

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2008/2063(INI)

4.6.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Parliament's new role and responsibilities implementing the Treaty of
Lisbon
(2008/2063(INI))

Draftsman (*): Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

(*): Procedure with associated committees – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines that the broadening of the Union's external action under the Lisbon Treaty, including the provision of new legal bases and instruments affecting areas related to foreign policy (external action and CFSP/CSDP), necessitates a new interinstitutional balance and cooperation which would ensure coherence within the Union's external action and guarantee adequate democratic scrutiny by Parliament;
2. Takes the view that the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission is responsible for the development, organisation, coordination and implementation of foreign relations, especially the CFSP and CSDP, and is accountable to Parliament;
3. Stresses that, in both the formulation and the implementation of the CFSP, the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission is not only required to respect the principles enshrined in Articles 2, 3 and 21 of the EU Treaty but is also bound fully to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights;
4. Expects that the relevant EU Council bodies will directly cooperate with the committees and competent bodies responsible for the CFSP and CSDP within the European Parliament;
5. Will seek, *inter alia*, through its Committee on Foreign Affairs, to facilitate consensus among the Member States' national parliaments as regards their support for the European Union's external policy initiatives;

Parliament's relations with the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission

6. Insists that the rights of the European Parliament must be fully respected on the nomination of the first High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission, as well as any other interim appointment: stresses that the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission is fully and directly accountable to the European Parliament;
7. Reiterates that the future office of High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission will derive its legitimacy directly from the European Parliament and that its two mandates within the Commission and the Council will be inseparable and exercised in full harmony; therefore invites him/her to build upon the current practice and appear regularly before Parliament in plenary and before its Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as to participate in meetings, in order to hold regular, systematic and substantive consultations with Parliament and its competent bodies, and to involve Parliament in the decision-making process, thus enhancing the transparency and accountability of the Union's foreign policy;
8. Is of the opinion that the debate with the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP/CSDP for the coming year constitutes an ideal opportunity to consult Parliament at the beginning of every year,

and that a follow-up debate should be scheduled six months thereafter;

9. Expects the High Representative or his/her representative to reinforce the present practice of the Union's Presidency of appearing before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report on the results of the monthly Foreign Affairs Council meetings – in compliance with the High Representative's task of conducting the Union's CFSP and presiding over the Foreign Affairs Council (Article 18(2) and (3) of the consolidated EU Treaty);
10. Requests the High Representative's representative chairing the Political and Security Committee (PSC) to appear regularly before Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs to report on current issues under discussion in PSC meetings;
11. Requests that the High Representative's special representatives (as provided for by Article 33 of the consolidated EU Treaty) appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs and before other relevant committees as and when requested so to do;
12. Expects that the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) will provide greater clarity with regard to the criteria for, and the appointment and evaluation of, EU Special Representatives, including the definition and purpose of their tasks, the length of their mandate, and coordination and complementarity with the Union's future delegations;

Council–Parliament–Commission interaction concerning foreign policy

13. Is of the opinion that the European Parliament should adopt positions more systematically on each successive stage of CFSP and ESDP decision-making, including on deployment decisions needing to be taken within a very short timeframe (such as those envisaged in respect of EU Battlegroups), so as to enable the Council to reflect the position of the European Parliament in the common positions and joint actions, thus enhancing their democratic legitimacy;
14. Underlines the need to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights in all aspects of the Union's external action;
15. Resolves to place respect for the principles enshrined in Articles 2, 3 and 21 of the EU Treaty and full application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in CFSP matters at the forefront of its imperatives; charges its responsible committee to monitor effective adherence thereto;
16. Requests an update of the interinstitutional agreement between Parliament and the Council defining their working relations concerning foreign policy, including the sharing of confidential information on the basis of Articles 15 and 295 of the consolidated Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and Article 36 of the consolidated EU Treaty;
17. Stresses the need to ensure the democratic accountability and transparency of the activities undertaken by the European Defence Agency (EDA), namely by assuring a regular exchange of information between the Chief Executive of the EDA and Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and its Subcommittee on Security and Defence, and by giving the Chairman of that Subcommittee the possibility of consulting with the EDA

Steering Board;

Parliament and the EEAS

18. Underlines the need for transparency and democratic scrutiny of the whole process and recalls its right to be consulted on the establishment of the EEAS in accordance with Article 26 of the consolidated EU Treaty and to be fully associated with the preparatory work; is of the opinion that the EEAS should administratively be attached to the Commission, and refers to its ongoing report on this matter;
19. Notifies its intention to invite the Heads of the European Union's Delegations in third countries to appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

Parliament's relations with national parliaments concerning foreign policy

20. Welcomes provisions for closer cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Lisbon Treaty; stresses the need to establish closer collaboration between relevant committees of the European and national parliaments, building on the current practice of meetings between the chairs of the foreign affairs, defence and European affairs committees of national parliaments and of Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs; refers to its ongoing report on this matter;

Parliament's views on international agreements concerning foreign policy

21. Welcomes the fact that Parliament will have much wider powers of consent over international agreements, and in particular over all those where the ordinary legislative procedure is used for internal purposes; urges that any future 'mixed' agreement combining non-CFSP and CFSP elements must be treated according to a single legal basis, which should be the one directly related to the main subject of the agreement; notes that Parliament will have the right to be consulted in all other cases except where the agreement relates exclusively to CFSP;

Parliament's views on the role of the Union in international organisations

22. Calls on the Member States to consult their EU partners and the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission before adopting strategic decisions in the area of foreign policy, particularly in multilateral organisations, in order that their positions with respect to strategic decisions are coherent and do not affect the convergence of the EU's foreign policy or undermine the EU's credibility as a global player vis-à-vis third countries; recalls in this regard that the Treaty of Lisbon obliges Member States to consult one another and to demonstrate mutual solidarity;
23. Calls on all EU Member States which are also members of the UN Security Council to improve their coordination within that framework in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Union's action on the world stage, and in the longer perspective to strive to secure an EU seat on the Security Council;
24. Recommends urgent re-examination and reinforcement of the Union's status in international organisations once the Lisbon Treaty is in force and the Union succeeds the

European Communities;

Financing of CFSP under the Lisbon Treaty and the role of the Parliament

25. Is of the view that all external actions of the Union (including those within the future CSDP but excluding all military expenditure) should in future be financed from the common EU budget;
26. Recommends that the chairpersons and/or rapporteurs of Parliament's committees responsible for external action be fully involved on an ex officio basis in the activities of the new Conciliation Committee envisaged for the new budget procedure;
27. Recalls that the European Parliament is responsible for its own internal organisation and the coherence of its work; will thus maintain the proven practice for the establishment and running of subcommittees under the aegis of the Committee on Foreign Affairs;
28. Refers to its ongoing report on this matter.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.6.2008
Result of final vote	+: 46 -: 7 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Monika Beňová, André Brie, Colm Burke, Philip Claeys, Véronique De Keyser, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Georgios Georgiou, Bronisław Geremek, Maciej Marian Giertych, Ana Maria Gomes, Alfred Gomolka, Klaus Hänsch, Anna Ibrisagic, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Maria Eleni Koppa, Helmut Kuhne, Willy Meyer Pleite, Francisco José Millán Mon, Philippe Morillon, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Alojz Peterle, Tobias Pflüger, João de Deus Pinheiro, Samuli Pohjamo, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, Christian Rovsing, Katrin Saks, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, István Szent-Iványi, Inese Vaidere, Ari Vatanen, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Zbigniew Zaleski, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Giulietto Chiesa, Alexandra Dobolyi, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Martí Grau i Segú, Evgeni Kirilov, Jaromír Kohlíček, Miloš Koterec, Jo Leinen, Doris Pack, Rihards Pīks, Adrian Severin, Jean Spautz, Karl von Wogau