DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the implementation of the common security and defence policy - annual report 2021
(2021/2183(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Gerolf Annemans
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. Notes that the geopolitical impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and a quickly deteriorating security environment are posing unprecedented challenges to the Union’s common security and defence policy (CSDP); emphasises, against this background, that achieving the objectives of the CSDP to strengthen the Union’s operational capacity as provided for in the Treaty on European Union is more necessary than ever;

2. Reiterates its call for the establishment of a permanent Council of Defence Ministers chaired by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with a view to coordinating the defence policies of the Member States, particularly with regard to cybersecurity and anti-terrorism;

3. Notes the Union’s committed relationship with NATO, which remains fundamental to EU security policy; welcomes, in this regard, the ongoing preparation of the new EU-NATO Joint Declaration, which will be presented before the end of the year;

4. Calls for increased efforts to fight foreign interference in the Union’s security and defence, which often takes the form of cyber threats or other types of hybrid warfare; supports, in this regard, the development of the European cyber defence policy, as announced by the President of the Commission in the State of the Union address;

5. Reiterates that Parliament should play a prominent role in scrutinising and supervising the implementation and evaluation of the CSDP, including monitoring the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation.