



2023/2134(DEC)

14.12.2023

AMENDMENTS

1 - 25

Draft opinion

Katalin Cseh

(PE755.025v01-00)

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - European External Action Service
((2023/2134(DEC))

Amendment 1

Thierry Mariani, Jean-Lin Lacapelle

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *Notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement and leverage at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible;*

Amendment

1. *Deplores the fact that the EEAS contravenes the sovereignty of the Member States, which must be free to conduct their own diplomacy; recalls that the European Union should not instrumentalise the current geopolitical context to assume new powers;*

Or. fr

Amendment 2

Michael Gahler

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *Notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global*

Amendment

1. *Emphasises that the EU needs to continue developing a robust and resilient external service with clear political leadership in order to tackle the current challenges and ensure the coherence of the Union's foreign policy;*

alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement and leverage at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible;

in that respect notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement and leverage at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible;

Or. en

Amendment 3 **Michael Gahler**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 1**

Draft opinion

1. Notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement and leverage at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the

Amendment

1. Notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement and leverage at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the

need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible;

need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible; ***calls on the EEAS to continue its efforts to modernise its approaches and invest in new skills and capabilities while increasing cost-efficiency; reiterates the importance of promoting the rule of law, the fundamental freedoms and the values that the EU is based on;***

Or. en

Amendment 4

Tineke Strik

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement ***and leverage*** at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible;

Amendment

1. Notes the key role of the EEAS and especially of its Delegations in the context of the geopolitical impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the resulting need to support partner countries around the world and strengthen global alliances; highlights the importance of continued strong political engagement at bilateral level, as well as in public and cultural diplomacy to promote the Union's values, principles and interests, and in strategic communications to combat disinformation; calls for more efficient use of available resources to be introduced to avoid putting the Union's effectiveness at risk on the international scene; sees the need for EU delegations to continue their coordinated efforts to increase the visibility of EU-funded projects in order for resources to be used to the fullest extent possible;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Is extremely concerned about the continued engagement of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban with the Russian President Vladimir Putin despite EU sanctions and an International Criminal Court arrest warrant for war crimes against the latter in light of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine; stresses that, under Article 24 (3) TEU, Member States have the obligation to support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity, and shall refrain from actions contrary to the Union's interest; Reminds the HR/VP of his obligation to ensure Member States' compliance with the principles under this article, and invites him, against this backdrop, to report to Parliament on his consideration of the Hungarian Prime Minister's policy vis à vis Russia and compliance with this Treaty article, as well as any potential action he has undertaken;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Strongly condemns the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war in Ukraine, classifying it as a war crime; highlights the growing

reports of human trafficking, sexual violence, exploitation, rape, and abuse faced by women and children fleeing Ukraine to Europe; calls on EU countries to address the specific needs of women and girls in reception centers, ensuring immediate availability of gender-based violence services; urges the EU and host and transit countries to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services; calls on the EU and its Member States to support organisations providing services and shelter to gender-based violence survivors among refugee women and girls;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Nacho Sánchez Amor, Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Is deeply concerned by the budgetary constraints the EEAS is facing, which can have serious and far-reaching negative consequences for the EU's external action overall and the performance of the EU institutions in this area; acknowledges that the lack of action to rectify the current budgetary situation of the EEAS can severely impact the EU's relations with third countries; strongly affirms the need to provide the EEAS with the required financial and staff resources both at its headquarters and in EU Delegations;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Recalls that the direct and indirect impacts of climate change undermine global peace and security while deepening existing vulnerabilities and inequalities and pose risks to human rights; urges the Commission and the EEAS to design and conduct robust EU climate diplomacy with the aim to foster international cooperation towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, strengthen the external dimension of the Green New Deal and provide tangible support for ambitious CO2 reduction targets in third countries;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Thierry Mariani, Jean-Lin Lacapelle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes that in 2022 40% of the appointed Heads of Delegations were women; calls on the EEAS to lead by example, as set out in the Gender Action Plan III, and to continue to improve the representation of women and marginalised groups across all levels with the goal to establish gender parity in all leadership and management positions, gender-responsive leadership and gender-sensitive recruitment processes as soon as possible; regrets the slow pace at which the EEAS staff is moving towards balance as regards diversity, gender and geography imbalances and notes that all categories of staff should be included and calls on all Member States to nominate more women and candidates from marginalised groups to seconded positions

2. Believes that ideological considerations have no place in the staff recruitment and management policy of the EEAS; considers it inappropriate to take the gender dimension into account in recruitment to leadership and management positions, given the sensitive nature of these positions, for which competence and integrity must be the primary considerations;

in the EEAS;

Or. fr

Amendment 10

Angel Dzhambazki

on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that in 2022 40% of the appointed Heads of Delegations were women; calls on the EEAS to lead by example, as set out in the Gender Action Plan III, and to continue to improve the representation of women *and marginalised groups across all levels with the goal to establish gender parity in all leadership and management positions, gender-responsive leadership and gender-sensitive recruitment processes as soon as possible; regrets the slow pace at which the EEAS staff is moving towards balance as regards diversity, gender and geography imbalances and notes that all categories of staff should be included and* calls on all Member States to nominate more women *and candidates from marginalised groups* to seconded positions in the EEAS;

Amendment

2. Notes that in 2022 40% of the appointed Heads of Delegations were women; calls on the EEAS to lead by example, as set out in the Gender Action Plan III, and to continue to improve the representation of women; calls on all Member States to nominate more women to seconded positions in the EEAS;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Tineke Strik

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that in 2022 40% of the

Amendment

2. Notes that in 2022 40% of the

appointed Heads of Delegations were women; calls on the EEAS to lead by example, as set out in the Gender Action Plan III, and to continue to improve the representation of women and marginalised groups across all levels with the goal to establish gender parity in all leadership and management positions, gender-responsive leadership and gender-sensitive recruitment processes as soon as possible; regrets the slow pace at which the EEAS staff is moving towards balance as regards diversity, gender and geography imbalances and notes that all categories of staff should be included and calls on all Member States to nominate more women and candidates from marginalised groups to seconded positions in the EEAS;

appointed Heads of Delegations were women; calls on the EEAS to lead by example, as set out in the Gender Action Plan III, and to continue to improve the representation of women and marginalised groups across all levels with the goal to establish gender parity in all leadership and management positions, gender-responsive leadership and gender-sensitive recruitment processes as soon as possible; regrets the slow pace at which the EEAS staff is moving towards balance as regards diversity, gender and geography imbalances and notes that all categories of staff should be included and calls on all Member States to nominate more women and candidates from marginalised groups to seconded positions in the EEAS;
stresses that the GAP III dictates that by 2025 85% of new EU actions must contribute to gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, while EEAS must accelerate the progress towards the goals of GAP III by meaningfully focusing in its every day work on the GAP III's key areas of engagement, including ending gender-based violence, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, economic and social rights and empowerment, equal participation and leadership;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Calls for robust gender training strategies within the EEAS, emphasising the need to invest in resources and expertise for developing training and education strategies that apply a gender equality approach to international policies

in order to achieve genuine change of culture within the EEAS; calls for special attention to be given to integrate gender mainstreaming mechanisms, address gender budgeting, conduct gender impact assessments, and address gender-based violence; recommends the adoption of a comprehensive training program for the effective implementation of GAP III at all levels of the EEAS;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 b. Expresses concern about the global status of LGBTIQ+ rights and the growing resistance to women's rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in developing countries; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to address setbacks in recognizing and protecting these rights; emphasises the need to prioritise targeted support for civil society organisations (CSOs) and communities advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's rights, gender equality, the LGBTIQ+ community and other marginalised groups, including enhanced measures to decriminalise homosexuality; recalls that a minimum of 85% of new actions under the NDICI-GE instrument should prioritize gender equality, with at least 5% specifically dedicated to women's and girls' rights and empowerment;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 c. Emphasises the imperative for complete implementation and systematic incorporation of gender mainstreaming and the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III) into every aspect of EU external action, including trade and sustainable development policy, at all levels of engagement and across various activities and frameworks, including beyond the duration of GAP III;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Katalin Cseh

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Recognises the importance of the creation of the EEAS Crisis Response Centre (CRC); reiterates the importance of adequate levels of cybersecurity for assets, premises and activities, including for headquarters and the EU delegations; notes the significance of the culture of security and safety across all entities which need to be ensured through personnel, procedures, infrastructure, tools (including IT) and an adequate budget to ensure that all of them can perform their critical and essential functions in the event of unexpected or critical situations;

3. Recognises the importance of the creation of the EEAS Crisis Response Centre (CRC); reiterates the importance of adequate levels of cybersecurity for assets, premises and activities, including for headquarters and the EU delegations; notes the significance of the culture of security and safety across all entities which need to be ensured through personnel, procedures, infrastructure, tools (including IT) and an adequate budget to ensure that all of them can perform their critical and essential functions in the event of unexpected or critical situations;

Acknowledges the EEAS's efforts to fight disinformation and foreign interference; welcomes that EEAS strengthened its international cooperation with Member States, Union institutions and NATO in

this regard; is strongly of the opinion that the EEAS should not only highlight the disinformation coming from third countries but also reveal sources which are distributing the same or similar style of disinformation within the Union;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the importance of the creation of the EEAS Crisis Response Centre (CRC); reiterates the importance of adequate levels of cybersecurity for assets, premises **and** activities, including for headquarters and the EU delegations; notes the significance of the culture of security and safety across all entities which need to be ensured through personnel, procedures, infrastructure, tools (including IT) and an adequate budget to ensure that all of them can perform their critical and essential functions in the event of unexpected or critical situations;

Amendment

3. Recognises the importance of the creation of the EEAS Crisis Response Centre (CRC); reiterates the importance of adequate levels of cybersecurity for assets, premises, activities, including for headquarters and the EU delegations **and for any other EU asset or person in a third country**; notes the significance of the culture of security and safety across all entities which need to be ensured through personnel, procedures, infrastructure, tools (including IT) and an adequate budget to ensure that all of them can perform their critical and essential functions in the event of unexpected or critical situations;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Nacho Sánchez Amor, Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Stresses that, ahead of increasing geopolitical challenges and crisis worldwide, the EU needs to be able to rely

on necessary first-hand information on global issues occurring outside its borders; calls, in this regard, for strengthening the EU INTCEN, the EEAS Crisis Response Center and the SatCen by enhancing its staff and financial resources, as well as its capabilities;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Calls for the Union to enhance its toolbox to counter foreign interference, propaganda and influence operations, including the reinforcement of the EEAS strategic communication task force; highlights the need to broaden its mandate in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China and the Middle East, particularly Iran; reiterates its call on the EEAS to allow the task force to track the routes of foreign interference, to reveal sources that are distributing to the spread of disinformation in a similar fashion within the Union as well and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

Amendment

4. Calls for the Union to enhance its toolbox to counter foreign interference, propaganda and influence operations, including the reinforcement of the EEAS strategic communication task force; highlights the need to ***broaden its*** mandate in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China and the Middle East, particularly Iran ***and mitigating its effects on affected sides;*** reiterates its call on the EEAS to allow the task force to track the routes of foreign interference, to reveal sources that are distributing to the spread of disinformation in a similar fashion within the Union as well and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Nacho Sánchez Amor, Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Considers it essential for the EU to increase its investment in public and cultural diplomacy and communication efforts, particularly ahead of the active engagement of authoritarian and illiberal regimes; stresses, therefore, the need to allocate the necessary resources to the Strategic Communication and Foresight division of the EEAS;

Or. en

Amendment 20

Thierry Mariani, Jean-Lin Lacapelle

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the strengthening of the EU delegations' engagement in our neighbourhood and in the Western Balkan countries in order to support a more active and effective communication policy on the European perspective and to be prepared to provide the best possible assistance to the countries engaged in pro-democratic and pro-European reforms;

Amendment

5. Points out that the EU delegations replicate and tend to replace Member States' diplomacy and are therefore detrimental to the sovereignty of the Member States;

Or. fr

Amendment 21

Tineke Strik

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the strengthening of the EU delegations' engagement in our

Amendment

5. Calls on the EU delegations in our neighbourhood and in the Western Balkan

neighbourhood and in the Western Balkan countries in order to support a more active and effective communication policy on the European perspective and to be prepared to provide the best possible assistance to the countries engaged in pro-democratic and pro-European reforms;

countries ***to increase their engagement*** in order to support a more active and effective communication policy on the European perspective and to be prepared to provide the best possible assistance to the countries engaged in pro-democratic and pro-European reforms; ***calls on the EU delegations to apply a more credible and merit-based approach based on the Copenhagen criteria, notably on the rule of law, democracy and the protection of human rights, especially given the limited progress made by some countries in the Western Balkans;***

Or. en

Amendment 22
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the strengthening of the EU delegations' engagement in our neighbourhood and in the Western Balkan countries in order to support a more active and effective communication policy on the European perspective and to be prepared to provide the best possible assistance to the countries engaged in pro-democratic ***and pro-European*** reforms;

Amendment

5. Welcomes the strengthening of the EU delegations' engagement in our neighbourhood and in the Western Balkan countries in order to support a more active and effective communication policy on the European perspective and to be prepared to provide the best possible assistance to the countries engaged in pro-democratic reforms;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. *Calls on EU delegations to enhance support to genuine democratic actors and civil society in the Western Balkans as well as strongly and publicly denounce actions by illiberal and undemocratic actors that go against the Union's interest and ensure the implementation of IPA III funding is in line with the EU's objectives;*

Or. en

Amendment 24
Nacho Sánchez Amor, Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *Calls for the establishment of a permanent structure and the necessary resources for the European Diplomatic Academy, which can contribute to fully developing an autonomous EU diplomacy with a common diplomatic based on an EU perspective; considers that in the future this Academy should include a system of selection, recruitment and training of Europeans who have completed higher education and are not diplomats of Member States; stresses the need to explore and decide on ways of access to the EEAS for those graduating from this Academy;*

Or. en

Amendment 25
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

6 a. Urges the EEAS and the EU delegations to closely monitor the state of democracy in the different countries and to provide logistical and technological support to human rights defenders and indigenous persons, in particular women;

Or. en