



**2024/2024(DEC)**

12.12.2024

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 43**

**Draft opinion**

**Michael Gahler**

(PE765.237v01-00)

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European External Action Service  
(2024/2024(DEC))



**Amendment 1**  
**António Tânger Corrêa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; ***underlines the central role played*** by the ***European External Action Service (EEAS)*** and its delegations in conducting the Union's ***external*** policy;

*Amendment*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; ***stresses the difficulties faced*** by the ***EEAS*** and its delegations in conducting the ***European Union's foreign*** policy ***due to fundamental inadequacies:***  
***a. Diplomacy is one of the pillars of state sovereignty, and the European Union can only exercise it within the framework of subsidiarity and proportionality (Articles 5 and 24 of the Treaty of the European Union). Therefore, the EEAS requires a profound review;***  
***b. The so-called EEAS ambassadors are not career diplomats and, in the overwhelming majority of cases, lack adequate academic preparation and relevant experience;***  
***c. The EEAS relies on local hires who, in addition to not meeting the required qualifications, lack the necessary conditions for impartiality and conflict of interests;***

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Tonino Picula**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its

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implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy; ***acknowledges that the EEAS budget was disproportionately affected in comparison to other EU institutions by the higher inflation rates and subsequent energy crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine;***

Or. en

### **Amendment 3**

**Hilde Vautmans, Marjan Šarec, Dan Barna, Lucia Yar, Nathalie Loiseau, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Malik Azmani**

#### **Draft opinion Paragraph 1**

##### *Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

##### *Amendment*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy ***and in fighting foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI); stresses the importance of the EEAS for the EU's relations with the 25 to 30 million EU citizens living outside the Union;***

Or. en

### **Amendment 4 Geadis Geadis**

#### **Draft opinion**

## Paragraph 1

### *Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

### *Amendment*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine **and Türkiye's unacceptable acts of provocation in the European seas of the Eastern Mediterranean, in Greece and Cyprus**, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

Or. el

## Amendment 5 Sebastian Tynkkynen

### Draft opinion Paragraph 1

### *Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

### *Amendment*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine **and its hostile attempts to influence democratic processes in Europe**, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

Or. fi

## Amendment 6 Željana Zovko

### Draft opinion Paragraph 1

*Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

*Amendment*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine **and growing instability in the Middle East**, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

Or. en

**Amendment 7**

**Tineke Strik**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

*Amendment*

1. Highlights that recent events, notably Russia's **full-scale** invasion of Ukraine, have brought EU foreign policy and its implementation to the forefront of concerns among the EU Member States and institutions; underlines the central role played by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegations in conducting the Union's external policy;

Or. en

**Amendment 8**

**Hana Jalloul Muro**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 – point 1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**(1) Emphasizes the need for the**

***European External Action Service (EEAS) to play a central role in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, to increase funding to ensure humanitarian aid in Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria, and to strengthen human rights monitoring.***

Or. en

**Amendment 9  
Hana Jalloul Muro**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 1 – point 2 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***(2) Highlight financial support for the European External Action Service (EEAS) delegations deployed in the Middle East, Gulf countries, and Africa to ensure they can continue implementing the EU's External Action in the region.***

Or. en

**Amendment 10  
Nacho Sánchez Amor**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 a. Insists on the budgetary increase for CFSP actions and other appropriate peace, conflict and crisis response instruments, as well as IT and security protocols, in order to fully match EU's activities and capabilities with current challenges and conflicts worldwide;***

Or. en

**Amendment 11**  
**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 a. Highlights the EEAS's contribution to the EU's overarching efforts to demonstrate steadfast support for Ukraine with initiatives like the #StandWithUkraine campaign and targeted communication projects such as Faces of Ukraine, Art vs War, and Share Your Light;***

Or. en

**Amendment 12**  
**Nacho Sánchez Amor**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 b. Reminds that is crucial to further strengthening our support to human rights, democracy and development in third countries through the NDICI - Global Europe, as a world of democracies is a safer world; underlines that resources to the EU's Digital Diplomacy should be further increased given the current context of rapid technological advancements and geopolitical competition; insists that "green diplomacy" and the green transition, as one of the EU's priorities, should be enhanced towards third countries through the EU's External Action;***

Or. en

**Amendment 13**



**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 b. Acknowledges the EEAS's role in gathering evidence against EU-sanctioned Russian state-backed outlets and individuals involved in spreading disinformation and manipulating information to justify Russia's war of aggression;***

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 c. Expresses strong concern over the continued support of EEAS for UNRWA, despite mounting evidence indicating misuse of its resources and allegations of UNRWA personnel being affiliated with Hamas;***

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Alexander Sell**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

2. Regrets that the European Court of Auditors in its Annual Report for the financial year 2023 observes that they found quantifiable error in one of the 13

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payments examined, concerning the absence of a valid procurement procedure and six non-quantifiable findings concerning procurement at EU Delegations, including weaknesses in the methodology for selecting tenderers and evaluating tenders, as well as entering into a legal commitment before making the budgetary commitment;

payments examined, concerning the absence of a valid procurement procedure and six non-quantifiable findings concerning procurement at EU Delegations, including weaknesses in the methodology for selecting tenderers and evaluating tenders, as well as entering into a legal commitment before making the budgetary commitment; ***calls for stricter financial controls and regular audits within the EEAS to prevent budget overruns and ensure taxpayer money is utilized effectively;***

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Marta Temido**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***2 a. Notes that the Special Report 14/2023 of the European Court of Auditors found deficiencies in the methodologies used by the Commission and the EEAS for allocating funding to partner countries and in the setup of the monitoring framework and recommended that the Commission and the EEAS notably improve the methodology for allocating funding and the assessment of the impact of EU support, focus the scope of the programming process and simplify and consistently use the indicators in the multiannual indicative programmes.***

Or. en

**Amendment 17**  
**António Tânger Corrêa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

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*Draft opinion*

3. **Welcomes** the Court of Auditors' Special Report *regarding the coordination role of the EEAS and its conclusions that coordination is mostly effective, allowing the service to properly support the High Representative/Vice-President to deliver their mandate; notes that nevertheless some weaknesses in information management, staffing and reporting remain; calls on the EEAS to implement the recommendations of the Special Report by the deadline in 2025;*

*Amendment*

3. **Regrets the critical failures identified by** the Court of Auditors' Special Report *in areas that constitute the very purpose of the EEAS, particularly the lack of feedback from EEAS headquarters on planning and political reporting; regrets the lack of professionalism and effectiveness in the EEAS's actions noted by the ECA Report, including the absence of action plans and implementation timetables; underscores the limited impact of measures taken to counteract this trend of low effectiveness, noted by the same Report. reinforces that the deficiencies observed indicate the need for a review of the EEAS's responsibilities, as it fails to address critical areas that can be handled by sovereign states and their political advisers in their respective missions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity;*

Or. en

**Amendment 18**  
**Alexander Sell**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' Special Report regarding the coordination role of the EEAS and its conclusions that coordination is mostly effective, allowing the service to properly support the High Representative/Vice-President to deliver their mandate; notes that nevertheless some weaknesses in information management, staffing and reporting remain; calls on the EEAS to implement the recommendations of the Special Report by the deadline in 2025;

*Amendment*

3. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' Special Report regarding the coordination role of the EEAS and its conclusions that coordination is mostly effective, allowing the service to properly support the High Representative/Vice-President to deliver their mandate; notes that nevertheless some weaknesses in information management, staffing and reporting remain; calls on the EEAS to implement the recommendations of the Special Report by the deadline in 2025; **recommends a comprehensive review of the EEAS's global presence, focusing on scaling back or closing**

*missions that do not directly serve EU interests, thereby reallocating resources to more critical areas;*

Or. en

**Amendment 19**  
**Ioan-Rareş Bogdan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' Special Report regarding the coordination role of the EEAS and its conclusions that coordination is mostly effective, allowing the service to properly support the High Representative/Vice-President to deliver their mandate; notes that nevertheless some weaknesses in information management, staffing and reporting remain; calls on the EEAS to **implement** the recommendations of the Special Report by the deadline in 2025;

*Amendment*

3. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' Special Report regarding the coordination role of the EEAS and its conclusions that coordination is mostly effective, allowing the service to properly support the High Representative/Vice-President to deliver their mandate; notes that nevertheless some weaknesses in information management, staffing and reporting remain; calls on the EEAS to **prioritize the implementation of** the recommendations of the Special Report by the deadline in 2025 **as timely action is important in reinforcing its operational capacity and enhancing its contribution to the EU foreign policy objectives.**

Or. en

**Amendment 20**  
**Nacho Sánchez Amor**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 a. Reminds that the EEAS is structurally underfunded and should not be subjected to the same constraints as the other institutions regarding the approach to the administrative budget; is deeply concerned by the serious and far-reaching**

*negative consequences for the EU's External Action, and the performance of the EU institutions in this area, of these abovementioned budgetary issues; highlights the increasing responsibilities tasked to the EEAS by EU institutions, including the Council and the Parliament; acknowledges that the lack of action to rectify the current budgetary situation of the EEAS can severely impact in the EU's relations with third countries; recalls the lack of operational budget of the EEAS and calls to analyse its consequences and alternatives;*

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 a.** *Welcomes the steadfast support provided to Ukraine, including through the civilian EU Advisory Mission (EUAM Ukraine) and the training of Ukrainian soldiers under the EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM);*

Or. en

**Amendment 22**  
**Nacho Sánchez Amor**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 b.** *Is deeply concerned by the proposal for a radical restructuring of the EU's presence abroad through a drastic reduction in staff numbers of EU*

*Delegations, within the context of the abovementioned budgetary constraints; notes that, if approved, the plan will negatively impact the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe;*

Or. en

**Amendment 23**  
**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 b. Welcomes the appointment of the first EU Special Representative for the Gulf region;**

Or. en

**Amendment 24**  
**Tonino Picula**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; acknowledges that the *EAAS* has substantially cut mission and representation budget, reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects;

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; acknowledges that the *EEAS* has substantially cut mission and representation budget, ***which impact the core functions of a Diplomatic service***, reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects; ***notes with concern that these cuts lead to postponing security installations in a number of EU***

*Delegations hampering the EEAS' ability to fulfil its mandate and properly ensure the duty of care to all staff in Delegations;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 25**

**Alexander Sell**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 4**

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; acknowledges that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and representation budget, reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects;

##### *Amendment*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; acknowledges that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and representation budget, reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects; ***calls on the EEAS to prioritize essential functions and eliminate non-essential expenditures, ensuring that all spending aligns with the EU's core strategic objectives and delivers tangible benefits to EU citizens;***

Or. en

## **Amendment 26**

**Hilde Vautmans, Marjan Šarec, Dan Barna, Lucia Yar, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Malik Azmani**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 4**

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; ***acknowledges*** that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and

##### *Amendment*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; ***regrets*** that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and representation budget;

representation budget, *reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects;*

*expresses concern that, in these times of global challenges, such budgetary constraints could lead to excessive closures of EU embassies, which are crucial for defending EU values and interests around the world;*

Or. en

**Amendment 27**  
**Željana Zovko**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; acknowledges that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and representation budget, reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects;

*Amendment*

4. Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023 *despite increasing geopolitical challenges*; acknowledges that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and representation budget, reducing non-compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects;

Or. en

**Amendment 28**  
**António Tânger Corrêa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. *Notes that that the EEAS is committed to make itself more cost-effective while continuing to face significant budgetary constraints in 2023; acknowledges that the EAAS has substantially cut mission and representation budget, reducing non-*

*Amendment*

4. *Considers that the EEAS should scale down its representation missions, which should be conducted by straightened sovereign States. The EEAS's role shall focus on implementing EU programs and supporting the embassies and missions of Member States,*



*compulsory expenditure and freezing and postponing building maintenance, infrastructure and IT projects;*

*whenever necessary and upon request and the budget must be accordingly adapted;*

Or. en

**Amendment 29**  
**Hana Jalloul Muro**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 – point 1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**(1) Underline that the EU must increase funding to reinforce the dedicated budget line within EU foreign policy actions specifically for gender equality and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, in order to ensure consistent financing for initiatives that promote gender-responsive leadership, protect women’s rights, and combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict and post-conflict settings; stresses that such funding is essential to support local civil society organizations, provide survivor-centered support, and integrate gender perspectives into EU diplomatic and security efforts.**

Or. en

**Amendment 30**  
**Marta Temido**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 a. Is worried by the current underfunding of the EEAS, aggravated by the recent increase in inflation rates worldwide which jeopardises the EU’s relations with third countries and the**

*operations of 145 Delegations worldwide amidst rising geopolitical and security crises; is indeed extremely concerned about the about the alleged strategic plan to revamp the full network of the EU Delegations across the world, including plans to cut back staff from Delegations and close some Delegations; Urges the Members States to provide enough financing to the EEAS and the Commission to ensure the EU maintains its network of Delegation untouched as a signal of its global engagement; underlines the negative impact this plan may have in the implementation of the external affairs instruments, such as NDICI and Global Gateway;*

Or. en

**Amendment 31**

**Tineke Strik**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 a. Stresses that the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III dictates that 85% of new EU actions must contribute to gender equality and women and girls' empowerment; calls on the EEAS to accelerate the progress towards the goals of GAP III by meaningfully focusing in its every day work on the GAP III's key areas of engagement, including ending gender-based violence, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, economic and social rights and empowerment, equal participation and leadership; notes that GAP III will expire in 2027 and urges the EEAS to this end to develop a more ambitious GAP IV that will ensure a stronger connection between women's rights and empowerment and the EU's foreign and security policy, ready*

*for implementation as of 2028;*

Or. en

**Amendment 32**

**Hilde Vautmans, Marjan Šarec, Dan Barna, Lucia Yar, Nathalie Loiseau, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Malik Azmani**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4 a. Underlines the extremely vulnerable situation of children in the world, specifically in armed conflict; expresses serious concern about the tens of thousands of children that were affected by armed conflict across the globe and suffered abhorrent abuses and violations of their most basic rights in 2023; calls on the EEAS to put children's rights at the centre of their efforts;***

Or. en

**Amendment 33**

**Alice Teodorescu Măwe**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4a. Continues to encourage the EEAS and Union delegations to promote and engage with local actors and civil society organisations in third countries to stimulate dialogue about the rule of law, fundamental human rights and the fight against corruption and the misuse of EU funds;***

Or. sv

**Amendment 34**  
**Pierre-Romain Thionnet, Jordan Bardella, Matthieu Valet**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4a. Recalls that the EEAS must implement the Union's foreign policy, adopted unanimously by the Council, in close collaboration with the diplomatic services of the Member States in order to avoid any duplication or even competition between the diplomacy of the Member States and the EEAS;**

Or. fr

**Amendment 35**  
**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 a. Underlines the need to provide adequate resources to the Strategic Communication and Foresight division of the European External Action Service (EEAS) to effectively combat disinformation campaigns deployed as strategic tools by authoritarian and illiberal regimes;**

Or. en

**Amendment 36**  
**Marta Temido**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4 b. Stresses that, ahead of increasing geopolitical challenges and crisis worldwide, the EU needs to be able to rely on necessary first-hand information on global issues occurring outside its borders; calls, in this regard, for strengthening the EU INTCEN, the EEAS Crisis Response Center and the SatCen by enhancing its staff and financial resources, as well as its capabilities Considers it essential for the EU to increase its investment in public and cultural diplomacy and communication efforts, particularly ahead of the active engagement of authoritarian and illiberal regimes; stresses, therefore, the need to allocate the necessary resources to the Strategic Communication and Foresight division of the EEAS; Highlights the EEAS and Commission's efforts to fight disinformation and foreign interference, and welcomes the announcement of the creation of the Task Force for Strategic Communication and Countering Information Manipulation in DG COMM; stresses the need to ensure adequate resources for the EEAS and the Commission in this regard;***

Or. en

**Amendment 37**  
**Tineke Strik**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4 b. Calls on the EU Delegations to enhance support to genuine democratic actors and civil society in the Western Balkans, go strongly and publicly denounce actions by illiberal and undemocratic actors that go against the Union's interest and to ensure that the implementation of the Instrument for Pre-***

*accession Assistance (IPA) III funding is in line with the EU's objectives; calls on the EU Delegations in the region to apply a more credible and merit-based approach based on the Copenhagen criteria, notably on the rule of law, democracy and the protection of human rights, especially given the limited progress made by some countries in the Western Balkans;*

Or. en

**Amendment 38**  
**Cristian Terhes**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 b. Calls for enhanced EU support for Moldova in combating disinformation, hybrid threats, and cyberattacks; calls the EU Delegation to Moldova to enhance its efforts to promote a more proactive and effective communication strategy regarding the European perspective, including outreach in the Russian language;*

Or. en

**Amendment 39**  
**Hilde Vautmans, Marjan Šarec, Dan Barna, Lucia Yar, Nathalie Loiseau, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Malik Azmani**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 b. 6. Recalls the dire situation of women's rights and LGBTQI+ rights in many parts of the world; stresses the urgent need to better protect these rights; highlights the central role of the EEAS in*

*advancing human rights around the world; calls on the EEAS to enhance their efforts in this regard;*

Or. en

**Amendment 40**

**Marta Temido**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 c. Sees electoral observation mission as a practical and effective foreign policy instrument that remains central to the EU's democracy support policies and strategies; calls on the EU to ensure adequate resources to the EU electoral observation missions, in view also of extending them to elections in candidate and neighbouring countries.*

Or. en

**Amendment 41**

**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 c. Welcomes the establishment of EU Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM Moldova); highlights the essential role of the EUPM Moldova and calls the EU and its Member States to extend the mission's mandate beyond May 2025 while increasing resources to enhance its effectiveness;*

Or. en

**Amendment 42**  
**Tineke Strik**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 c. Urges the EEAS and the EU Delegations to closely monitor the state of democracy in the different countries and to provide logistical and technological support to human rights defenders and indigenous persons, in particular women;**

Or. en

**Amendment 43**  
**Cristian Terheş**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 d. Emphasizes that freedom of religion and belief is a fundamental value of the free world and the European Union; urges the European External Action Service to incorporate faith diplomacy into its actions, recognizing religion as a part of the solution to global challenges; underlines that this approach should include actively safeguarding the rights of Christians and other religious groups especially in countries where they are a minority, as well as promoting tolerance, and ensuring that religious freedom is part of all relevant external engagements and policies of the EU;**

Or. en