



2021/2206(INI)

28.3.2022

DRAFT REPORT

on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the EU's strategic relationship and partnership with the Horn of Africa
(2021/2206(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Fabio Massimo Castaldo

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION	3

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION

to the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the EU's strategic relationship and partnership with the Horn of Africa (2021/2206(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council conclusions of 10 May 2021 entitled ‘The Horn of Africa: a geo-strategic priority for the EU’,
- having regard to the final joint statement of 18 February 2022 of the sixth European Union-African Union Summit entitled ‘A Joint Vision for 2030’,
- having regard to its resolution of 16 September 2020 on EU-African security cooperation in the Sahel region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa¹,
- having regard to its resolution of 25 March 2021 on a new EU-Africa Strategy – a partnership for sustainable and inclusive development²,
- having regard to its resolution of 25 November 2021 on the situation in Somalia³,
- having regard to its resolution of 16 September 2021 on the situation in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya⁴,
- having regard to its resolution of 20 January 2022 on the political crisis in Sudan⁵,
- having regard to its resolution of 26 November 2020 on the situation in Ethiopia⁶,
- having regard to its resolution of 7 October 2021 on the humanitarian situation in Tigray⁷,
- having regard to its resolution of 11 February 2021 on the political situation in Uganda⁸,
- having regard to its resolution of 24 October 2019 on the situation of LGBTI people in Uganda⁹,
- having regard to its resolution of 8 October 2020 on Eritrea, notably the case of Dawit

¹ OJ C 385, 22.9.2021, p. 24.

² OJ C 494, 8.12.2021, p. 80.

³ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0481.

⁴ OJ C 117, 11.3.2022, p. 114.

⁵ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0013.

⁶ OJ C 425, 20.10.2021, p. 132.

⁷ OJ C 132, 24.3.2022, p. 205.

⁸ OJ C 465, 17.11.2021, p. 154.

⁹ OJ C 202, 28.5.2021, p. 54.

Isaak¹⁰,

- having regard to its resolution of 10 March 2016 on the situation in Eritrea¹¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 18 May 2017 on South Sudan¹²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 12 May 2016 on Djibouti¹³,
 - having regard to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2467 and 2493 on women, peace and security,
 - having regard to UNSC resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 on youth, peace and security,
 - having regard to Resolution 376 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, adopted in May 2017,
 - having regard to the guidelines on freedom of association and assembly adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ rights during its 60th ordinary session in May 2017,
 - having regard to the EU action plan on human rights and democracy 2015-2019, and in particular to action 22(b) which outlines the responsibility of the European External Action Service, the Commission, the Council and the Member States to develop and implement an EU policy on transitional justice,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 118 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2022),
- A. whereas the Council conclusions of 10 May 2021 establish a new strategy for the Horn of Africa and give new impetus to the EU’s partnership with the region, which is of primary strategic relevance for the Union;
1. Recommends that the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

Guiding principles

- (a) fully recognise the potential and the strategic relevance of the region, and develop a truly strategic vision for cooperation and engagement by continuously working

¹⁰ OJ C 395, 29.9.2021, p. 50.

¹¹ OJ C 50, 9.2.2018, p. 57.

¹² OJ C 307, 30.8.2018, p. 92.

¹³ OJ C 76, 28.2.2018, p. 35.

to implement and adapt the Horn of Africa strategy in the light of recent developments in the region, giving new impetus to equal footing and a mutually beneficial relationship based on coherent, timely and effective consultations and common values, interests and prospects;

- (b) coordinate EU initiatives and support with African counterparts by favouring African ownership of the programmes whenever possible, thus helping to find African solutions to African problems; adopt, in this regard, a conditionality approach based on the more for more and less for less principle;
- (c) coordinate efforts in the region with the African Union and its regional components, as well as with the UN and other like-minded partners;
- (d) adopt a proactive, inclusive and cooperative approach based on selective engagement with countries and actors present in the Horn of Africa, sharing EU best practices and experience in integrating economic, financial, social, cultural and security-related issues to foster effective cooperation across the region and in the maritime domain, while also acting as a facilitator of dialogue with all parties involved;

Regional peace and security

- (e) contribute to regional security and stability both through conflict resolution and mediation activities and by addressing the root causes of conflicts;
- (f) support all diplomatic efforts devoted to ending the ongoing conflict within Ethiopia, both at national level and in the forums provided by the African Union, in order to agree on a permanent ceasefire and facilitate internal reconciliation;
- (g) provide the countries affected by conflicts and natural disasters with prompt and adequate humanitarian assistance, in coordination with like-minded partners;
- (h) acknowledge the positive impacts of Operation Atlanta in guaranteeing maritime security, and take note of the non-extension of its mandate within the UNSC; call on the Member States to show adequate commitment to the EU Training Mission in Somalia both in terms of personnel and means, in order to empower the Somali Armed Forces to guarantee security in the country;
- (i) take note of the growing activity of terrorist groups in the whole region, and provide tailored and effective assistance to the affected countries in countering both the immediate effects of this expansion and the root causes of extremism and radicalisation;
- (j) ensure that assistance channelled through the European Peace Facility abides by European fundamental values and helps in building a transparent, accountable and reliable security sector;

Democracy, human rights and the rule of law

- (k) fully support democratic transitions, the rule of law and state-building processes

and promote an open political space; deploy, whenever possible, election observation missions;

- (l) work in partnership with our African counterparts and civil society to identify and address the main human rights challenges and priorities in the region;
- (m) mainstream transitional justice into its conflict management approach in the region and support the fight against impunity;

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth – society

- (n) take note of the region's demographic development and recognise the role of young people in achieving economic sustainable development; strengthen EU support for access to education and vocational training, and the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce, according to the needs of the labour market;
- (o) scale up common actions in the fight against climate change, in particular in mitigation, adaptation, resilience and disaster risk management; share the benefits of the European Green Deal with our partners and support them in adopting their own climate transition agendas by sharing best practices and aligning, when possible, EU initiatives in this field with existing African initiatives; pay special attention to the human security implications of climate change;
- (p) devote particular attention to widespread, locally-owned projects that are more effective in improving people's lives, i.e. off-grid solar power systems, in particular in the most remote areas;

Migration

- (q) adopt a holistic, conflict-sensitive approach to cooperation on migration, in line with the Khartoum Process, taking into account the different drivers of migration in the region and the persistent vulnerability of migrants, respecting the rights of migrants and refugees, and recognising the benefits of circular migration and regional mobility;
- (r) provide assistance and support to the countries hosting and assisting refugees; facilitate the relocation of displaced persons and internally displaced persons;

Regional integration

- (s) adopt a team Europe approach in the region, working with a wide spectrum of actors, including from the private sector, in supporting African-owned initiatives;
- (t) acknowledge that efficient infrastructures are key to consistent, sustainable and fair development in the region; fully exploit the potential of new EU-sponsored initiatives aiming at enhancing regional integration and connectivity; increase consultation and coordination with African counterparts in the definition of specific projects to be developed in the global gateway framework;

Influence of third actors

- (u) take note of the growing, multifaceted influence of third parties in the region; recognise that the increasing presence of actors that do not share the Union's values, interests and objectives could undermine the EU's role as a privileged partner;
- (v) reinforce strategic communication through effective and fact-based campaigns about EU actions and EU sponsored initiatives in the region, underlining their added value for local communities, sustainable development and inclusive growth, while also countering disinformation and false narratives from third parties;

◦

◦ ◦

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and, for information, to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the UN.