



2022/2051(INL)

6.9.2022

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties
(2022/2051(INL))

Rapporteur for opinion: Hilde Vautmans

(Initiative – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure)

PA_INL

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas the Conference on the Future of Europe served as an unprecedented platform for discussion between citizens and politicians and resulted in concrete proposals that need to be honoured even if they necessitated Treaty changes;
 - B. whereas the citizens' panel 4 "EU in the world/ Migration" made several important recommendations in the field of foreign affairs, which are all long-standing calls of the European Parliament;
 - C. whereas honouring those recommendations would make the Union a stronger and more visible global player, would lead to more efficient decision-making and would improve the European Parliament's scrutiny rights in the field of foreign policy being the only democratically elected institution of the Union;
1. Calls for the main citizens' recommendations in the field of foreign and security policy, notably the need to switch to more efficient decision-making, through the use of qualified majority voting (QMV) instead of unanimity, and the need to improve the Union's methods to impose sanctions, to be incorporated in a Treaty change;
 2. Recalls that Article 48(7) and Article 31(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) contain passerelle clauses that can make switching from unanimity to qualified majority voting possible in the area of common foreign and security policy (CFSP) without military implications; calls for a switch to QMV in all decisions in the field of CFSP, notably those concerning sanctions and human rights, as the passerelle clauses have never been used due to the lack of political will;
 3. Calls for an amendment of Article 42 TEU that would allow switching to reinforced QMV, requiring 72% of Council members representing at least 65% of population, for decisions with military implications;
 4. Underlines the need to strengthen the role of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and to ensure that the Union speaks with one voice, as requested by the citizens of the Union in the Conference on the Future of Europe; points out that this can be done through a Treaty change that would name the Vice-President/High Representative a foreign minister of the Union, would make him or her the main external representative of the Union in international fora and would allow him or her to be present ex-officio in negotiating formats initiated or led by the Member States;
 5. Considers it necessary to broaden the scope of threats defined in the mutual defence clause stipulated in Article 42(7) TEU to include hybrid threats, disinformation campaigns and economic coercion by third countries;
 6. Requests the strengthening of the role of Union delegations in the implementation of

foreign policy by amending the wording of Article 221 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU);

7. Stresses the importance of reinforcing the Parliament's scrutiny rights in the foreign policy field, notably by strengthening the wording of Article 36 TEU concerning the consultation of the European Parliament on the main aspects and strategic choices in the field of CFSP and common security and defence policy; calls for changing Article 218 TFEU to require the European Parliament's consent for all international agreements and before decisions on the provisional application of international agreements are taken; recalls the proven value of parliamentary diplomacy; suggests therefore introducing provisions for involvement of the European Parliament on equal footing with the Council in the implementation of international agreements in Article 218(9) TFEU; calls for more involvement of the European Parliament in the Team Europe approach;
8. Calls for inclusion of the principle of "strategic autonomy" into the list of objectives to be achieved through the Union's foreign and security policy enshrined in Article 21 TEU;
9. Calls for the introduction of provisions in Articles 42 and 46 TEU enabling the joint procurement of defence equipment and other security-related spending from the budget of the Union as well as the establishment of joint military units and command structures;
10. Calls on the Council to convene a specific ad-hoc working group to reflect on possible Treaty changes, with a view to convening a convention composed of representatives of the national parliaments, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission.