# **European Parliament**

2019-2024



# Committee on Budgetary Control

2021/2115(DEC)

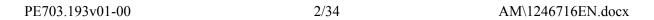
3.2.2022

# AMENDMENTS 1 - 55

**Draft report Isabel García Muñoz** (PE699.078v01-00)

2020 discharge: General budget of the EU - European External Action Service (2021/2115(DEC))

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# Amendment 1 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Recital A

Motion for a resolution

A. whereas the European External Action Service (EEAS) is responsible for the management of the administrative expenditure of its Headquarter (HQ) in Brussels and for the network of the *143* Union Delegations and Offices;

#### Amendment

A. whereas the European External Action Service (EEAS) is responsible for the management of the administrative expenditure of its Headquarter (HQ) in Brussels and for the network of the *144* Union Delegations and Offices;

Or. en

# Amendment 2 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Recital E

Motion for a resolution

E. whereas under the EEAS Internal Rules the Secretary General of the EEAS acts as Authorising Officer by Delegation for the Institution and the Director General for *Budget and Administration* has the role of principal subdelegated authorising officer;

#### Amendment

E. whereas under the EEAS Internal Rules the Secretary General of the EEAS acts as Authorising Officer by Delegation for the Institution and the Director General for *Resource Management* has the role of principal subdelegated authorising officer;

Or. en

Amendment 3 Alin Mituṭa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1 a. Whereas in the context of the discharge procedure, the discharge authority wishes to stress the particular

importance of further strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the Union institutions by improving transparency and accountability, and implementing the concept of performance-based budgeting and good governance of human resources;

Or. en

Amendment 4 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 4 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4 a. Regrets, despite the Court's general consideration, that its audit has a rather limited scope and conclusions; requests that the audit work for the chapter on Administration be more focused on issues that are of high relevance or even critical for the EEAS

Or. en

Amendment 5 Charlie Weimers, Joachim Kuhs, Jean-François Jalkh, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 a. Notes with grave concern that the total financial impact of all reservations by Directors-General to declarations of assurance amounted to EUR 1219 million for 2020, 16% higher than in 2019<sup>1a</sup>;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1a</sup> Annual Management and Performance Report 2020

# Amendment 6 Charlie Weimers, Joachim Kuhs, Jean-François Jalkh, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 6 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 b. Notes with grave concern that the financial impact of the reservations for the policy area 'External relations' increased from EUR 16 million in 2019 to EUR 21 million in 2020; calls for immediate action to be taken by the Commission to address this issue;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Notes that the approved amounts are earmarked for financing the Action Plan against disinformation, the reinforcement of security in Delegations and HQ, investments in cyber-security, the replacement of a number of cost-free national experts with officials, an increase to the stipend amount for trainees in Delegations, , strengthening the structures of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), and some reinforcements of the geographical departments in high-priority key areas;

## Amendment

7. Notes that the approved *additional* amounts are earmarked for financing the Action Plan against disinformation, the reinforcement of security in Delegations and HQ, investments in cyber-security, the replacement of a number of cost-free national experts with officials, an increase to the stipend amount for trainees in Delegations, , strengthening the structures of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), and some reinforcements of the geographical departments in high-priority key areas;

Or. en

# Amendment 8 Joachim Kuhs, Charlie Weimers, Jean-François Jalkh, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Finds scandalous the EEAS publication of the tender<sup>1a</sup>aiming to organise EU Study Tours of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States during the year 2020 in full pandemic and amounting to 400 000.00 EUR; stresses that, according to the tender, the EEAS has requested accommodation arrangements and related services three times a year for an average of 15 participants visiting Brussels and other EU Member States cities;

<sup>1a</sup> EEAS/DELUSAW/2020/OP/0007 - https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=5854

Or. en

Amendment 9 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Welcomes that following the "Innovative 2019" exercise, aiming at fostering simplification and modernisation of working procedures and processes, several actions were launched in 2020, in particular the centralisation of high-value calls for tenders, the treasury functions and the payment of individual entitlements; notes that in 2020 some operations, in particular pre-award matters for all procurement procedures, have been increasingly centralised at HQ level to

# Amendment

13. Welcomes that following the "Innovative 2019" exercise, aiming at fostering simplification and modernisation of working procedures and processes, several actions were launched in 2020, in particular the centralisation of high-value calls for tenders, the treasury functions and the payment of individual entitlements; notes that in 2020 some operations, in particular pre-award matters for all procurement procedures, have been increasingly centralised at HQ level to

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improve the quality of the procurement procedures and to alleviate the workload of the Delegations; notes with satisfaction that the full centralisation is expected during year 2021; supports the planned workload assessment on Delegations in 2022 as an appropriate review mechanism to help prioritise resources and organisational aspects of the Delegation network;

improve the quality of the procurement procedures and to alleviate the workload of the Delegations; notes with satisfaction that the full centralisation is expected during year 2021; supports the planned workload assessment on Delegations in 2022 as an appropriate review mechanism to help prioritise resources and organisational aspects of the Delegation network; *Points out in this regard the need for the EEAS to continue its efforts in order to achieve the simplification of budget lines*;

Or. en

# Amendment 10 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 13

# Motion for a resolution

13. Welcomes that following the "Innovative 2019" exercise, aiming at fostering simplification and modernisation of working procedures and processes, several actions were launched in 2020, in particular the centralisation of high-value calls for tenders, the treasury functions and the payment of individual entitlements; notes that in 2020 some operations, in particular pre-award matters for all procurement procedures, have been increasingly centralised at HQ level to improve the quality of the procurement procedures and to alleviate the workload of the Delegations; notes with satisfaction that the full centralisation is expected during year 2021; supports the planned workload assessment on Delegations in 2022 as an appropriate review mechanism to help prioritise resources and organisational aspects of the Delegation network;

### Amendment

Welcomes that following the 13. "Innovative 2019" exercise, aiming at fostering simplification and modernisation of working procedures and processes, several actions were launched in 2020, in particular the centralisation of high-value calls for tenders, the treasury functions and the payment of individual entitlements; notes that in 2020 some operations, in particular pre-award matters for all procurement procedures, have been increasingly centralised at HQ level to improve the quality of the procurement procedures and to alleviate the workload of the Delegations; notes with satisfaction that the full centralisation is expected during year 2022 supports the planned workload assessment on Delegations in 2022 as an appropriate review mechanism to help prioritise resources and organisational aspects of the Delegation network;

Or. en

# Amendment 11 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 17

## Motion for a resolution

17. Understands that the current provisions on procurement set down in the Financial Regulation for application by Delegations in third countries have proved to be inefficient; agrees with the EEAS' call for a revision of the relevant procurement provisions either by the integration of a separate chapter for Delegations in third countries *or by adjusting the value threshold*, in both cases aiming to adapt the rules in force to the capacities and the local context of the Delegations;

#### Amendment

17. Understands that the current provisions on procurement set down in the Financial Regulation for application by Delegations in third countries have proved to be inefficient; agrees with the EEAS' call for a revision of the relevant procurement provisions either by the integration of a separate chapter for Delegations in third countries, in both cases aiming to adapt the rules in force to the capacities and the local context of the Delegations;

Or. en

# Amendment 12 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 18

# Motion for a resolution

18. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS published 40 high-value procurement procedures (with a value above EUR 500 000); notes that the Court examined fifteen procurement procedures for personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies organised in 2020 by some institutions, including EEAS; observes that the Court detected some problems in the procedures used by the audited institutions when procuring urgently required protective masks; observes that these institutions had set strict minimum requirements in the tender specifications (including European reference quality standards for medical

# Amendment

18. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS published 40 high-value procurement procedures (with a value above the Directive thresholds for services and supplies and above EUR 500 000 for works); notes that the Court examined fifteen procurement procedures for personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies organised in 2020 by some institutions, including EEAS; observes that the Court detected some problems in the procedures used by the audited institutions when procuring urgently required protective masks; observes that these institutions had set strict minimum

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face masks and delivery dates);

requirements in the tender specifications (including European reference quality standards for medical face masks and delivery dates);

Or. en

Amendment 13 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 19 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

#### Amendment

19 a. Notes that the EU Delegation to Syria was the only one to express a reservation (since 2017) on the management of administrative expenditure due to the current security climate; notes with appreciation that the EEAS succeeded to resolve two pending issues in 2020, regarding income tax of local agents and access to the Delegation's Syrian bank account;

Or. en

Amendment 14 Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Welcomes that the nomenclature of errors regarding procurement procedures, used for *both ex ante and* ex post controls at the EEAS, has been aligned with the one used by the Court, allowing for a better comparison of the results; appreciates that, following the Court's assessment of the EEAS Annual Activity Report for 2019, the EEAS internal audit strategy was

## Amendment

21. Welcomes that the nomenclature of errors regarding procurement procedures, used for ex post controls at the EEAS, has been aligned with the one used by the Court, allowing for a better comparison of the results; appreciates that, following the Court's assessment of the EEAS Annual Activity Report for 2019, the EEAS internal audit strategy was amended to

amended to provide more accurate information on the error rates used for the annual statement of assurance, making a clear distinction between the detected errors and the residual errors and thus, providing more accurate information regarding the action taken to correct the errors detected during the ex-post control exercise;

provide more accurate information on the error rates used for the annual statement of assurance, making a clear distinction between the detected errors and the residual errors and thus, providing more accurate information regarding the action taken to correct the errors detected during the ex-post control exercise;

Or en

Amendment 15 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

#### Amendment

21 a. Welcomes the implementation of the Multi-Annual Strategic Audit Plan developed by the IAS; calls on the EEAS to inform the discharge authority about the results and lessons learnt from this strategy;

Or. en

Amendment 16 Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

25. Highlights that the Union is confronted with a volatile international environment and an increasing number of crises, which has led to increasing demands on the Union to play an important role at an international level; notes that the enhanced role of the EEAS in dealing with new challenges such as disinformation

## Amendment

25. Highlights that the Union is confronted with a volatile international environment and an increasing number of crises, which has led to increasing demands on the Union to play an important role at an international level; notes that the enhanced role of the EEAS in dealing with new challenges such as disinformation

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shall be underpinned by a corresponding staff increase; supports the EEAS' call on the budgetary authority for sufficient human resources in order to deliver the Union's effectiveness as a global actor; underlines in particular the need to use flexibly available resources such as a higher number of SNEs from Member States to adjust to new requests;

shall be underpinned by a corresponding staff increase; supports the EEAS' call on the budgetary authority for sufficient human resources in order to deliver the Union's effectiveness as a global actor; underlines in particular the *urgent* need to use flexibly available resources such as a higher number of SNEs from Member States to adjust to new requests;

Or en

Amendment 17 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Notes that in the AST and AST/SC categories the percentage of women decreased to 65.35 % compared to 66.3 % in 2019; stresses that imbalances remained among the different grades, with women representing 66.2 % of staff in the lower grades (AST2 to AST9) but only 33.3 % in the higher grades (AST10 to AST11); points out the gender balance reached with regard to contract agents (59.4 %) and local agents (54.5 %), while the majority of seconded national experts were men (75.2 %);

#### Amendment

28. Notes that in the AST and AST/SC categories the percentage of women decreased to 65.35 % compared to 66.3 % in 2019; stresses that imbalances remained among the different grades, with women representing 66.2 % of staff in the lower grades (AST2 to AST9) but only 33.3 % in the higher grades (AST10 to AST11); points out the gender balance reached with regard to contract agents (59.4 %) and local agents (54.5 %), while the majority of seconded national experts were men (75.2 %, mostly due to the limited female presence in the Member States military);

Or. en

Amendment 18 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Notes that in the AST and AST/SC

Amendment

28. Notes that in the AST and AST/SC

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categories the percentage of women decreased to 65.35 % compared to 66.3 % in 2019; *stresses* that imbalances remained among the different grades, with women representing 66.2 % of staff in the lower grades (AST2 to AST9) but only 33.3 % in the higher grades (AST10 to AST11); points out the gender balance reached with regard to contract agents (59.4 %) and local agents (54.5 %), while the majority of seconded national experts were men (75.2 %);

categories the percentage of women decreased to 65.35 % compared to 66.3 % in 2019; *regrets* that imbalances remained among the different grades, with women representing 66.2 % of staff in the lower grades (AST2 to AST9) but only 33.3 % in the higher grades (AST10 to AST11); points out the gender balance reached with regard to contract agents (59.4 %) and local agents (54.5 %), while the majority of seconded national experts were men (75.2 %);

Or. en

# Amendment 19 Alin Mituta, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 30

Motion for a resolution

30. Welcomes the many actions launched by EEAS to reach the gender balance, as well as to create an open and inclusive working environment, to integrate result-oriented and flexible working conditions incorporating work-life balance; welcomes specific actions like networking for women in pre-management positions and tailored programmes for women in middle-management positions as a talent-base for future senior management posts, mandatory training on unconscious bias for members of recruitment panels, enhanced coordination with Member States to encourage more female candidates and support spouses seeking to find employment in third countries; applauds that, to further improve gender mainstreaming, a gender auditing of internal policies is ongoing, and asks the EEAS to report to Parliament about the recommendations and follow up to promote a strong gender-responsive leadership;

#### Amendment

30. Welcomes the many actions launched by EEAS to reach the gender balance, as well as to create an open and inclusive working environment, to integrate result-oriented and flexible working conditions incorporating work-life balance; welcomes specific actions like networking for women in pre-management positions and tailored programmes for women in middle-management positions as a talent-base for future senior management posts, mandatory training on unconscious bias for members of recruitment panels. enhanced coordination with Member States to encourage more female candidates and support spouses seeking to find employment in third countries; applauds that, to further improve gender mainstreaming, a gender auditing of internal policies is ongoing, and asks the EEAS to report to Parliament about the recommendations and follow up to promote a strong gender-responsive leadership; Underlines that this a recurrent issue and reiterates the call for

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the EEAS to continue its efforts to achieve gender balance at all hierarchical levels and welcomes actions such as the mandatory presence of both genders on selection panels, the active encouragement of female applicants for all managerial positions, specific training sessions for female staff who wish to prepare for a managerial career and more flexible working arrangement.

Or. en

Amendment 20 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

31. Is concerned by the lack of gender balance across the applications for management posts, where only 27 % of applicants were women; observes that women made up 53 % of the applicants for heads of administration, 82 % of applicants for assistant to head of Delegation and 100 % of applicants for assistant to deputy head of Delegation; calls on the EEAS to exploring strategies to encourage and facilitate female candidates to apply for management posts; insists on encouraging Member States to put forward qualified women for management positions, including senior management positions;

#### Amendment

Is concerned by the lack of gender balance across the applications for management posts, where only 27 % of applicants were women; observes that women made up 53 % of the applicants for heads of administration, 82 % of applicants for assistant to head of Delegation and 100 % of applicants for assistant to deputy head of Delegation; calls on the EEAS to exploring strategies to encourage and facilitate female candidates to apply for management posts; insists on encouraging Member States to put forward qualified women for management positions, including senior management positions; encourages the EEAS to better promoting its carrer opportunities and vacancies among national diplomats, international studies professionals, academia and civil society:

Or. en

Amendment 21 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 34

## Motion for a resolution

34 Is aware of the EEAS efforts to achieve a meaningful geographical representation while respecting the competences and merits of candidates and reiterates, in this regard, the necessary provision of additional SNEs to face the EEAS' increasing workload; observes that at the end of 2020 EEAS staff included nationals from all Member States and welcomes the efforts made by the EEAS to keep the Human Resources Network of Member States informed about the composition of staff, to publish vacancies and to promote national efforts to increase the number of candidates;

#### Amendment

34 Reiterates its concern about the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff as it is a recurrent issue, especially concerning the positions of Heads of delegations, middle and senior management; Is aware of the EEAS efforts to achieve a meaningful geographical representation while respecting the competences and merits of candidates and reiterates, in this regard, the necessary provision of additional SNEs to face the EEAS' increasing workload; observes that at the end of 2020 EEAS staff included nationals from all Member States and welcomes the efforts made by the EEAS to keep the Human Resources Network of Member States informed about the composition of staff, to publish vacancies and to promote national efforts to increase the number of candidates;

Or. en

# Amendment 22 Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 34

## Motion for a resolution

34. Is aware of the EEAS efforts to achieve a meaningful geographical representation while respecting the competences and merits of candidates and reiterates, in this regard, the necessary provision of additional SNEs to face the EEAS' increasing workload; observes that at the end of 2020 EEAS staff included nationals from all Member States and welcomes the efforts made by the EEAS to

### Amendment

34. Is aware of the EEAS efforts to achieve a meaningful geographical representation while respecting the competences and merits of candidates and reiterates, in this regard, the necessary provision of additional SNEs to face the EEAS' increasing workload; urges the EEAS to continue its efforts to improve the geographical representation, as this is a recurring problem, especially in the

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keep the Human Resources Network of Member States informed about the composition of staff, to publish vacancies and to promote national efforts to increase the number of candidates; positions of Heads of Delegation and middle and senior management; observes that at the end of 2020 EEAS staff included nationals from all Member States and welcomes the efforts made by the EEAS to keep the Human Resources Network of Member States informed about the composition of staff, to publish vacancies and to promote national efforts to increase the number of candidates;

Or. en

# Amendment 23 Alin Mituṭa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 35

Motion for a resolution

35. Considers it important to ensure a balanced representation of countries that joined the Union after 2004 or later (EU13) and thus, welcomes that the number of staff from these Member States at the end of 2020 had increased by 6 % compared to the previous year; points out that the share of EU13 in the EEAS staff is 23 % at the end of 2020, which is more than the share within the Union population, which corresponds to 20 %;

#### Amendment

35. Considers it important to ensure a balanced representation of countries that joined the Union after 2004 or later (EU13) and thus, welcomes that the number of staff from these Member States at the end of 2020 had increased by 6 % compared to the previous year; *Underlines, however*, that considerable discrepancies between the representation at management level of countries with comparable population size persists; Regrets that only 30 management positions (33 in 2019) from 267 positions are held by citizens of the EU 13, less than the 3 biggest member states taken individually; stresses that the EEAS, like all Union institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; Calls on the EEAS to make significant progress and to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting their diversity, as indicated in the Article 27 of the Staff Regulations;

# Amendment 24 Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska

on behalf of the ECR Group

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 35

Motion for a resolution

35. Considers it important to ensure a balanced representation of countries that joined the Union after 2004 or later (EU13) and thus, welcomes that the number of staff from these Member States at the end of 2020 had increased by 6 % compared to the previous year; points out that the share of EU13 in the EEAS staff is 23 % at the end of 2020, which is more than the share within the Union population, which corresponds to 20 %;

## Amendment

35. Considers it important to ensure a balanced representation of countries that joined the Union after 2004 or later (EU13); *notes* that the number of staff from these Member States at the end of 2020 had increased by 6 % compared to the previous year; points out that the share of EU13 in the EEAS staff is 23 % at the end of 2020;

Or. pl

Amendment 25 Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

39. Notes that the EEAS *Medical*Service provides guidance and accompanying measures to mitigate the risks of burnout, including psychological support, advice on appropriate local assistance, trainings on stress management and a helpline; welcomes that the EEAS adopted a set of rules to maintain the right to disconnect for all members of staff with specific rules on the use of email and telephone outside working hours;

## Amendment

39. Notes that the EEAS provides guidance and accompanying measures to mitigate the risks of burnout, including psychological support, advice on appropriate local assistance, *training* on stress management and a helpline; welcomes that the EEAS adopted a set of rules to maintain the right to disconnect for all members of staff with specific rules on the use of email and telephone outside working hours;

# Amendment 26 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 40

## Motion for a resolution

40. Commends the EEAS' attention to social dialogue and underlines the positive impact of the direct participation of members of staff having first-hand experience of the measures submitted for discussion; welcomes in particular the broad consultation on the future of the EEAS where more than 500 colleagues from both HQ and Delegations took part and seven focus groups channelled all reflections into concrete working proposals, a project known as #EEAS20; encourages the EEAS to keep this approach in order to respond to the expectation of members of staff while addressing the needs of the service;

#### Amendment

Commends the EEAS' attention to 40. social dialogue and underlines the positive impact of the direct participation of members of staff having first-hand experience of the measures submitted for discussion; welcomes in particular the broad consultation on the future of the EEAS where more than 500 colleagues from both HQ and Delegations took part and seven focus groups channelled all reflections into concrete working proposals, a project known as #EEAS@20; encourages the EEAS to keep this approach in order to respond to the expectation of members of staff while addressing the needs of the service;

Or. en

# Amendment 27 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 42

# Motion for a resolution

42. Notes that the EEAS administration handled four formal requests for assistance which concerned allegations of harassment, out of which three cases have been closed without any sanction, while the opinion of the Disciplinary Board has been requested for the last case; asks the EEAS to report on this case in due time; commends that in 2020 the EEAS launched its first-ever

#### Amendment

42. Notes that the EEAS administration handled four formal requests for assistance which concerned allegations of harassment, out of which three cases have been closed without any sanction, while the opinion of the Disciplinary Board has been requested for the last case; asks the EEAS to report on this case in due time; commends that in 2020 the EEAS launched its first-ever

mandatory training for managers on how to create a harassment-free work environment;

mandatory training for managers on how to create a harassment-free work environment; Encourages the EEAS to continue to organise systematic training and awareness sessions in the area of proper conduct of its staff; believes that such sessions should be part of compulsory training for newly recruited staff;

Or en

Amendment 28 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 43

Motion for a resolution

43. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS recruited 41 remunerated Blue Book Trainees for a 5-month traineeship in its HQ; notes that 385 trainees were employed for 101 Delegations, for traineeships with an average length of 5 months; *points out* that 39 traineeships were unpaid; notes that all the trainees received a personal computer to telework; calls on the EEAS to take the *appropriate* steps to ensure that all its trainees receive a decent remuneration;

#### Amendment

43. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS recruited 41 remunerated Blue Book Trainees for a 5-month traineeship in its HQ; notes that 385 trainees were employed for 101 Delegations, for traineeships with an average length of 5 months; *regrets* that 39 traineeships were *still* unpaid; notes that all the trainees received a personal computer to telework; calls on the EEAS to take the *urgent* steps to ensure that all its trainees receive a decent remuneration; *recommends to allocate more budget to pay trainees*;

Or. en

Amendment 29 Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 43

Motion for a resolution

43. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS

Amendment

43. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS

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recruited 41 remunerated Blue Book
Trainees for a 5-month traineeship in its
HQ; notes that 385 trainees were employed
for 101 Delegations, for traineeships with
an average length of 5 months; points out
that 39 traineeships were unpaid; notes that
all the trainees received a personal
computer to telework; calls on the EEAS to
take the appropriate steps to ensure that all
its trainees receive a decent remuneration;

recruited 57 remunerated Blue Book
Trainees for a 5-month traineeship in its
HQ; notes that 385 trainees were employed
for 101 Delegations, for traineeships with
an average length of 5 months; points out
that 39 traineeships were unpaid; notes that
all the *Blue Book* trainees received a
personal computer to telework; calls on the
EEAS to take the appropriate steps to
ensure that all its trainees receive a decent
remuneration;

Or. en

Amendment 30 Jeroen Lenaers, Tomáš Zdechovský, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 43 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

43 a. Expresses its grave concern about the revelations on alleged modifications conducted by EEAS to its critical report assessing narratives and disinformation around the COVID-19 pandemic, following pressure from Chinese diplomats; notes that EEAS confirmed that there has been influence attempts from China; highlights that specific references to China running a 'global disinformation' campaign and Chinese criticism of France's reaction to the pandemic were absent in the final version of the report; seriously questions in this context the denial by the High Representative of any link between China's influence attempt and the modification of the report; stresses that EEAS is the main Union institution responsible for countering foreign interference; highlights that EEAS should lead by example by never bending for external pressures and foreign attempts that destabilize or influence its functioning; regrets the loss of credibility of the EEAS as a result of these

revelations; urges the EEAS to take action to counter any future foreign interference attempts; requests the EEAS to keep the discharge authority informed about possible additional inference attempts and its subsequent response;

Or. en

Amendment 31 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 45

Motion for a resolution

45. Calls on the EEAS to monitor the positions of the former heads of Delegations, given their sensitive political role and functions in host countries; invites the EEAS to systematically review potentially problematic transitions to the private sector or to third country organisations and to continue monitoring the occupation of the former senior officials until the end of the mandatory cooling-off period;

## Amendment

Calls on the EEAS to monitor the 45. positions of the former heads of Delegations, given their sensitive political role and functions in host countries; invites the EEAS to systematically review potentially problematic transitions to the private sector or to third country organisations and to continue monitoring the occupation of the former senior officials until the end of the mandatory cooling-off period, as unaddressed conflict-of-interest situations may compromise the enforcement of high ethical standards throughout the Union administration;

Or. en

Amendment 32 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 46

Motion for a resolution

46. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS

Amendment

46. Notes that in 2020 the EEAS

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examined 25 notifications of intention to engage in an occupational activity after leaving the service, out of which six notifications came from former senior members of staff; welcomes the retroactive publication of its decisions on occupational activities of former senior officials in compliance with Article 16(3) of the Staff Regulations; is aware of the automatic application of a lobbying and advocacy ban to every official having left the service;

examined *only* 25 notifications of intention to engage in an occupational activity after leaving the service, out of which six notifications came from former senior members of staff: asks the EEAS to automatically request information on the intended occupation of senior staff members leaving their positions; underlines that the geopolitical sensitive information senior staff members have access to cannot be compromised; welcomes the retroactive publication of its decisions on occupational activities of former senior officials in compliance with Article 16(3) of the Staff Regulations; is aware of the automatic application of a lobbying and advocacy ban to every official having left the service;

Or. en

Amendment 33 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 47 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

#### Amendment

47 a. Considers that the highest ethical standards should be applied to avoid potential conflicts of interests, taking into account the specificities of work in Delegation to mitigate reputational risk for the Union and the EEAS, particularly for Heads of Delegation;

Or. en

Amendment 34 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 48

# Motion for a resolution

# 48. Notes that the EEAS does not hold meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals qualified as lobbyists in line with Article 11 TEU; encourages the EEAS to nevertheless explore the possibility of joining the Union's transparency register, on the basis of a service level agreement;

#### Amendment

Notes that the EEAS does not hold meetings with organisations and selfemployed individuals qualified as lobbyists in line with Article 11 TEU; strongly encourages the EEAS to nevertheless explore the possibility of joining the Union's transparency register, on the basis of a service level agreement, in order to improve transparency by disclosing all meetings with all lobby organisations that try to influence the law-making and policy implementation processes of the Union institutions; reiterates its disagreement with the EEAS' opinion that an obligation to record meetings with lobbyists in third countries would make it difficult for Heads of Union Delegations to engage with the Union's economic interests in third countries; believes that citizens should be allowed to know which organisations Union Ambassadors are meeting;

Or. en

# Amendment 35 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 48

Motion for a resolution

48. Notes that the EEAS does not hold meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals qualified as lobbyists in line with Article 11 TEU; encourages the EEAS to nevertheless explore the possibility of joining the Union's transparency register, on the basis of a service level agreement;

# Amendment

48. Notes that the EEAS does not hold meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals qualified as lobbyists in line with Article 11 TEU; *strongly* encourages the EEAS to nevertheless explore the possibility of joining the Union's transparency register, on the basis of a service level agreement, *in order to improve transparency by disclosing all meetings with all lobby organisations that try to influence decisions and policy <i>implementation processes*;

# Amendment 36 Sabrina Pignedoli

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 48

# Motion for a resolution

48. Notes that the EEAS does not hold meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals qualified as lobbyists in line with Article 11 TEU; encourages the EEAS to *nevertheless explore the possibility of joining* the Union's transparency register, on the basis of a service level agreement;

#### Amendment

48. Notes that the EEAS does not hold meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals qualified as lobbyists in line with Article 11 TEU; encourages the EEAS to *join* the Union's transparency register, on the basis of a service level agreement;

Or. it

Amendment 37 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 49

## Motion for a resolution

49. Observes that EEAS has received 20 requests for information from OLAF related to possible cases of fraud, involving Union staff or external actors and in the case of five of them OLAF decided to open an investigation; observes that the Ombudsman has handled 14 cases concerning EEAS without issuing any recommendation; welcomes that cooperation with the EPPO is being explored on the advice and with the support of OLAF;

#### Amendment

49 Observes that EEAS has received 20 requests for information from OLAF related to possible cases of fraud, involving Union staff or external actors and in the case of five of them OLAF decided to open an investigation; observes that the Ombudsman has handled 14 cases concerning EEAS without issuing any recommendation; welcomes that cooperation with the EPPO is being explored on the advice and with the support of OLAF; calls on the EEAS to timely and diligently inform the discharge authority about the outcome of those investigations;

Amendment 38 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer, Michal Wiezik

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 49

Motion for a resolution

49. Observes that EEAS has received 20 requests for information from OLAF related to possible cases of fraud, involving Union staff or external actors and in the case of five of them OLAF decided to open an investigation; observes that the Ombudsman has handled 14 cases concerning EEAS without issuing any recommendation; welcomes that cooperation with the EPPO is being explored on the advice and with the support of OLAF;

## Amendment

49. Observes that EEAS has received 20 requests for information from OLAF related to possible cases of fraud, involving Union staff or external actors and in the case of five of them OLAF decided to open an investigation; observes that the Ombudsman has handled 14 cases concerning EEAS without issuing any recommendation; welcomes that cooperation with the EPPO is being explored on the advice and with the support of OLAF; Invites EEAS to intensify the cooperation with EPPO and to integrate it as a component of its general anti-fraud strategy;

Or. en

Amendment 39 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 49 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

## Amendment

49 a. Emphasises the necessity for the EEAS to fully comply with the Commission's Guidelines on Whistleblowing, in particular to protect whistleblowers in good faith against any form of prejudice.

Or. en

# Amendment 40 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 53 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

### Amendment

53 a. Encourages the EEAS to prioritise open source technology in order to retain control over its own technical systems, avoid dependency and vendor lock-in, provide stronger safeguards for user's privacy and data protection, as well as increase security and transparency for the public;

Or. en

Amendment 41 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 57

Motion for a resolution

57. Supports the EEAS in its efforts to increase the use of colocations in its Delegations, which has more than *doubled* over the past 5 years (from 20 in 2011 to 116 in 2020) and represents 7 % of the total office surface; appreciates that the management of colocations viathe Framework Agreement with each colocation partner has facilitated the recovery of EUR 12 million of costs in 2020;

## Amendment

57. Supports the EEAS in its efforts to increase the use of colocations in its Delegations, which has more than *quadrupled* over the past 5 years (from 20 in 2011 to 116 in 2020) and represents 7 % of the total office surface; appreciates that the management of colocations viathe Framework Agreement with each colocation partner has facilitated the recovery of EUR 12 million of costs in 2020;

Or. en

## **Amendment 42**

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## Joachim Kuhs, Charlie Weimers, Jean-François Jalkh, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 57 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

57 a. Seriously questions the purchase projects envisaged in D.R. Congo (offices), Afghanistan (plot of land), Mali (offices) and in the UK (Residence)<sup>1a</sup>; requires a justification note from the EEAS regarding the eventual guarantee of its private property over the planned purchase of the land in Afghanistan given the Taliban practices to seize public and private estate;

Or. en

Amendment 43 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer, Michal Wiezik

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 58

Motion for a resolution

58. Underlines that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union institutions observed a 600 % increase in cyberattacks; welcomes the several initiatives launched by the EEAS to raise security awareness and promote a security culture across the institution, such security campaigns, training of members of staff to detect security threats and providing guidance on how to mitigate threats or reduce their impact; supports the EEAS in increasing its safety measures protecting both members of staff and the EEAS's

Amendment

58. Underlines that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union institutions observed a 600 % increase in cyberattacks; welcomes the several initiatives launched by the EEAS to raise security awareness and promote a security culture across the institution, such security campaigns, training of members of staff to detect security threats and providing guidance on how to mitigate threats or reduce their impact; supports the EEAS in increasing its safety measures protecting both members of staff and the EEAS's

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1a</sup> Working document on the real estate policy of the European external action service in 2020(article 266.11 of the financial regulation)

digital infrastructure from external threats and attacks;

digital infrastructure from external threats and attacks; Stresses that the EEAS needs adequate personnel, procedures, infrastructure, tools in order to reducing the security risks, especially related to cybersecurity;

Or. en

Amendment 44 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 59

Motion for a resolution

59. Points out that the EEAS has managed a total budget of EUR 65 600 000 for 2020 covering security services; notes that the total amount spent on security installations & maintenance for Delegations was EUR 12 942 311; observes that the whole budget for secure communications amounted to EUR 18 163 000:

## Amendment

59. Points out that the EEAS has managed a total budget of EUR 65 600 000 for 2020 covering security services; notes that the total amount spent on security installations & maintenance for Delegations was EUR 12 942 311: observes that the whole budget for secure communications amounted to EUR 18 163 000; takes notes of the expected challenges for the protection of EU Delegations identified by the EEAS and, in particular, the lack of autonomous action to mobilise any defence capabilities in case of crises and evacuations; notes that the EEAS has reached agreements with some Members States to support, in some countries, the evacuation of expatriate staff and dependant, which has the negative aspect that this option limits the autonomy of the EEAS and EU Delegations to stay in host countries during crises; reiterates its call for fully using the potential of the Lisbon Treaty provisions to works towards a European defence union and its support for more cooperation, increased investment and pooling resources to create synergies at EU level in order to better protect Europeans;

Or en

Amendment 45 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 60 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

#### Amendment

60 a. Deeply regrets that the EEAS has given into Chinese pressure, as it toned down the language of one of its reports initially calling China a "propagator of disinformation" related to the COVID-19 pandemic; notes that the High Representative admitted that Chinese officials had "expressed their concerns" over the leak of the draft publication, which led to the changes; asks the EEAS to set up strong measures to protect the EEAS staff from foreign interference;

Or. en

Amendment 46 Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 66

Motion for a resolution

66. Notes the success of many EEAS media campaigns on key issues, such as 'We Take You Home' on the repatriation of Union citizens due to COVID-19, 'EU in Action' on the work on the ground of the Union as a security provider and 'BeTheWave' on climate issues; highlights that that EEAS social media account is one of the global leaders *in terms of engagement* amongst diplomatic services *and* its website received 13 million views in 2020;

#### Amendment

66. Notes the success of many EEAS media campaigns on key issues, such as 'We Take You Home' on the repatriation of Union citizens due to COVID-19, 'United in Distance' to showcase stories of solidarity across the world in times of crisis, 'EU in Action' on the work on the ground of the Union as a security provider, and 'BeTheWave' on climate issues; points out that EEAS channels have also contributed to enhance visibility of 'Team Europe' worldwide; highlights that that EEAS social media account is one of the global leaders amongst diplomatic services

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with over 700 thousand followers and evident growth in terms of audience interactions, while its website received 21 million page views and 13 million unique page views in 2020;

Or. en

Amendment 47 Jeroen Lenaers, Tomáš Zdechovský, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 66 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66 a. Calls urgently for the deployment of adequate capabilities by the EEAS in order to address information manipulation and interference emanating from China; stresses further the need to significantly boost expertise and language capacity with regard to China and other strategically important regions;

Or. en

Amendment 48 Alin Mituţa, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Pierre Karleskind, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 67 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

67 a. Welcomes that the EEAS published five Special Reports on COVID-19 disinformation to raise awareness of persistent actors' activity, such as Russia, and highlight the emergence of new actors; Welcomes the increased East Strat Com Task Force budget; calls for further substantial increase in the budget in order for the Union to successfully counterattack the disinformation campaigns; reiterates its calls for more information

campaigns to better inform about Union policies in the Eastern Partnership countries;

Or. en

Amendment 49 Mikuláš Peksa on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 69 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

69 a. Is concerned by researchers accusing EU vs Disinfo of not respecting the International Fact-Checking Network's code of principles because its methodology would not be transparent enough, it would violate the right to freedom of expression and of the press by labelling publishers and media outlets that report on third party opinions as "disinforming outlets", as well as it would fail to provide objective impartiality, as it does not provide the right to be heard; asks the EEAS to provide more information to the Parliament on the compliance of its review methodology with EU law and international standards;

Or. en

Amendment 50 Jeroen Lenaers, Tomáš Zdechovský, Petri Sarvamaa, Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 72

Motion for a resolution

72. *Notes* that following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union on 31 January 2020, the EEAS established, *in close cooperation with the Commission* 

Amendment

72. **Welcomes** that following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union on 31 January 2020, the EEAS **finally** established an EU Delegation in

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and Parliament, an EU Delegation in London and a UK Division within its HQ structure; understands that the Establishment Agreement replaces any temporary provisions and ensures that the Delegation in London, its members of staff and property, enjoy privileges and immunities equivalent to those referred to in the Vienna Convention in a similar way as the other 143 Delegations and Offices; notes that by the end of 2020, almost 40 positions (including expatriate and local staff) were filled out of the 43 positions available in total; is aware that the Delegation is located in the building, property of the Union, used in the past by the Representation of the Commission and the European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO);

London and a UK Division within its HO structure; regrets however the delay in the granting of diplomatic status to EP staff working at the Liaison Office in London, and the initial refusal of the EEAS to bring this issue to a satisfactory conclusion; understands that the Establishment Agreement replaces any temporary provisions and ensures that the Delegation in London, its members of staff and property, enjoy privileges and immunities equivalent to those referred to in the Vienna Convention in a similar way as the other 143 Delegations and Offices; regrets that EEAS negotiated the draft establishment agreement with the UK authorities without consulting the European Parliament; stresses that sending regular updates to the Parliament rather than properly consulting the Parliament does not meet EEAS' obligation of "appropriate support and cooperation" as laid down in Article 3(4) of the Council Decision establishing the **EEAS**; notes that by the end of 2020, almost 40 positions (including expatriate and local staff) were filled out of the 43 positions available in total; is aware that the Delegation is located in the building, property of the Union, used in the past by the Representation of the Commission and the European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO);

Or. en

Amendment 51 Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 72

Motion for a resolution

72. Notes that following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union on 31 January 2020, the EEAS established, in close cooperation with the Commission

## Amendment

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and Parliament, an EU Delegation in London and a UK Division within its HQ structure; understands that the Establishment Agreement replaces any temporary provisions and ensures that the Delegation in London, its members of staff and property, enjoy privileges and immunities equivalent to those referred to in the Vienna Convention in a similar way as the other 143 Delegations and Offices; notes that by the end of 2020, almost 40 positions (including expatriate and local staff) were filled out of the 43 positions available in total; is aware that the Delegation is located in the building, property of the Union, used in the past by the Representation of the Commission and the European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO):

and Parliament, an EU Delegation in London and a UK Division within its HQ structure; understands that the Establishment Agreement replaces any temporary provisions and ensures that the Delegation in London, its members of staff and property, enjoy privileges and immunities equivalent to those referred to in the Vienna Convention in a similar way as the other 144 Delegations and Offices; notes that by the end of 2020, almost 40 positions (including expatriate and local staff) were filled out of the 43 positions available in total; is aware that the Delegation is located in the building, property of the Union, used in the past by the Representation of the Commission and the European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO);

Or. en

Amendment 52 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 73 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

## Amendment

73 a. regrets past situations of leakage to the press of confidential reports on elections observation missions and welcomes the solution founds between the EP and EEAS on the transmission of files; expresses confidence that EEAS will keep facilitating the regular exchange of views between the Chief Observers and Deputy Chief Observers and the MEPs, before, during and after an election observation mission;

Or. en

Amendment 53 Isabel García Muñoz

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# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 78

## Motion for a resolution

78. Supports that in a number of countries additional measures were taken to reduce the medical risks posed to members of staff because the health care systems were deemed fragile; points out that all members of staff in HQ were provided with a corporate laptop and that over 5 000 were dispatched to the Delegations, together with PPE and medical supplies for those who were most exposed, despite the challenging delivery in countries with quarantine or lockdown measures; acknowledges that the IT infrastructure was ramped up rapidly to meet the requirements of full-scale teleworking, including increasing the internet capacity and the capacity for video conferencing;

## Amendment

78. Supports that in a number of countries additional measures were taken to reduce the medical risks posed to members of staff because the health care systems were deemed fragile; highlights that the EEAS shipped vaccines to the 72 Delegations asking for support, which were provided to around 4,000 people, including expatriate staff in Delegations, their family members and to local agents; points out that all members of staff in HO were provided with a corporate laptop and that over 5 000 were dispatched to the Delegations, together with PPE and medical supplies for those who were most exposed, despite the challenging delivery in countries with quarantine or lockdown measures; acknowledges that the IT infrastructure was ramped up rapidly to meet the requirements of full-scale teleworking, including increasing the internet capacity and the capacity for video conferencing;

Or. en

# Amendment 54 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 79

## Motion for a resolution

79. Notes that the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak also exposed the Union's strategic and systemic vulnerabilities, such as supply chains or pharmaceutical products, and drew attention to the need for the Union to strengthen its own resilience and autonomy, while at the same time to pursue more assertively international partnerships;

## Amendment

79. Notes that the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak also exposed the Union's strategic and systemic vulnerabilities, such as supply chains or pharmaceutical products, and drew attention to the need for the Union to strengthen its own resilience and autonomy, while at the same time to pursue more assertively international partnerships;

acknowledges the pandemic also brought further impetus to on-going processes, not only towards the twin digital and green transitions, but also at global level; acknowledges the pandemic also brought further impetus to on-going processes, not only towards the twin digital and green transitions, but also at global level, such as moving the EU-Africa Partnership to the next level, re-invigorating the European Union-United States relationship, paying additional attention to Latin America, and putting the strategic outlook to China in practice;

Or. en

Amendment 55 Isabel García Muñoz

# Motion for a resolution Paragraph 82

Motion for a resolution

82. Supports the EEAS' approach to calling for an assertive and comprehensive response as a main tool to aid recovery from a deep geopolitical crisis and to "build back better" at home and globally; encourages the EEAS to fully integrate in the internal management strategy the lessons drawn from the pandemic outbreak, in terms of business continuity and crisis management approaches, IT responsiveness, resilience of the organisation, effectiveness of communication and flexibility of working processes.

#### Amendment

82. Supports the EEAS' approach to calling for an assertive and comprehensive response as a main tool to aid recovery from a deep geopolitical crisis and to "build back better" at home and globally; encourages the EEAS to fully integrate in the internal management strategy the lessons drawn from the pandemic outbreak, in terms of business continuity and crisis management approaches, IT responsiveness, resilience of the organisation, *duty of care towards its staff*, effectiveness of *internal* communication and flexibility of working processes.

Or. en