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on the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the
Common Foreign and Security Policy
(2013/2081(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (2013/2081(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (14605/1/2012),
- having regard to Article 36 of the Treaty on European Union,
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management¹, in particular Part II, Section G, paragraph 43 thereof,
- having regard to its resolutions of 12 September 2012², 11 May 2011³ and 10 March 2010⁴ on the 2011, 2010 and 2009 annual reports on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, respectively,
- having regard to the position it adopted on 8 July 2010⁵ on the European External Action Service (EEAS) and to its recommendation of 26 April 2013 to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, to the Council and to the Commission on the 2013 review of the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS,
- 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 accountability⁶,
- having regard to the statement given by the High Representative in the plenary of the European Parliament on 8 July 2010 on the basic organisation of the EEAS central administration⁷,
- having regard to Rules 48 and 119(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A7-0000/2013),

A world in flux: balancing interests and values in a new EU foreign policy

1. Considers that the first quarter of the twenty-first century is characterised by a period of

¹ OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0334.

³ OJ C 377 E, 7.12.2012, p. 35.

⁴ OJ C 349 E, 22.12.2010, p. 51.

⁵ OJ C 351 E, 2.12.2011, p. 454.

⁶ *ibid.*, p. 470.

⁷ *ibid.*, p. 472.

prolonged change that is transforming the global order; stresses that this demands a fresh approach to shaping a new multi-polar world order that is inclusive and underpinned by the rule of law and democracy as well as universal values, including human rights; notes that many obstacles lay ahead, not least in engaging with emerging powers in reforming the multilateral system, re-balancing the fragile regional distribution of power and addressing multiple threats from nations, non-state actors and fragile states and regions;

2. Stresses that the world's financial crisis and the growing assertiveness of new emerging economies are unleashing major political, economic social and environmental challenges, including internal problems, for all parties and takes the view that addressing such challenges requires collective action and the forging of alliances in order to promote peace, security, social progress and prosperity, along with democracy, the rule of law and human rights;
3. Is of the opinion that the EU must defend its citizens' interests in the world in a determined manner, while always basing its action on the fundamental values on which the Union is founded;
4. Stresses that this is the world the EU needs to understand today, and on the basis of which it should frame a new EU foreign policy to face these challenges; believes that in order to preserve and promote its values and its position on the global stage, the EU needs not only to be coherent and consistent in its external action, but, first and foremost, to clearly define and implement its strategic objectives, making full use of the opportunities provided by the Lisbon Treaty; demands that the instrument of enhanced cooperation be used to secure greater capacity to act, and to overcome the serious problem of the veto principle within the Council;
5. States that only by acting jointly or in unity do we have the strength to pursue our interests and defend our values in this world, and that the Member States must therefore – more than in the past – demonstrate their preparedness and political will for collective, fast and effective action; affirms that the Member States must fulfil their contractual duty of loyalty towards the CFSP in both action and spirit, which is enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon¹;
6. Stresses that the effectiveness of the EU's external action also depends on the full support of its citizens and the legitimacy this provides, and therefore calls for close consultation of the European Parliament in setting clear priorities and objectives for EU foreign policy;

Building a new, comprehensive approach to the EU's foreign policy

7. Urges the Member States to play a constructive role in the Union's foreign policy, in particular in coordination between their capitals and Brussels concerning the positions

¹ 'The Member States shall support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity and shall comply with the Union's action in this area. [...] They shall refrain from any action which is contrary to the interests of the Union or likely to impair its effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations. The Council and the High Representative shall ensure compliance with these principles.' (Article 24(3) of the Treaty on European Union).

they adopt in multilateral fora; stresses the need, during a period characterised by economic constraints, to improve the Union's effectiveness as a cohesive global actor; notes in particular that the Member States also have an important role to play in the effective implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) by making available civilian and military capabilities; expects this role to be reinforced following the discussion on defence at the December 2013 European Council;

8. Welcomes the VP/HR's initiative to develop the concept of a 'Comprehensive Approach' in order to achieve the full potential of the Lisbon Treaty; calls for the VP/HR to engage in a debate with Parliament on the best way to ensure that this comprehensive approach is consistently implemented, and in particular that our foreign policy priorities are further developed in a manner consistent with our interests and are supported by the necessary financial means and by effective and flexible instruments;
9. Deplores the fact that the EU has not yet developed a strategy for its relations with the world and that its activities are defined more by reaction than by action; demands, therefore, a fundamental strategic debate, which should include the Council, the Commission and Parliament;
10. Stresses, therefore, that a comprehensive understanding of the CFSP covers all areas of foreign policy, including the progressive framing of the CSDP, with an emphasis on pursuing coherence and consistency while respecting the specificity of each component of external action; believes that there should be closer coordination, under the VP/HR's leadership, of EU internal policies and Member States' policy choices in key areas such as transport and energy, where these have clearly transnational implications;
11. Calls on the Council and the VP/HR to respond to Parliament's recommendation on the 2013 review of the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS in order to ensure the further development of an appropriate structure within the EEAS (with the participation of the relevant Commission services), in which geographic and thematic expertise are integrated and drive a comprehensive approach to policy planning, formulation and implementation;

Providing leadership and coherence in EU foreign policy

12. Underlines the political leadership role that the VP/HR is expected to play in ensuring the unity, consistency and effectiveness of Union action; notes that the VP/HR, in her review of the EEAS, has identified areas in which her role should be strengthened and made more effective in initiating, executing and ensuring compliance with CFSP decisions, and has issued recommendations intended to ensure close coordination with the Commission, making full use of her position as Vice-President of the Commission;
13. Reiterates its support for the VP/HR's leadership, under difficult circumstances, of negotiations with Iran and congratulates her on her success in bringing the parties together in the EU-facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia; considers that these examples of leadership and priority-setting should be applied both in the EU's neighbourhood and in response to an arc of strategic challenges stretching from Central Asia to the Middle East and from the Horn of Africa across the Sahel; expresses its willingness to support this process;

14. Calls for a review of the distribution and staffing of EU delegations in order to ensure that the Union's efficiency, visibility and representation in third countries reflects our political ambitions and expected priorities; calls for such a review to be discussed with Parliament's competent committee, especially where the outcome requires any redistribution of resources or a decision to open or close delegations in third countries;

Matching objectives with appropriate resources

15. Questions, in view of the range of challenges and demands for EU engagement in the world, the Council's rationale for cutting the multiannual financial framework, which will reduce the Union's capacity to promote peace, security and economic development and its credibility in respect of such efforts; cautions that if such cuts are applied in an uncoordinated fashion, they risk undermining the effective pursuit of our values as well as our collective ability to promote security, stability and prosperity in our neighbourhood and further afield;
16. Recognises, at the same time, the need for strategic choices to be made, and priorities established, in order to ensure that the Union's resources are used in a focused and effective manner;
17. Stresses the importance of ensuring that the new external relations financial instruments under consideration by Parliament and the Council are fully funded, tailored to furthering the Union's strategic interests, and able to be adapted to changing political circumstances;
18. Insists that the revision of the 2006 IIA on budgetary discipline and sound financial management should mark a further step forward in terms of greater transparency in respect of the CFSP; believes that democratic scrutiny requires separate budget lines for each and every CSDP mission or operation, including the work of EU Special Representatives, accompanied by streamlined – yet transparent – procedures for the internal transfer of funds if circumstances so require;

Assessing the achievements of the VP/HR and of the Council in 2011

19. Welcomes the steps taken by the Council, with the VP/HR's support, in the 2011 Annual Report towards mapping out the Union's foreign policy in a forward-looking and strategic policy document;
20. Notes the effort made to address the shortcomings outlined in Parliament's last resolution on this topic, in particular by developing new CSDP missions and operations within the framework of the Union's overall approach to a country or region;
21. Believes, however, that the Council's Annual Report still falls short of the ambitions of the Lisbon Treaty in important ways, and therefore calls for the following in future:
- **establishing** clear priorities and strategic guidelines for the CFSP as an essential part of the process of applying our diplomatic, economic, financial and – where necessary – crisis management resources more effectively in pursuit of the Union's foreign and security policy;
 - **setting out** a framework for assessing existing strategic partners and developing

- new partnerships, including with international and regional organisations;
 - **setting out** a plan for making progress on important innovations of the Lisbon Treaty, in particular permanent structured cooperation on defence and an enhanced role and more resources for the European Defence Agency;
 - **addressing** acute problems in CSDP decision-making that result in incomprehensible delays between the taking of political decisions to launch a mission and the actual deployment of that mission on the ground, Libya and Mali being the most recent in a long line of examples;
22. Calls on the Council to request that the VP/HR set out in the next Annual Report her foreign policy objectives for the years 2014 and 2015, along with the timeframe and necessary resources for their implementation; stresses that these priorities should focus on the EU's strategic aims, starting with the transatlantic partnership, the economic and political development of its Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods, and the Middle East Peace Process;
23. Calls on the Council and the VP/HR, when drawing up future Annual Reports on the CFSP, to engage with the Committee on Foreign Affairs at an early stage in order to discuss foreign policy objectives for the coming years and provide EU citizens with a clear statement concerning the evolution, priorities and progress of the Union's foreign policy;
24. Welcomes the initiative of holding a European Council Summit in December 2013 on the future of European defence, as an opportunity to review the EU's strategic goals and security interests, concepts that should be further developed in a White Book on European defence;

Strategic priorities: concentric circles of peace, security and socio-economic development

25. Calls for future decisions on strategic partners to be framed in accordance with the foreign policy priorities of the Union and for Parliament to be regularly informed ahead of decisions on future partnerships, particularly where such partnerships receive financial support from the Union budget or entail a closer contractual relationship with the EU;
- **USA**
26. Strongly believes that the USA is the EU's most important strategic partner; urges the EU, therefore, to give clear political priority to deepening transatlantic relations at all levels and broadening them to include other transatlantic partners;
27. Takes the view that the EU and the USA need to cooperate closely with regard to the peaceful resolution of crises such as those in Iran and the Middle East;
28. Welcomes the announcement concerning the launch of negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which could give the European and US economies an important boost and stimulate progress on other international agreements; recalls the need to set up a Transatlantic Political Council; notes that, in the meantime, continuing the

practice of holding annual EU-US summits would provide an opportunity to identify common objectives and coordinate strategies in relation to threats and challenges of global relevance and the development of a common approach to emerging powers;

29. Considers that in order to build trust it is necessary for the USA to make drastic changes to its data collection activities directed against the EU and its citizens;

- **Russia**

30. Reiterates its support for the Union's policy of critical engagement with Russia; considers Russia to be an important strategic partner and neighbour; welcomes cooperation with Russia on important international issues, for instance with regard to Iran;

31. Deplores, nevertheless, the fact that Russia uses its veto in the UN Security Council to undermine the international community's ability to act in response to situations such as the humanitarian tragedy and spiralling violence in Syria;

32. Remains concerned about Russia's commitment to the rule of law, pluralist democracy and human rights; emphasises that strengthening the rule of law in all areas of Russian public life, including the economy, would be a constructive response to the discontent expressed by many Russian citizens, and is essential in order to build a genuine, constructive partnership between the EU and Russia;

33. Underlines the EU's willingness to contribute to the Partnership for Modernisation and to any successor to the current partnership and cooperation agreement that is linked to Russia's progress as regards human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy;

34. Criticises Russia's use, in violation of international norms (e.g. the Helsinki Accords), of the instruments of energy and trade policy to blackmail countries in the European neighbourhood so as to hinder their sovereign decisions; considers it necessary for Russia to adopt a constructive position with regard to frozen conflicts;

- **China**

35. Encourages the EU to further develop its strategic partnership with China; calls for the EU and its Member States to speak with one voice to the Chinese Government; calls, while welcoming the almost 60 active sectoral dialogues, for further sectoral dialogues to be developed and for the human rights dialogue to be strengthened;

36. Stresses that cooperation between the EU and China in the multilateral arena is crucial in order to address global challenges, including those relating to economic and financial issues, climate change, the environment and the use of the planet's limited natural resources, and to respond to conflicts such as the one in Syria and to the challenges posed by Iran and North Korea in respect of non-proliferation;

37. Criticises China's continuing violation of human rights and cultural and religious minority rights, for instance in Tibet;

- **Japan**

38. Underlines the need to consolidate the Union's relations with Japan as a strategic partner and major international actor that shares the EU's democratic values and is a natural cooperation partner in multilateral fora; looks forward to the negotiation of a comprehensive Framework Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement;

- **India**

39. Calls for the EU and its Member States to strengthen their relations with India, based on the promotion of democracy, social inclusion, the rule of law and human rights, and expresses its satisfaction at the rapid progress on the negotiation of a comprehensive EU-India free trade agreement, which will stimulate European and Indian trade and economic growth;

– **An enlarging EU**

40. Emphasises that EU membership provides stability in the swiftly changing international environment, and that belonging to the European Union continues to offer the perspective of socio-economic development; takes the view that enlargement is in the EU's long-term strategic interest, which cannot necessarily be measured in terms of short-term balance sheets and needs to take into account the EU's capacity as well as the genuine commitment of those countries on the path to EU accession to take up their responsibilities and address outstanding concerns;

– **The EU's neighbourhood**

41. Notes that the European Neighbourhood Policy is in crisis, given the developments in numerous countries; believes, therefore, that, for reasons of solidarity and on account of our interest in peaceful and free development, the EU must strongly focus its instruments, inter alia by strengthening multilateral approaches in the region; stresses that the EU needs to give greater priority to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP);

- **Eastern Neighbourhood**

42. Recalls that the Eastern Neighbourhood is of strategic importance and recalls the European perspective of the countries concerned; calls for greater efforts to achieve the objectives of the Eastern Partnership and a greater political commitment to doing so; welcomes the progress made in the negotiation of Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements between the EU and its eastern partners and calls on them to meet the requirements for a successful Vilnius Summit in November 2013;

43. Considers it regrettable, nevertheless, that the overall situation with regard to democratic standards and respect for human rights in most of the Eastern Partnership countries has scarcely progressed, if not deteriorated; stresses, furthermore, that all the frozen conflicts must be resolved and that the EU should equip itself to play a more active role in this respect; reiterates its view that the development of relations should be conditional on a meaningful commitment to democracy and the rule of law;

44. Recalls that democratic reforms promoted by the EU are in the interest of the partner

countries themselves and can contribute to their economic and social development; points out that strong democratic institutions and closer ties with the EU through Association Agreements will help to strengthen the sovereignty of these countries against the influence of powerful neighbours; reaffirms the EU's readiness to be a reliable and strong partner for these countries on the basis of shared common values, and to share with them all the advantages of the EU *acquis*, along the lines of an Economic Area Plus arrangement;

45. Stress that although the EU-Ukraine agreement has been initialled, it can only be signed and ratified if Ukraine fulfils the necessary requirements as set out in the Council conclusions on Ukraine of 10 December 2012; reiterates its call on the Ukrainian Parliament and Government to address the issue of selective justice, beginning by immediately releasing Yulia Tymoshenko, and to implement the reforms set out in the jointly agreed Association Agenda, including judicial reform (i.e. the Office of the General Prosecutor) and reform of the electoral law; calls on Ukraine to amend its penal code by removing criminal sanctions for clearly political acts carried out by state functionaries acting in an official capacity;

• **Southern Neighbourhood and Middle East**

46. Calls for the principles underlying the new ENP approach, as set out by the VP/HR and the Commission in the relevant joint communications¹, in particular the 'more-for-more', differentiation and mutual accountability principles and the 'partnership with society', to be fully operational and for Union assistance to be fully aligned to this new approach;
47. Recalls its support for the VP/HR's use of new concepts, such as the Task Force for the Southern Mediterranean, as a way to maximise the leverage achieved by financing from the EU and its partners, for the benefit of these countries' citizens; expects tangible outcomes from such innovative approaches in terms of better coordination between EU and Member State contributions, capacity-building assistance for beneficiary countries and the accountability of their administrations;
48. Stresses the strategic importance of the EU's dialogue and cooperation with Turkey on stability, democracy and security, with particular reference to the wider Middle East; notes that Turkey has strongly and repeatedly condemned the Syrian regime's violence against civilians and is providing vital humanitarian assistance to Syrians fleeing violence across the border; stresses that Turkey's growing international standing should also be based on its commitment to democracy and the rule of law at home;
49. Expresses its deep concern about the situation in Egypt and the excessive violence by all parties, including both state security forces and opposition forces; stresses that the EU should not take sides and welcomes the EU foreign ministers' decision of 21 August 2013 to suspend all export licences for equipment which could be used for internal repression; urges the military and the Muslim Brotherhood to resolve their differences through peaceful dialogue and calls for an inclusive political agreement and for power to be transferred to democratically elected leaders as soon as possible;

¹ Joint communication of 25 May 2011 entitled 'A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood: A review of European Neighbourhood Policy' (COM(2011)0303); joint communication of 20 March 2013 entitled 'European Neighbourhood Policy: Working towards a Stronger Partnership' (JOIN(2013)0004).

50. Considers regrettable the lifting of the EU's arms embargo on Syria, as it is a dangerous step towards the re-nationalisation of EU foreign policy; condemns the tragic and ongoing bloodshed in Syria, which has already had a devastating humanitarian impact, including on neighbouring countries, in particular Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey; calls for the immediate and full investigation by the UN of the horrific chemical weapons attack and for a united international response; underlines the urgency of convening the Geneva II talks in order to initiate a political solution and bring an end to the deadly spiral of violence;
51. Expresses concern at the lack of progress in negotiations between the EU 3-plus-3 and Iran on nuclear non-proliferation and warns against the risks for regional and global security if the negotiations should fail; supports the EU, the USA, Russia and China in the objective of pursuing nuclear non-proliferation and believes, therefore, that if Iran continues to refuse to curb its nuclear programme voluntarily, the EU 3-plus-3 parties should consider additional sanctions; calls on the new Iranian Government to cooperate with the international community quickly and constructively;
52. Expresses hope for the Middle East peace negotiations and recalls that resolving the conflict in the Middle East is a fundamental interest of the EU, as well as of the parties themselves and of the wider region; stresses, therefore, that the need for progress is even more urgent on account of the ongoing changes in the Arab world, the Syrian crisis and the particularly volatile situation in the wider Middle East; calls on the Member States to find common ground for more decisive action by the EU in close cooperation with the Arab League and the other members of the Quartet;

– **Latin America**

53. Welcomes the EU-Latin America political dialogue, including the summits of heads of state and the EUROLAT Parliamentary Assembly;
54. Believes that the EU and the countries of Latin America share a common commitment to socially sustainable economic development and a common attachment to democratic values and the rule of law;
55. Expresses its support for the process of negotiating an association agreement between the EU and Mercosur and notes the commitment of both parties to arriving at an exchange of offers on market access by the end of 2013; notes that such a deal would represent an advance in strategic relations with Latin America;
56. Stresses the need to strengthen contacts and coordination with Latin American partners in multilateral forums;

– **Africa**

57. Notes that preparations for the Fourth EU-Africa Summit in 2014 afford an opportunity to move beyond institutional capacity-building at continental level and towards the establishment of a political partnership for peace, security and socio-economic development, including at the regional and sub-regional level;

58. Underlines the importance of the EU strategies for the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region as a key means of addressing the complexity of the security and development challenges affecting these regions, which span the breadth of Africa;
59. Recalls that the longer-term stability, security and territorial integrity of these two regions require not only the defeating of violent radical extremists and those trafficking in arms, drugs and people, but also the promotion of reconciliation and alternatives to illegal activities for impoverished people and unemployed youth;

– **Central Asia**

60. Supports the EU's promotion of a regional approach in Central Asia, which is essential in tackling regional issues; calls for the EU's engagement in this region to be linked to progress on democratisation, human rights, good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, the rule of law and the fight against corruption, but is at the same time mindful of the EU's strategic interests;
61. Underlines also the importance of the EU's dialogue with Central Asian countries on regional security matters, in particular as regards the situation in Afghanistan after 2014;
62. Notes that the energy- and natural-resource-rich Central Asian countries are potentially significant for the EU's diversification of sources and supply routes; calls on the EEAS and the Commission to continue to support energy supply diversification projects such as the Southern Corridor and the trans-Caspian pipeline;

• **Afghanistan**

63. Is deeply concerned about the continued violence in Afghanistan; urges the Afghan Government to prepare for taking over full responsibility after the withdrawal of international forces from 2014; calls for the Member States to gear up to support the military and civilian capacity-building of the Afghan Government and its National Security Forces in order to create stability and security as a prerequisite for development, avoiding the creation of a vacuum once the country assumes full responsibility for its own security after 2014;

64. Emphasises the need for enhanced cooperation within the sub-region of Central Asia and with Russia, Pakistan, India and Iran in order to address the challenges of cross-border trafficking in people and goods and to combat the illegal production and trafficking of drugs; warns against the risk of such problems spilling over to neighbouring countries and to the wider sub-region after 2014; stresses Pakistan's key role in the fight against terrorism;

– **Asia**

65. Calls for the EU to have a greater presence in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus beyond China, India and Japan; regards the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-EU enhanced partnership as a relevant step; also regards the Treaty of Amity as a chance to deepen cooperation and looks forward to tangible outcomes in this respect;

66. Emphasises the need to conclude the negotiations on partnership and cooperation agreements and political framework agreements with several Southeast and East Asian countries, in order to consolidate and heighten the EU's relations with the region;

67. Underlines the importance of Asia-Pacific regional security and is concerned about tensions, including territorial disputes around the East and South China Sea, as well as having increasing concerns about North Korea; suggests that the EU could take a more active role, and calls for all parties concerned to be included in dialogue and cooperation mechanisms, especially in the multilateral arena, in view of the importance of stability in this area to the EU's maritime security and commercial interests;

68. Notes the efforts made towards cooperation between the EU and the USA following the 'pivot' to Asia, as demonstrated by the common approach to the lifting of sanctions on Myanmar; calls, therefore, for greater coordination of US and EU policies towards Asia, together with those of key partners such as Australia and New Zealand;

69. Recalls the first EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue held in June 2012 and the commitment to constructive discussions on enhancing bilateral cooperation and shared views on regional and international issues of mutual concern, including more proactive engagement in the fight against terrorism; calls upon the VP/HR to update Parliament on follow-up to that strategic dialogue and preparations for the next one, which should take place in Brussels in 2013;

70. Commends Taiwan's continuous efforts to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region; recognises the progress made in cross-Straits relations, especially the flourishing economic links, tourism and cultural cooperation; reiterates its firm support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in relevant international organisations and activities, including the World Health Organisation; encourages closer bilateral cooperation between the EU and Taiwan in areas such as trade, research, culture, education and environmental protection;

71. Remains deeply concerned about North Korea's continued tests of increasingly powerful nuclear devices and longer-range missiles, and considers this development to be a serious threat to international peace, stability and security;

– **Multilateral partners**

72. Believes that the G-20 could prove a useful and particularly appropriate forum for consensus-building that is inclusive, based on partnership and able to foster convergence, including regulatory convergence; takes the view, however, that the G-20 has yet to prove its value in converting summit conclusions into sustainable policies that address critical challenges;
73. Notes that recent crises have highlighted the growing inability of the UN Security Council to act in response to serious threats to international peace and security, on account of its structures and working methods;
74. Calls for the EU and its Member States to reconfirm the EU's commitment to advancing effective multilateralism, with the UN system at its core, by enhancing the representativeness, accountability and effectiveness of the UN; stresses the importance of working with other international partners in order to respond to international challenges; stresses that an EU seat in an enlarged UN Security Council remains a central, long-term goal of the EU; calls, furthermore, on the Member States, in order to strengthen our presence within the UN system, to coordinate their efforts in selecting senior officials for high-level posts in the UN and other international institutions;
75. Calls for the EU and its Member States to cooperate with partners in strengthening the role of regional organisations in peacekeeping, conflict prevention, civilian and military crisis management, and conflict resolution; stresses the need to work with partners in ensuring that the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) concept focuses on prevention, protection and post-conflict reconstruction; underlines the need to develop more effective mediation guidelines and capacities, including through collaboration between the EU and the UN;
76. Welcomes the commitments made by the EU and NATO to strengthen their strategic partnership; notes that the current global and European economic crisis has spurred efforts to seek more cost-effective operational capabilities in both the EU and NATO, which are urgently needed; calls for an urgent political solution to the blockage on cooperation under the Berlin Plus arrangements, which are holding back the prospects for the two organisations to cooperate more effectively;
77. Calls on the VP/HR to mainstream cyber security in the EU's external action and to develop networks of like-minded partners to deal with cyber security threats and challenges; emphasises that efforts should be made to ensure that existing international legal instruments are enforced in the cyber-sphere;
78. Reiterates its call on the VP/HR to take stock of the effectiveness of the EU's Strategy Against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction as well as its policies for tackling conventional weapons, including arms exports;
79. Welcomes the EU's coordinated approach during the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty, which resulted in a successful outcome; calls on the Member States to ratify the Treaty expeditiously so that it can enter into force, following the consent of Parliament; calls for competence in respect of the rules governing arms exports to be fully transferred

to the EU;

80. Supports the dialogue on reform of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the launch of the Helsinki 40+ process in December 2012, which provides a strategic road map for strengthening the OSCE; fully supports the activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which carries out invaluable work in the field of promotion and protection of human rights and democratic standards;

81. Acknowledges the increasingly important role of regional organisations, in particular the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Economic Cooperation Organisation, and calls for the EU to strengthen its cooperation, especially on matters relating to transition processes and crisis management in the Southern Neighbourhood; welcomes EU efforts to assist the Arab League in its integration process;

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82. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of NATO, the President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.