DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the implementation and governance of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) (2020/2080(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Esteban González Pons
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. Welcomes the interest of Member States in permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) following its establishment by Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315 of 11 December 2017, as shown by the significant number of projects established so far by the Council under PESCO; encourages participating Member States to advance this work and focus on the swift and effective implementation of these projects;

2. Calls on the Council and the Member States to continue reinforcing coherence between all instruments and initiatives within the framework of common security and defence policy (CSDP) in order to achieve the required level of effectiveness in ensuring strategic autonomy, and of ambition in the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy in line with the Treaty on European Union;

3. Welcomes in this regard the political guidelines of the Commission regarding defence policy, and in particular regarding the need for bold steps towards a genuine European Defence Union, and for an integrated and comprehensive approach to the EU’s security; hopes that the creation of a new Commission Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space will serve as a catalyst for enhanced coherence in the creation of defence capabilities;

4. Considers it necessary to step up the actual contribution of PESCO projects to the achievement of the EU’s ambitions in the area of security and defence, by effectively ensuring that the participating Member States strengthen their collaboration in significant and ambitious capability development, and that there is coherence between the EU and NATO in terms of priorities;

5. Calls on the participating Member States to continue making resources available for PESCO projects, while ensuring real ownership of and commitment to PESCO coordinating and pooling processes;

6. Calls on the Council to define strict conditions for the participation of third states in PESCO projects, in accordance with Article 9 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315; considers that any such participation should not deviate PESCO from its fundamental objectives as an instrument of the EU CSDP, while respecting the obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty;

7. Reiterates that Parliament should play a prominent role in the scrutiny and supervision of the implementation and evaluation of the CSDP; expects in this regard that Parliament will be fully informed and consulted by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in the context of the current strategic review of the first PESCO phase, which ends in 2020.