



2022/2048(INI)

10.11.2022

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on implementation of the common foreign and security policy – annual report
2022
(2022/2048(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 Articles 2 and 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the values, norms and principles upon which the Union is founded should be the key reference for the content and conduct of EU foreign affairs;
- B. whereas the Union should continue to act to promote dialogue and guarantee peace and a rules-based international order by strengthening multilateralism and further developing a strong democratic and parliamentary dimension to its external action; whereas strengthening international security, promoting international cooperation with third countries and advancing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, remain core objectives of the Union's external action;
- C. whereas the EU must improve its capacity to take swift and effective decisions, notably under the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), to speak with one voice and to act as a truly global player in response to crises;
- D. whereas Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally changed the security landscape in Europe, including through increasing instability in the EU's Neighbourhood; whereas this new reality underlines the urgent need to prioritise the effectiveness of the EU's foreign and security policy through increasing its ability to act to protect our values and interests;
- E. whereas issues that are currently decided by unanimity should progressively be decided more often by qualified majority under the CFSP, including decisions on human rights and sanctions;
1. Considers that Article 21(2) TEU should be modified to include the concepts of 'strategic sovereignty' and 'strategic autonomy' in the list of objectives of the CFSP, in order for the EU to become an effective diplomatic and security actor by applying its own foreign and security policy based on strong action via concrete measures, policies, budgets and commitments;
2. Urges the Member States to pursue a strict application of Article 31 TEU, which allows, inter alia, the Council to take certain decisions by qualified majority in CFSP matters

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0244.

without military implications, notably those concerning sanctions and human rights, and, in the case of Article 42(7) TEU, by moving to reinforced qualified majority voting; calls on the Member States to make full use of the passerelle clause contained in Article 31(3) TEU without further delay, especially in priority areas;

3. Urges the Member States and the Commission to strengthen the role of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR); points out that this can be achieved through a Treaty change that would name the VP/HR a foreign minister of the Union, would make them the main external representative of the Union in international forums and would allow them to be present ex officio in negotiating formats initiated or led by Member States; supports the call from citizens of the Union in the Conference on the Future of Europe expressing their wish for the EU to speak with one voice;
4. Regrets the complexity of the EU's external representation and underlines that overlapping roles and actions undermine the credibility of the EU as a global actor; supports, in this regard, avoiding duplication and confusion in the EU's foreign policy; underlines the key role of EU delegations in conducting the CFSP, representing the EU's values and principles abroad and seeking the fulfilment of the EU's interests, including through Parliament's strengthened oversight; in this respect, highlights the importance for EU delegations to be provided with the necessary and appropriate resources and capabilities in order to carry out their mandates effectively;
5. Underlines the need to clarify the respective roles of the European Council President, the European Commission President and the VP/HR, and to rationalise their approach within the CFSP; recalls that the Treaty provisions confer the conduct of the CFSP on the VP/HR;
6. Calls on all EU decision-makers to ramp up their efforts to fight foreign disinformation, interference attempts and hybrid threats, which undermine the Union's ability to develop and implement its internal and foreign policies effectively; considers it necessary to broaden the scope of the threats defined in the mutual defence clause stipulated in Article 42(7) TEU to include hybrid threats, disinformation campaigns and economic coercion by third countries;
7. Insists on Parliament's right to information under Article 36 TEU in CFSP matters; points to the judgments of the European Court of Justice concerning the Mauritius Agreement² and the Tanzania Agreement³, according to which the timely and comprehensive provision of information to Parliament is crucial to allow it to play its democratic scrutiny/advisory role in CFSP matters;
8. Recalls the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a foreign policy tool;
9. Reaffirms, especially in the current context, its strong commitment to the Union's partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which remains fundamental to European security; calls for the development of more integrated cooperation in the field

² [Judgment of 24 June 2014, *European Parliament v Council of the European Union*, C-658/11, EU:C:2014:2025.](#)

³ [Judgment of 14 June 2016, *European Parliament v Council of the European Union*, C-263/14, EU:C:2016:435.](#)

of foreign and security policy with external alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and external like-minded democratic allies and partners, in the Euro-Atlantic area, the Indo-Pacific and, more generally, the Global South, as well as at UN level, with a view to promoting dialogue, peace and a rules-based international order; underlines the importance of cooperation with EU candidate and potential candidate countries in foreign affairs; reiterates its support to CFSP policy alignment during EU accession negotiations;

10. Welcomes the European Political Community as a new informal format for dialogue and cooperation; is firmly convinced that the EU needs a strong vision and a common strategy to consolidate its unity and decision-making capacity in order to prepare for further enlargements; considers that any project of interaction with European neighbours should not constitute an alternative to the ongoing process of negotiations for EU accession; recalls, nevertheless, the importance of European organisations such as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and calls for the EU institutions to better coordinate their actions with the respective organisations;
11. Notes that Parliament is actively involved in the CFSP through its particular instruments; underlines the importance and unique nature of Parliament's set of democratisation programmes, such as the 'Jean Monnet Dialogue', aimed at fostering and strengthening the work of parliaments; recalls that all EU institutions should participate and work together in activities that aim to counteract the global backsliding in democracy, including through election observation, mediation and dialogue activities, conflict prevention, the Sakharov Prize award and network, and parliamentary diplomacy;
12. Believes that the EU must reform and strengthen its ability to sanction States, governments, entities, groups or organisations, as well as individuals, that do not comply with its fundamental principles, agreements and laws;
13. Stresses the need for the EU to increase the visibility of its CFSP through better and more strategic communication of its external actions towards its own citizens and towards citizens of third countries.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	8.11.2022
Result of final vote	+: 17 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Gerolf Annemans, Gabriele Bischoff, Damian Boeselager, 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, Niclas Herbst, Brice Hortefeux, 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
THE LEFT	Helmut Scholz
VERTS/ALE	Damian Boeselager

5	-
ECR	Jacek Saryusz Wolski
ID	Gerolf Annemans, Laura Huhtasaari
PPE	Sunčana Glavak, Paulo Rangel

1	0
ID	Antonio Maria Rinaldi

Corrections to votes and voting intentions	
+	Sunčana Glavak, Paulo Rangel
-	
0	

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention