoiding duplication and using the different UN structures more rationally; suggests that the EU’s experience of transnational decision-making could provide some helpful insights for the reform process of the UN, especially regarding the Security Council;
9. Calls for women candidates to be supported for the position of UN Secretary-General in the upcoming elections;
10. Recalls that the EU and its Member States are collectively the biggest financial donor to the UN budget; recalls that the commitment of the EU is reflected not only in the financial amount but also in collaboration with human capital and technical know-how; insists, therefore, in the spirit of the ‘Delivering as One’ initiative (one leader, one budget, one programme, one office), on the need to ensure a higher degree of visibility for EU funding channelled through the UN, as well as an efficient use of the funds concerned; requests that the Commission and the EU Member States press the UN to ensure the consistent implementation of the UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative, and asks them to keep Parliament fully informed in timely fashion regarding the UN’s implementation of EU contributions;
11. Appreciates the fact that channelling Union aid through the UN enables the EU to support regions of the world which it might not be able to reach on its own; is aware of the high inherent risk involved when delivering aid in conflict-affected regions; regrets, however, that the reporting to the Commission by its partner organisations entrusted with implementing the Union budget under indirect management is often delayed, incomplete or insufficiently results-oriented, thus preventing the Commission from properly exercising its monitoring function;
12. Considers that EU-UN cooperation on peace support is vital in order to assist political missions and mediation-related activities as well as to streamline planning procedures, and in this respect fully supports the review of UN peace operations;
13. Recognises the EU’s need to make the UN system better suited to new global power configurations, but considers that its pursuit of reforms has been hampered by the lack of a common position among Member States, particularly when it comes to international peace and security architecture, and has contributed to – or at least not resolved – the current impasse regarding the reform of the Security Council;

14. Stresses the EU's current priorities, set for the 69th UN General Assembly session, which reiterate the Union's long-standing demand that the UN should streamline its structures, budget and working methods, without shying away from difficult topics such as the reform of the Security Council;
15. Stresses that the General Assembly, which represents the governments of all member countries, must have ways and means to give direction to the UN system and coordinate all its activities;
16. Recommends to the Council: to actively support a comprehensive reform of the UN system, and especially of the Security Council, in order to strengthen the system's legitimacy, regional representation, accountability and effectiveness; to work towards the long-term goal of the EU having a seat in an enlarged Security Council; to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of the EU as a global actor, with the aim of acting in a swift and comprehensive manner and delivering a 'one-voice message' by improving the coordination of Member States' positions and cooperation between the EEAS and the Member States; and in this regard to encourage the EEAS, in particular through the EU delegations in New York and Geneva, to work towards greater EU coherence.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	28.9.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ :                    16 - :                    3 0 :                    0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Elmar Brok, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Pascal Durand, Danuta Maria Hübner, Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Constance Le Grip, Jo Leinen, György Schöpflin, Josep-Maria Terricabras, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski, Rainer Wieland
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Gerolf Annemans, Sylvie Goulard, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, David McAllister, Viviane Reding, Helmut Scholz
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Andrea Bocskor, Mady Delvaux, Ulrike Rodust, Iuliu Winkler