DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris
(2015/2112(INI))

Rapporteur: Dubravka Šuica
PA_NonLeg
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Acknowledges the importance of climate; calls on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to prioritise diplomacy on climate policy goals in order to build support for a strong, fair and comprehensive agreement; stresses the importance of the EU as a key player in climate diplomacy and emphasises the need to speak with one voice; calls on the Member States to coordinate their positions in this regard with those of the EU; underlines that the EU and the Member States have an enormous foreign policy capacity and must mobilise this network based on political will in order to secure the objectives; calls on the parties involved in environmental aspects of the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations to take into account the Paris Conference conclusions;

2. Stresses that climate diplomacy should be part of the comprehensive approach to the EU’s external action; calls for a debate on a forward-looking strategy at EU level to address the strategic and political consequences, allowing the EU to respond to and prepare for climate-induced geopolitical instability and paying particular attention to cooperation with countries most afflicted by the impacts of climate change;

3. Welcomes the action plan for climate diplomacy, which states that the EEAS, the Commission and the Member States must together implement a strategic, coherent and cohesive climate diplomacy plan throughout 2015; stresses that the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of July 2011 and June 2013 endorsed the joint EEAS and Commission non-papers, which identified three strands of action for climate diplomacy, and that the action plan must form an integral part of this strategy;

4. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to develop strategic priorities for the external climate policy enshrined in the general foreign policy objectives and to ensure that the EU’s delegations increase their focus on climate monitoring issues; calls on the EU to cooperate more closely on climate issues with neighbours and candidate countries.