

# 2013 review of the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS. Recommendation to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, to the Council and to the Commission

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The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted a proposal drawn up by Elmar BROK (EPP, DE) and Roberto GUALTIERI (S&D, IT) for a European Parliament recommendation to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, to the Council and to the Commission on the 2013 review of the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS.

Members recall that the EEAS is a new body of hybrid nature, drawing upon community and intergovernmental sources, which has no precedent in the EU and which therefore cannot be expected to be fully functional within two years of its establishment. They are putting forward this draft recommendation to the HR/VP, to the Council and to the Commission, bearing in mind bearing in mind that there has been good progress in setting up the EEAS but that more can be achieved in terms of synergy and coordination between institutions, political leadership and visibility, as well as in terms of tasks.

**Leadership and a more rational and efficient structure for 21st century diplomacy:** on the whole, Members call for a simplification of the command structure of the EEAS and an enhancement of the role of its Executive Secretary General by establishing a **clear chain of command** to support effective decision-making as well as timely policy response. In this context, they call for the rationalisation of the posts of Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director in charge of Administration, to reduce and simplify the hierarchical structure of the Managing Directorates.

Among other things, they call for:

- a strengthening of the HR/VP's coordinating, initiating and political leadership roles, in particular as chair of the Foreign Affairs Council, by ensuring that, in the next Commission, (s)he realises his/her full potential
- the possibility of qualified majority voting on CFSP matters, as laid down in Article 31(2) TEU;
- the safeguarding of the 'community' character of the neighbourhood policy, bearing in mind that Parliament **rejects any intergovernmentalisation of Union policies**;
- the improvement of the interface between the Directorate for Foreign Policy Instruments and the EEAS;
- the development of the practice of joint technical and logistical services between institutions, with a view to achieving economies of scale and improved efficiency; as a first step, to put under a "single joint structure" the various logistical services for early warning, risk assessment and security tasks that cover events outside of the Union and are currently dispersed in different Institutions;
- deeper cooperation with Member States and the development of joint political reporting between delegations and embassies.

**On the ‘appropriate structure’ for ensuring a comprehensive approach:** Members call for the implementation of the full potential of the Lisbon Treaty by pursuing a **Comprehensive Approach that integrates diplomatic, economic, development**, and – in the last resort and in full compliance with the UN Charter – **military means** behind common Union strategic policy guidelines in order to protect and promote the security and prosperity primarily of EU citizens and those in their neighbourhood, as well as further afield. Members particularly stress the need to ensure **coherence between short-term and longer-term measures**. They call for the EEAS to have the capacity for strategic thinking and to forward proposals for implementing important innovations offered by the Lisbon Treaty, like entrusting the implementation of certain tasks to **groups of capable Member States**. To this end, they urge the development of an ‘appropriate structure’ (for instance identified as a Crisis Board) that integrates conflict prevention, crisis response, peace building, the foreign policy instruments concerned, security policy and CSDP structures, and assures coordination with the geographical desks, delegations, etc. Members also call for efforts to be made to ensure effective and integrated planning.

**On reforming financial procedures for effective external action:** Members call for the acceleration of procedures in the Foreign Policy Instruments Service for administering CFSP finances against the objective of guaranteeing **flexible and timely response to crisis situations**. They would like to see greater flexibility and reactivity of EU external assistance and improved financial accountability by extending transparency to all CFSP budget lines.

**On the Delegations:** Members call for the **EEAS to be given a greater say in the (re)allocation of Commission staff in EU delegations** in order to ensure that the staff profiles and size of EU delegations reflects the Union’s strategic interests and its political priorities. Further measures are proposed such as: (i) appointments on the basis of merit and sound knowledge of the Union's interests, values and policies; (ii) strengthening the authority of the Heads of Delegation over the whole staff; (iii) mainstreaming of human rights and women’s rights within all the delegations; (iv) ensuring there is the appropriate expertise in various policy areas (such as climate change, energy security, social and labour policy, culture, etc.).

**On implementing the Declaration on Political Accountability:** Members urge the full and effective implementation of the obligation in Article 36 TEU to have the **Parliament’s views duly taken into consideration**, for example by a proactive and systematic consultation with the appropriate committee of Parliament **before the adoption of strategies and mandates in the area of CFSP/CSDP**. They also call for Parliament to be kept immediately and fully informed of all the stages in the procedure of negotiation of international agreements, including agreement concluded within the CFSP.

**On training and consolidating a European diplomatic esprit de corps:** Members welcome the idea of common training and other concrete measures for the consolidation of an esprit de corps among EEAS staff. In this regard, they call for a review of the relevant existing training and educational programmes at EU and national levels.

**On the recruitment base:** Members call for the pursuit and intensification of efforts to achieve better gender balance in the EEAS, and the redressing of geographical representativity at senior levels and at all other grades and positions in this service. Given that the target of one third of staff recruited from Member States has been reached, they wish to ensure that members of staff from national ministries are not concentrated at managerial levels, thereby enabling career opportunities for all. In order to develop a truly European esprit de corps and to ensure that the Service only serves **common European interests**, they oppose all attempts by the Member States to interfere with the recruitment process of EEAS staff. Parliament should see its role strengthened in this regard, given its special role with regard to the definition of objectives and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and its competences as a budgetary authority.

Lastly, in the context of a future Convention, Members call for the further development of CFSP/CSDP and of the role of the EEAS, including a **change of name**, to be put on the agenda.