



26.1.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on the constitutional, legal and institutional implications of a common security and defence policy: possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty (2015/2343(INI))

Rapporteur: Jean Arthuis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that recent political developments and the numerous threats affecting Member States both within the EU and NATO further highlight the utmost urgency of shaping a genuine European Security and Defence Union and of strengthening the strategic autonomy of the European Union;
2. Considers that pooling financial resources is a key factor in incentivising the EU and its Member States to act proportionally to the current challenges in the area of security and defence; points out that the EU's failure to make full use of the possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty means that its action is hindered by complex and unattractive cost-sharing mechanisms; strongly believes that, in the light of the EU's current security environment, it is of utmost importance that the instruments provided for by the Treaty of Lisbon be finally implemented, in particular as regards cooperation and coordination among Member States, including on financial and budgetary aspects;
3. Recalls that the 'cost of non-Europe' in security and defence and the potential efficiency gains have been estimated at a range between EUR 26 billion and EUR 130 billion annually, although any attempt at putting such a price tag is notoriously difficult; stresses the importance of better spending on defence through more cooperation, common planning and procurement, in order to avoid duplication, fragmentation and lack of operability; considers that the European arms industry can meet the full range of defence needs without relying on imports from outside Europe;
4. Strongly believes that the use of Union funds through the EU budget would be a strong expression of cohesion and solidarity and would allow for better and more transparent control of funding; is convinced that this makes an increase in the EU budget necessary, which could be achieved by additional own resources or a higher gross national income (GNI) own resource;
5. Urges that the following concrete steps be taken in the short term:
 - Substantial revision and broadening of the Athena mechanism to ensure more collective funding of the EU missions;
 - Setting-up of the permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) and the start-up fund provided for in Article 41(3) TEU, which would help launch military common security and defence policy (CSDP) operations much faster;
 - Exploring options for the optimal financing of the budget of the European Defence Agency (EDA);
 - Full implementation of the preparatory action on CSDP research, recognising that it is a new political initiative with a significant impact on the EU budget, which by its very nature should continue to be endowed with fresh resources; strongly encourages the creation of a specific consultation forum of all relevant stakeholders in order to best

align the supply and demand sides for the preparation of the proposed defence research programme under the next multiannual financial framework (MFF);

6. Believes that, in the long term, the EU should explore the possibilities of, and aim at, a common budget, including the command structure, joint operations and equipment, as well as a proper EU programme for CSDP research, taking into account the specificities of the defence sector; looks forward to the presentation of the Commission's proposal for a European Defence Fund;
7. Strongly encourages the Commission, the European Defence Agency and the Member States to actively participate in the implementation process of the European Defence Action Plan; invites the Commission to clarify in the first quarter of 2017 the legal structure and budget sourcing of the European Defence Fund.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	25.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 4 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Esteban González Pons, Ingeborg Gräßle, Iris Hoffmann, Monika Hohlmeier, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Victor Negrescu, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jean-Paul Denanot, Andrey Novakov, Marco Valli
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Paul Brannen, Ulrike Lunacek