



2020/2207(INI)

12.11.2020

DRAFT REPORT

on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy - annual
report 2020
(2020/2207(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Sven Mikser

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy - annual report 2020 (2020/2207(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty of Lisbon,
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 20 December 2013, 26 June 2015, 15 December 2016, 22 June 2017, 28 June 2018, 14 December 2018, 20 June 2019, 12 December 2019 and 21 July 2020,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on the Common Security and Defence Policy of 25 November 2013, 18 November 2014, 18 May 2015, 27 June 2016, 14 November 2016, 18 May 2017, 17 July 2017, 25 June 2018, 17 June 2019 and 17 June 2020,
- having regard to the Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the establishment of a Civilian CSDP Compact,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on Women, Peace and Security of 10 December 2018,
- having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/797 of 17 May 2019 concerning restrictive measures against cyber-attacks threatening the Union or its Member States¹,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions on complementary efforts to enhance resilience and counter hybrid threats of 10 December 2019,
- having regard to the document entitled ‘Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe – A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy’, presented by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on 28 June 2016,
- having regard to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the Action Plan on Military Mobility of 28 March 2018 (JOIN(2018)0005),
- having regard to the joint declarations of 8 July 2016 and 12 July 2018 by the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission and the Secretary-General of NATO,
- having regard to the common set of 42 proposals endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils on 6 December 2016 and the progress reports of 14 June and 5 December 2017 on the implementation thereof, and to the new set of 32 proposals endorsed by both Councils on 5 December 2017,
- having regard to the Fifth progress report of 16 June 2020 on the implementation of the

¹ OJ L 129I, 17.5.2019, p. 13.

common set of proposals endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils on 6 December 2016 and 5 December 2017,

- having regard to the Second Progress Report on the 2019-2021 EU-UN priorities on peace operations and crisis management,
- having regard to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, paying special attention to SDG 16 that aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,
- having regard to the UN Agenda for Disarmament - Securing our Common Future,
- having regard to the ECA Review No 09/2019 on European Defence,
- having regard to its resolutions of 14 December 2016², 13 December 2017³, 12 December 2018⁴ and 15 January 2020⁵ on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 June 2018 on EU-NATO relations⁶,
- having regard to its recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the preparation of the 2020 Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) review process, nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament options,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 September 2020 on arms export: implementation of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP⁷,
- having regard to its resolution of 14 February 2019 on the future of the INF Treaty and the impact on the European Union⁸,
- having regard to its report on the European Defence Fund 2021-2027 (A8-0412/2018),
- having regard to its recommendation to the Council on the decision establishing a on European Peace Facility⁹,
- having regard to its resolution of 12 September 2018 on autonomous weapon systems¹⁰,
- having regard to its resolution of 23 July 2020 on the conclusions of the extraordinary European Council meeting of 17-21 July 2020¹¹,

² OJ C 224, 27.6.2018, p. 50.

³ OJ C 369, 11.10.2018, p. 36.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0514.

⁵ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0008.

⁶ OJ C 28, 27.1.2020, p. 49.

⁷ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0224.

⁸ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0130.

⁹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0330.

¹⁰ OJ C 433, 23.12.2019, p. 86.

¹¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0206.

- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2020),
1. Recalls the ambition of the EU to be a global actor for peace, and calls for its actions and policies to strive for the maintenance of international peace and security and support for the rules-based international order;
 2. Stresses that, given the current and increasing multi-faceted threats the EU could face in a highly multipolar world with unreliable superpowers, only the combined weight of the Union has the potential to deliver peace, human security, sustainable development and democracy;
 3. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy; welcomes the fact that the EU remains committed to increasing its ability to act as a global security provider through its CSDP missions and operations, to supporting sustainable peace and prosperity and to overcoming conflicts around the world;
 4. Welcomes the VP/HR's announcement that, by the end of 2020, an analysis will be presented of common threats and challenges, which will provide the basis for developing a Strategic Compass; invites the VP/HR to present this analysis to the European Parliament as soon as possible; notes that the Strategic Compass will provide the orientation and objectives for clearly setting out the Union's strategic analysis and level of ambition in the four key areas of crisis management, resilience, capabilities and partnerships no later than 2022;
 5. Is considering drawing up reports and recommendations on the key areas of the Strategic Compass, in order to provide parliamentary guidance;
 6. Underlines the importance for the Union of sustainable stability, security and prosperity in its neighbourhood;
 7. Reiterates its commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and of all the other Eastern Partnership countries; expresses serious concerns about the situation in Belarus and reiterates its support to the sovereign and democratic choice of the people;
 8. Notes that Russian Federation military forces are still occupying large parts of Ukraine and Georgia in violation of international law; express concerns about Russia's role in destabilising peace and security in the region;
 9. Is extremely concerned by, and strongly condemns, the threats of military action against EU Member States by Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean;

Consolidating the European Union's ambitions: strengthening the effectiveness of CSDP missions and operations

10. Notes that the Union is currently deploying 11 civilian and six military missions, of which, in the case of the latter, three are executive and three are non-executive missions;

11. Welcomes the regionalisation process which has been launched with the aim of making the EU action more effective across the G5 Sahel country borders;
12. Welcomes the launch of Operation EUNAVFOR MED Irini, which is aimed at contributing to sustainable peace and stability by supporting the implementation of the arms embargo on Libya in accordance with UNSCR 2526 (2020); calls on Member States to prioritise the contribution of forces and assets to all CSDP missions and operations, addressing in particular the existing shortfalls; specifically invites Member States to urgently assign the intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and constabulary assets needed to boost Operation Irini's capabilities; calls on the VP/HR to make full use of EU assets in this domain, in particular EU satellite and intelligence centres;
13. Notes that the strategic review of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) is to be initiated in 2020 and that, given the impact of this review on the command and control of military missions and operations, calls on the VP/HR to keep Parliament informed of the options chosen in a timely manner;
14. Welcomes the overall progress made in implementing the Civilian CSDP Compact, which is aimed at making civilian CSDP more capable, more effective, flexible and responsive both at the national level by developing and implementing National Implementation Plans to increase national contributions to civilian CSDP, and at the EU level through the development of a Joint Action Plan; calls for the full implementation of the Civilian CSDP Compact by early summer 2023; invites all relevant actors to intensify cooperation and to continue strengthening synergies between the civilian and military missions deployed in the same theatre; welcomes the German Presidency's announcement on creating a Centre for Excellence for Civil Crisis Management;
15. Commends the continuity of the CSDP missions and operations despite the very challenging environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; suggests that the budget, planning and equipment of EU CSDP missions and operations be assessed in the light of the lessons learnt from COVID-19;
16. Recognises the role played by civilian and military CSDP missions) in maintaining peace, avoiding conflicts and strengthening international security; urges the EU to enhance its institutional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation; calls for conflict-sensitive and people-centred approaches which put human security at the core of EU engagement;
17. Calls for the swift adoption and implementation of the European Peace Facility, in full compliance with the Common Position, human rights and humanitarian law, and with effective transparency provisions, such as the publication of a detailed list of military equipment provided to partner countries under the Facility;

Developing effective CSDP capabilities

18. Welcomes the EU capability development initiatives, such as EDIDP, PESCO and the future European Defence Fund (EDF), as they can contribute to greater coherence, coordination and interoperability in implementing the EU CSDP and consolidating solidarity, cohesion and the resilience of the Union;

19. Notes that it is crucial to enhance the coherence and consistency of EU defence planning and development tools and initiatives, so that they create synergies and mutual reinforcement, avoid duplication and ensure an efficient and strategic use of resources;
20. Calls for the swift adoption and set-up of the EDF, which will address the capability development priorities identified in the EU and thus foster the EU's ability to operate as a global actor and an international security provider;
21. Underlines that third country participation in the EDF, in some specific and exceptional cases when it gives added value to certain projects and is conducted on the basis of effective reciprocity, should not undermine the objectives of the EDF;
22. Expects the Strategic Review of the first PESCO phase by the end of 2020; considers PESCO to be an instrument that contributes to sustainable and efficient EU defence cooperation by improving participating Member States' defence capabilities and interoperability, especially in terms of the availability, flexibility and deployability of forces;
23. Calls on participating Member States to show full political engagement and ensure tangible progress in the swift and effective implementation of the current PESCO projects;

Strengthening cooperation with Strategic Partners

24. Welcomes the progress made in EU-NATO cooperation since the Joint Declaration in Warsaw in 2016; commends the progress made in implementing the common set of proposals of December 2017, in particular the intensification of EU-NATO political dialogue at all levels, as well as the structured dialogue on military mobility, the efforts to ensure greater coherence between the respective defence planning processes, and closer cooperation in countering hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns; calls on the EU and NATO to further enhance the mutually reinforcing cooperation and to deepen their Strategic Partnership;
25. Highlights that NATO remains the cornerstone of collective defence for those Member States which are also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; recalls that, following the 'single set of forces' principle, the development of EU defence capabilities will also benefit the Alliance;
26. Strongly supports the Strategic Partnership between the EU and the UN in crisis management and civilian, police and military peacekeeping; welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the eight jointly identified and agreed 2019-2021 EU-UN priorities on peace operations and crisis management; notes that some progress has been achieved in enhancing cooperation between missions and operations in the field, on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda feeding into the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, as well as in relation to conflict prevention and on political and strategic levels; calls on the EU and the UN to further explore opportunities for closer cooperation, especially on joint theatres of operation, in areas including mission transition planning, support arrangements in the field, information exchange outside of mission areas and contingency planning in view of COVID-19, as well as in the field of climate and

defence;

27. Calls for a more systematic implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) twenty years after its adoption, and for a strengthening of the EU's WPS agenda; calls for meaningful gender mainstreaming in the formulation of the EU CSDP, notably via a better gender balance in the personnel and leadership of CSDP missions and operations and specific training of the personnel deployed;

Increasing the Union's resilience and preparedness

28. Is concerned that the rules-based international order and the values of sustainable peace, prosperity and freedom, which correspond to the foundations on which the European Union is built, are facing challenges; notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and amplified existing global fragilities and tensions; stresses that the pandemic has strengthened public support for a stronger role for the European Union and for more European unity, solidarity and resilience; welcomes the Council's conclusions of June 2020 advocating a strong European Union that promotes peace and security and protects its citizens;
29. Underlines the important role of the armed forces during the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomes military assistance to civil support operations, notably for the deployment of field hospitals, patient transport, and equipment delivery and distribution; considers that this valuable contribution has shown the importance of the Member States' military assets and capabilities in support of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, as well as for humanitarian assistance purposes; reiterates the importance of mutual assistance and solidarity, in line with Article 42(7) TEU and Article 222 TFEU; encourages the setting up of European mechanisms aimed at facilitating the cross-border use of military logistical capabilities to face such emergencies, in order to allow for greater coordination, synergy, solidarity and support; stresses the need to increase the EU's CBRN preparedness;

Proactively countering and preventing hybrid threats

30. Welcomes the set of priorities and guidelines adopted for EU cooperation in the field of countering hybrid threats and enhancing resilience to these threats, including the fight against disinformation, and the setting up of a Rapid Alert System to facilitate cooperation with international partners such as the G7 and NATO; invites the EU and its Member States to develop and strengthen the security of its information and communication systems, including secure communication channels; underlines the importance and the urgency for the EU to step up its strategic communication and to address the growing and malign foreign interference which threatens its democratic system;
31. Welcomes the adoption by the Council of a decision that, for the first time, allows the EU to impose targeted restrictive measures to deter and respond to cyber-attacks which constitute an external threat to the EU or its Member States, including cyber-attacks against third States or international organisations, and to impose sanctions on persons or entities responsible for cyber-attacks; highlights the need to further integrate cyber aspects into the EU's crisis management systems; underlines that closer cooperation in preventing and countering cyber-attacks is essential in these times of particular

vulnerability in order to advance international security and stability in cyberspace; calls for support from the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) and for strong coordination with the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in this respect; calls for increased EU coordination as regards establishing collective attribution for malicious cyber incidents;

Giving the Union the means to implement CSDP

32. Underlines that adequate levels of financial resources, personnel and assets are essential in order to ensure that the Union has the strength and the ability to promote peace and security within its borders and in the world;
33. Regrets the European Council's current lack of ambition in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for defence initiatives; urges the Council to maintain an ambitious budget for the European Defence Fund and for military mobility at the level initially proposed by the Commission and adopted by Parliament at first reading; recalls that European citizens have clearly and consistently called for the Union to step up its role in delivering sustainable stability and security, and this can only be achieved with the necessary financial means and an ambitious MFF in the area of external action and defence;
34. Warns of the danger of a lack of ambition to fund European defence in the MFF, combined with significant and uncoordinated cuts in national defence budgets as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; stresses the need for Member States to allocate the necessary financial resources at national level in order to give the Union the ability to operate as a global actor for peace; shares the assessment of the European Court of Auditors that 'the EU Member States are far from having the military capabilities they need to match the EU military level of ambition';
35. Recalls that while the common European defence projects and initiatives are instrumental in addressing the shortfalls in the areas of defence-related R&D, pooling resources and co-ordinating efforts, the bulk of the defence assets used for CSDP missions continue to be produced by the Member States and paid for by national defence budgets;
36. Calls on the Member States to take responsibility for their decisions to deploy civilian and military missions by providing the Union with the necessary personnel and capabilities to achieve the objectives on which they have unanimously agreed, and thus deliver on our shared aspirations;

Setting up an ambitious EU agenda for global arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament

37. Is alarmed at the potential erosion of the global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts; fears that withdrawal from, or the non-extension of, major arms control treaties would seriously damage the international arms control regimes that have provided decades of stability, and would undermine relationships between nuclear-armed states; underlines the urgent need to restore cross-border trust;
38. Reaffirms its full support for the EU and its Member States' commitment to the NPT as

the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime; reiterates its calls for the adoption of concrete and effective measures during the 10th NPT Review Conference that would be a key element in preserving strategic stability and containing a new arms race;

39. Reiterates its deep regret at the withdrawal from the INF Treaty by the US and the Russian Federation following Russia's persistent failure to comply with the Treaty; fears that the collapse of the Treaty might lead to the escalation of tensions and heightened nuclear and military threats and risks, while jeopardising the future of arms control regimes; underlines that it is strongly opposed to a new arms race and re-militarisation on European soil; urges the Council and the VP/HR to launch an EU-led initiative with a view to pushing for the conversion of the INF Treaty into a multilateral Treaty involving all nuclear states;
40. Exhorts the US and the Russian Federation to make further progress in negotiations on prolonging the New START Treaty, which is due to expire in February 2021; believes that an extension of the Treaty would give both signatories additional time to pursue negotiations with a view to agreeing on a new arms control instrument; calls for the involvement of other states;
41. Expresses its deep regret at the decision taken by the US to withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty, a major arms control instrument which has contributed to trust-building and to providing smaller states with a valuable capability to monitor and verify the military activities of their neighbours; calls on the remaining signatories to continue implementing the Treaty, while ensuring that it remains functional and useful;
42. Welcomes the EU's financial contribution to the projects and activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); welcomes the adoption by the Council of a horizontal sanctions regime to address the growing use and proliferation of chemical weapons; calls for the EU to pursue its efforts to counter the proliferation and use of chemical weapons and to support the global prohibition of chemical weapons as laid down by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);
43. Expresses grave concern at the attempted assassination of the prominent Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny using a banned nerve agent which, under the Chemical Weapons Convention, is considered as use of a chemical weapon and, as such, is a serious violation of international norms; calls on the Council to use all instruments, including sanctions, at the EU's disposal to hold accountable all those responsible for the poisoning;
44. Asks the VP/HR to bring forward proposals to strengthen the available expertise in non-proliferation and arms control in the EU and to ensure that the EU plays a strong and constructive role in developing and reinforcing the global rules-based non-proliferation efforts and arms control and disarmament architecture; welcomes the appointment of a new Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in this respect;
45. Reiterates its full commitment to the preservation of effective international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation regimes as a cornerstone of global and European security; stresses its full support to the work of the UNODA and to the UN Agenda for Disarmament; recalls its commitment to pursuing policies designed to move

forward the reduction and elimination of all nuclear arsenals and to achieve a world without nuclear weapons;

46. Welcomes the Council conclusions on the review of the Common Position; is of the firm view that, as the EU is increasingly ambitious in the defence area, there is a need for greater convergence and consistency in the Member States' arms export policies; calls on Member States to fully comply with the Common Position; calls for a sanctions mechanism to be put in place against Member States that do not comply with the Common Position; welcomes the efforts made to increase the transparency and the public and parliamentary scrutiny of arms exports; calls for joint efforts to improve risk assessments, end-user checks and post-shipment verifications;
47. Welcomes the EU's activities aimed at supporting the universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty, and calls on all the major arms-exporting countries to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;
48. Calls for the EU to take the lead in global efforts to set up a comprehensive regulatory framework for the development and use of AI-enabled weapons; calls on the VP/HR, the Member States and the European Council to adopt a joint position on autonomous weapons systems that ensures meaningful human control over the critical functions of weapons systems; insists on the start of international negotiations on a legally binding instrument that would prohibit fully autonomous weapons;

Ensuring democratic oversight, legitimacy and inclusive engagement

49. Underlines the need for the European Parliament to address all defence matters in a consistent manner; calls for the mandate of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence to be reassessed in view of the growing number of defence initiatives at the EU level, and of the creation of the Commission's DG DEFIS;
50. Welcomes the regular exchanges of views with the VP/HR on CSDP issues and calls on the VP/HR to ensure that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration; stresses the need to ensure regular briefings from EU Special Representatives, Special Envoys, and mission and operation commanders; considers that Parliament should be consulted in advance about strategic planning for CSDP missions, changes to their mandates and plans to bring them to an end; calls for the comprehensive implementation of Article 36 TEU;
51. Stresses the need to develop ever-closer cooperation on CSDP matters with national parliaments in order to ensure reinforced accountability, transparency and scrutiny;
52. Reiterates the importance of improving the tools available to civil society in order to ensure its meaningful involvement in the formulation of defence-related policy and its effective oversight;
53. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of NATO, the EU agencies in the security and defence fields, and the national parliaments of the Member States.

