

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2013/2170(INI)	Procedure completed
Anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications		
Subject 6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	EFD TERHO Sampo Shadow rapporteur PPE LISEK Krzysztof S&D PAȘCU Ioan Mircea ALDE NICOLAI Norica Verts/ALE CRONBERG Tarja	21/03/2013

Key events			
12/09/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/02/2014	Vote in committee		
14/02/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0109/2014	Summary
12/03/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0209/2014	Summary
12/03/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/2170(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/7/13425

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE521.746	08/11/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE526.225	08/01/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0109/2014	14/02/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0209/2014	12/03/2014	EP	Summary

Anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Sampo TERHO (EFD, FI) on an anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications.

The issue of Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) was already raised in the past but has become more topical in recent years in view of the multiplication of threats stemming from the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the proliferation of ballistic missiles to which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its European allies must be able to respond effectively.

Members considered that defence against ballistic or other types of missile attacks can constitute a positive development in European security in the context of a rapid international security dynamic, resulting in a need for the Member States to take into account the implications of BMD for their security.

The report stressed that EU initiatives, such as Pooling & Sharing, may prove helpful in strengthening cooperation between Member States in the areas of BMD. It stressed that the NATO BMD plan is in no way aimed at Russia and that NATO is prepared to cooperate with Russia based on the assumption of cooperation between two independent missile defence systems: NATO's BMD and that of Russia.

Members called on the Vice President / High Representative to pursue a strategic partnership with NATO, taking account of the issue of BMD, which should lead to the provision of full coverage and protection for all EU Member States, thus avoiding a situation in which the security afforded to them would be in anyway differentiated;

Lastly, the European External Action Service, the Commission, the European Defence Agency and the Council are called upon to include BMD issues in future security strategies, studies and white papers.

Anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications

The European Parliament adopted by 456 to 92 votes with 30 abstentions, a resolution on an anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications.

It is recalled that the issue of Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) has become more topical in recent years in view of the multiplication of threats stemming from the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the proliferation of ballistic missiles to which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its European allies must be able to respond effectively.

Parliament argued that as BMD technologies develop and are implemented, new dynamics are brought about in European security, resulting in a need for the Member States to take into account the implications of BMD for their security.

According to the resolution, EU initiatives, such as Pooling and Sharing, should prove helpful in strengthening cooperation between Member States in the areas of BMD. In the long term, such cooperation could also lead to the further consolidation of the European defence industry.

As confirmed by the European Council on 19 December 2013, the Common Security and Defence Policy will be developed in full complementarity with NATO, under the agreed framework for the EU-NATO strategic partnership.

Members stressed that the essential contribution of the United States to BMD was confirmation of its commitment to NATO and the security of Europe and European allies. They also underlined that the NATO BMD plan was in no way aimed at Russia and that NATO was prepared to cooperate with this country based on the assumption of cooperation between two independent missile defence systems.

Parliament therefore invited the Vice-President/High Representative to pursue a strategic partnership with NATO, taking account of the issue of BMD, which should lead to the provision of full coverage and protection for all EU Member States, thus avoiding a situation in which the security afforded to them would be in anyway differentiated.

The European External Action Service, the Commission, the European Defence Agency and the Council were called on to include BMD issues in future security strategies, studies and white papers in the area of security.