



**2020/2206(INI)**

7.10.2020

# **DRAFT REPORT**

on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy – annual  
report 2019  
(2020/2206(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: David McAllister

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	3

## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy – annual report 2019 (2020/2206(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the common foreign and security policy,
- having regard to Title V of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),
- having regard to the declaration by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on political accountability<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the United Nations General Assembly resolution, entitled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, of 25 September 2015,
- having regard to the Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy of 28 June 2016,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 8 April 2020 on the Global EU response to COVID-19 (JOIN(2020)0011),
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 10 June 2020 entitled ‘Tackling COVID-19 disinformation – Getting the facts right’ (JOIN(2020)0008),
- having regard to its resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on Security and Defence of 17 June 2020,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 9 September 2020 entitled ‘2020 Strategic Foresight Report – Charting the course towards a more resilient Europe’,
- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2020),

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 210, 3.8.2010, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2020)0054.

- A. whereas Parliament has a duty and responsibility to exercise its democratic oversight over the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and common security and defence policy (CSDP) and should get the necessary and effective means to fulfil this role;
- B. whereas in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms have deteriorated in many parts of the world, disinformation campaigns and cyberattacks have increased, and isolationist trends and rivalry – rather than multilateral cooperation;
- C. whereas challenges such as the resurgence of populism and authoritarianism, the attacks against liberal democracy and multilateralism, combined with competition between the great powers, which has transformed into rivalry, especially between US and China, pose a real threat to the EU's interests and influence;
- D. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to a worsening of the international security environment; whereas many of the threats which have been emerging in previous years, including cyber-threats and pandemics, have now become a reality;

***Positioning the EU as a 'partner of choice' in a changing geopolitical order***

1. Highlights that the COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for the need for a stronger, more united and assertive EU foreign and security policy to make the Union capable of assuming a prominent leadership role on the international scene and to promote its values and interests more decisively worldwide;
2. Defends the EU's role as a reliable partner worldwide, a preferred 'partner of choice' for third parties, a principled, but not dogmatic, honest broker, actor and mediator for conflict resolution, as a leading promoter and main contributor to the multilateral framework, but ready to act autonomously when necessary to defend the EU's interests and international peace and stability, based on the principles and values of the UN Charter; takes the view that creative ways are needed to increase the EU's influence globally and to promote its positive power model worldwide;
3. Stresses that the world's growing instability and the rise of unprecedented global challenges, especially climate change, health-related risks and cyberattacks, should lead the EU to establish more strategic alliances with like-minded democracies and build ad hoc coalitions with other partners where necessary;
4. In this respect, insists on the importance of strengthening the EU's partnership with the UN and NATO, as well as to deepen cooperation with organisations such as the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the African Union and Mercosur;
5. Expresses concerns at the unprecedented scale of state-sponsored disinformation campaigns, the manipulation and weaponisation of information, including by state actors with malign intentions; welcomes the quick response by the EU institutions to this new challenge, such as the setting up of a new special committee in Parliament focusing on foreign interference in democratic processes in the EU, including disinformation;

6. Insists that the EU's foreign and security policy should be guided by the promotion of democracy, the protection of human rights and the promotion of fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of religion or belief, and Christians' rights; welcomes in this respect the recent Commission decision to renew the mandate of the Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU;

***A new level of ambition for the CFSP: strategic regional approaches based on a stronger political will***

7. Recalls that no EU Member State alone has sufficient capacity and resources to effectively deal with current international challenges; considers that, in this context, the EU needs first and foremost a stronger and genuine political will on the part of the EU Member States to jointly push EU foreign policy goals and to counter third countries' attempts to divide the EU;
8. Reiterates its call for a revision of the EU Global Strategy in order to draw the lessons from the new geopolitical dynamics, current threats and expected upcoming challenges, and to reassess the goals and means of the CFSP; highlights the importance for the EU to strengthen its strategic autonomy to defend its interests and values in the post-pandemic world, going beyond economic and trade matters to also encompass security and defence;
9. Takes the view that there is still a large untapped potential in combining and integrating all strands of EU external action's hard and soft power to achieve CFSP goals; recalls in this respect that the European Parliament's diplomacy constitutes an important pillar of the EU's foreign policy, with its own distinct and complementary instruments and channels; believes that the European Parliament should therefore be recognised as an integral part of the 'Team Europe' approach promoted by the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS);
10. Highlights that EU Treaty provisions on consulting and providing information to Parliament in the field of CFSP should translate into clear rules on sharing the relevant documents, including draft strategies; considers that the 2010 'declaration on political accountability' is no longer an appropriate basis for relations between Parliament and the VP/HR and should be replaced by an interinstitutional agreement; furthermore recalls that it has requested a review of the Council decision establishing the EEAS;
11. Regrets the lack of progress in improving the decision-making process on CFSP matters, which impacts the efficiency, speed of action and credibility of EU action on the international scene; calls on the Member States to agree to move from unanimity to qualified majority voting at least in selected areas of CFSP;
12. Insists on the swift adoption and implementation of an EU targeted human rights sanctions mechanism (EU Magnitsky Act);
13. Supports the idea of a European Security Council to improve the coherence and the influence of the EU's foreign and security policy;
14. Recognises that the stability, security and prosperity of the Western Balkans and the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood countries directly affect the Union's own

stability; calls for a more active, unified and effective role for the EU in the peaceful resolution of the ongoing tensions and conflicts, in particular in Belarus, Ukraine, Lebanon, Syria and Libya, and in the prevention of any future conflicts in the neighbourhood;

15. Takes the view that the EU needs to define urgently an overall strategy for its mid- to long-term relations with Turkey, particularly in the light of the ongoing escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean;
16. Underlines that it is in the mutual interest of the EU and the UK, amplified by their geographical proximity, to agree on common responses to address foreign, security and defence policy challenges;
17. Calls for a stronger transatlantic partnership in dealing with current foreign and security challenges and crises, particularly the current health emergency and the economic and political challenges it brings;
18. Calls for the maintenance of a strong united stance towards the Russian Federation, including on the sanctions regime, especially in the light of ongoing developments related to the attempted assassination of Alexei Navalny;
19. Welcomes the current efforts to redesign and significantly upgrade the EU-Africa strategy, including in terms of security and cooperation; calls for a common EU approach to strengthen the EU's visibility and commitment in Africa;
20. Underlines the importance for the EU to pursue a unified, realistic and effective approach towards China, where it should proactively and assertively seek more balanced and reciprocal economic relations, based on our values and interests;
21. Underscores the need for the EU to pay increased attention to strategic regions which are increasingly gaining international attention, such as, among others, the Arctic, as well as the region of the Pacific and Oceania, where China is pursuing a policy of expansion to which the EU must develop a coherent response; welcomes the efforts towards developing a European Indo-Pacific Strategy oriented to EU principles and values;

### ***Strengthening the EU's capacities and means in the CFSP***

22. Stresses its support for the progressive framing and advancing of a common defence policy and to establishing a fully-fledged defence union; welcomes in this regard the objective of adopting a Strategic Compass in 2022;
23. Stresses that the EU must assume a global leadership role in tackling the consequences of the pandemic, which requires sufficient financial resources; highlights the need for a more ambitious multiannual financial framework (MFF) in the area of external action and defence, including increased allocations for the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the European Defence Fund (EDF), military mobility and for the European Peace Facility; emphasises that Parliament needs to be involved in a meaningful way in the strategic steering and control of the new external financing instruments;

24. Calls for the strengthening of defence capabilities, notably through the sufficient funding of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the EDF, military mobility and the European space programme; underlines the need for further coherence of EU tools in EU defence cooperation; calls for increased support, staffing and adequate budgetary resources for the EEAS Strategic Communications Division;
25. Draws attention to the mid- to long-term threats which will need to be addressed by the CFSP in the future, including the security risks posed by climate change, cyber-threats, the space race, and emerging technologies;
26. Welcomes the intelligence-led threat analysis currently carried out by the VP/HR as a starting point for the future Strategic Compass, and calls for a debate in Parliament on the outcome of this analysis; welcomes the new approach of the Commission to embed strategic foresight into EU policymaking, including on foreign and security matters;
  - 
  - ◦
27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European Council, the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the Member States.