



Committee on Budgets

2016/2036(INI)

23.5.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy
(2016/2036(INI))

Rapporteur: Jean Arthuis

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Deeply regrets that, on an already limited budget of around EUR 320 million (0.2 % of the EU budget), the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was under-implemented to the tune of EUR 96 million in 2015, which reveals the lack of ambition and, indeed, the denial of reality in which Europeans find themselves at a time when international conflicts pose a threat to their safety at the very heart of Europe;
2. Stresses that the budget allocations decided for 2016 remain at the same level as 2015 and that, with an additional EUR 5 million in security measures approved for the EUCAP Sahel Mali mission and EUR 10 million for EUBAM Libya, the margin available at the end of March was EUR 170 million; expresses its concern at the shortage of resources available in view of the commitments which will have to be met throughout 2016, with an additional budget of EUR 169 million envisaged just to continue those missions ending in 2016;
3. Notes that the CFSP has a unique and complementary role to play in global security and that EU action can achieve results where others find it difficult to act; emphasises further that EU action can, and has, avoided the need for more costly and risky interventions through NATO and the UN;
4. Notes that, apart from EUNAVFOR Med's Operation Sophia which, with a budget of less than EUR 12 million, has saved the lives of over 13 000 migrants at sea and whose mandate will have to be extended and readjusted when it comes to an end in July 2016, and measures to reinforce the management of migration by the EUCAP Sahel Niger mission, the contribution of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) civilian missions to the European response to the migration crisis has been very limited and has not been part of an actual strategy;
5. Is surprised that, at a time when budgets are tight and when military expenditure has until recently declined sharply in contrast with other regions of the world, the Member States do not see the urgent need to achieve economies of scale by means of 'permanent structural cooperation', in other words the pooling of military resources by those countries that are willing and able to do this (Article 46 TEU); welcomes the existence of EU battlegroups, but deplores the failure to make use of them owing to a structure which is so complex that it does not work and to a funding method that is flawed, which endanger the very idea of an effective European defence;
6. Calls for the Member States to meet the 2 % GDP criteria on national defence spending; encourages the Member States to invest more wisely in their defence capabilities to improve their capacity to work as part of NATO and the EU;
7. Regrets that the Member States have not sufficiently exploited the potential of cooperative projects proposed by the European Defence Agency and expresses concern at the freezing of the Agency's budget by the Member States since 2010; considers the pooling of defence research capacities to be indispensable in order to avoid duplication and to

prepare for the future; welcomes the establishment of Parliament's pilot project in this field and supports its reinforcement by the appropriate means from 2017 as a preparatory action;

8. Calls on the Commission to take into account the growing security challenges confronting both the EU and its Member States, so as to address them decisively in the context of the review of the multiannual financial framework which will begin at the end of 2016;
9. Endorses the efforts of the Commission and Council to implement the initiative seeking to improve capacity building in support of security and defence (CBSD);
10. Urges the Member States, in the interests of not jeopardising what EU action has achieved or depriving it of its credibility and visibility, to meet and not hold up commitments made concerning their contributions to the trust funds that were established by the EU precisely because of the lack of budgetary funds; recalls that Parliament, as part of the budgetary authority, is responsible for protecting and defending the EU's financial interests;
11. Calls for the European External Action Service (EEAS) to concentrate on conflict prevention and to work closely with both the UN and NATO.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	23.5.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 17 - : 8 0 : 1
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Lefteris Christoforou, Jean-Paul Denanot, José Manuel Fernandes, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Sophie Montel, Liadh Ní Riada, Jan Olbrycht, Younous Omarjee, Urmas Paet, Paul Rübig, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Paul Tang, Daniele Viotti, Auke Zijlstra
Substitutes present for the final vote	Georgios Kyrtos, Andrej Plenković, Ivan Štefanec, Nils Torvalds
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Laura Agea, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Rainer Wieland