



2022/2050(INI)

.11.2022

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on implementation of the common security and defence policy - annual report
2022
(2022/2050(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Victor Negrescu

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- having regard to the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe of 9 May 2022 and, in particular, to proposals 21, 23 and 24 thereof,
 - having regard to its resolution of 9 June 2022 on the call for a Convention for the revision of the Treaties¹,
- A. whereas Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine marks the beginning of a new geopolitical era for the European Union and means that a full reassessment of security and defence policies through a paradigm shift is required;
 - B. whereas a particular focus should be placed on the protection of the EU's external borders; whereas the essential role of the Schengen area in ensuring borders are protected and border control should be highlighted; whereas during the Ukraine war frontline countries have demonstrated that they are fully implementing the Schengen acquis, thus contributing to the protection of the EU's external borders;
 - C. whereas a particular focus should be placed on the security and safety of European citizens, as well as on the protection and stability of the EU's external borders;
 - D. whereas an increased cooperation between the EU and its most important ally NATO, which will be reinforced by Sweden and Finland, is needed;
 - E. whereas closer cooperation and coordination with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is also needed;
 - F. whereas cooperation should be envisaged with the UK and other like-minded democracies and possibly with the European Political Community, including on security and defence matters;
 - G. whereas permanent multinational EU units should be established and used for self-defence and for the purposes provided for in the treaties;
 1. Reiterates its call for the establishment of a permanent EU council of defence ministers with very wide competences, including traditional common security and defence policy (CSDP) matters, but also the systematic fight against foreign interference, the spread of manipulative disinformation and other hybrid threats, to be chaired by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR);
 2. Stresses that the security situation in Europe has significantly deteriorated following Russia's unjustified and illegal war against Ukraine; underlines that Russia's war against Ukraine fundamentally is impacting the EU's neighbouring countries and is

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0244.

having ripple effects throughout the entire continent; stresses that the EU must step up its defence capacities and show greater willingness to act decisively when European values and security are attacked; welcomes the unprecedented and united EU response to Russia's war against Ukraine, including the provision of military equipment through the European Peace Facility; remains committed to supporting Ukraine's defence of its territorial integrity and sovereignty; calls on the EU to sustain its efforts and provide Ukraine with all necessary financial, humanitarian and military aid;

3. Urges the Member States to make use of Article 31(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), which allows the Council to take certain decisions (such as on human rights, sanctions or opening of negotiations) by qualified majority in common foreign and security policy matters; calls on the Member States to make full use without delay of the *passerelle* clause in Article 31(3) of the TEU; recommends, with a view to the revision of the treaties, the extension of codecision to CSDP matters;
4. Supports the establishment of a genuine military and defence union which complements NATO; considers that the operational capabilities needed to ensure the effectiveness of the mutual assistance clause under Article 42(7) of the TEU should be strengthened swiftly; underlines that a Treaty amendment could define terrorist attacks, hybrid attacks, disinformation campaigns and economic coercion by third countries as conditions for triggering Article 42(7) of the TEU; calls for clarification of whether Article 42(7) of the TEU is automatically applicable; considers it necessary to develop a solidarity policy strategy and operational implementation measures on the mutual defence clause; calls for a clarification of the scope of application of Article 42(7) of the TEU and of its interlinkage with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;
5. Encourages the development of mechanisms for maritime security and defence cooperation in the Black Sea area, given its strategic role in regional security architecture;
6. Reiterates the importance of strengthening defence cooperation and shared threat assessments at EU level, building upon the objectives of the Strategic Compass;
7. Considers that a Union mechanism should be established to allow all Member States to benefit from innovations in defence and state-of-the-art defence technology; calls, in this regard, for increased pooling of funding for research and technology in defence, which could lead to the development of joint procurement schemes;
8. Regrets the fact that, to date, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement has not been extended to CSDP; reiterates the need for an agreement on EU-UK foreign policy and security cooperation in order to better tackle common European and global security challenges;
9. Calls for the EU institutions to be rationalised and for the roles of the European Council President, the VP/HR and the Commission President to be clarified;
10. Reiterates the need for Parliament to play a more prominent role in the design, democratic scrutiny, supervision and evaluation of the CSDP; calls, in this regard, on the VP/HR to give full effect to Parliament's right of information under Article 36 of the TEU;

11. Recommends the establishment of a full committee on security and defence; underlines, in this regard, that the Commission recently created a Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS).

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	8.11.2022
Result of final vote	+: 17 -: 4 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Gerolf Annemans, Gabriele Bischoff, Salvatore De Meo, Pascal Durand, Charles Goerens, Sandro Gozi, Brice Hortefeux, Laura Huhtasaari, Victor Negrescu, Giuliano Pisapia, Paulo Rangel, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Helmut Scholz
Substitutes present for the final vote	Cyrus Engerer, Maite Pagazaurtundúa
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Sunčana Glavak, Niclas Herbst, Leszek Miller, Iuliu Winkler

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

17	+
PPE	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Salvatore De Meo, Sunčana Glavak, Niclas Herbst, Brice Hortefeux, Paulo Rangel, Iuliu Winkler
RENEW	Pascal Durand, Charles Goerens, Sandro Gozi, Maite Pagazaurtundúa
S&D	Gabriele Bischoff, Cyrus Engerer, Leszek Miller, Victor Negrescu, Giuliano Pisapia, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

4	-
ECR	Jacek Saryusz Wolski
ID	Gerolf Annemans, Laura Huhtasaari
THE LEFT	Helmut Scholz

1	0
ID	Antonio Maria Rinaldi

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention