Implementation of the Common Foreign and security policy CFSP for 1995

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Adopting the report by its chairman Mr FERNANDEZ ALBOR on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy, the committee highlighted the shortcomings in the policy and called for a common defence policy. The provisions of the TEU on consultation with and information for the European Parliament had not been fully applied by the Council and the perception and feeling of the Union public was that no real progress had been made in implementing a genuine CFSP, which was an evolutionary process which involved learning to share sovereignty equitably. "It is essential that a CFSP is based on principles of common security and conflict prevention". The establishment of a proper CFSP was not an end in itself but a means for the European Union to contribute to "peace and security beyond the Union borders" by endeavouring to prevent crises. - positive assessment of Union's record in 1995: the ALBOR report makes special mention of the association and partnership agreements with the Mediterranean countries and some CIS countries, including Russia, the Barcelona conference, the Transatlantic Pact and the development of relations with Africa, Latin America (MERCOSUR) and Asia. The report also highlights "the promotion and the active and concrete participation" of the European Union in the reconstruction of the former Yugoslavia. - negative assessment of Union's record in 1995: * the EU was unable to obtain "the expected results" and demonstrated "impotence" in Burundi, Rwanda and Angola. * the Council's slowness in adopting the MEDA programme and the financial regulation with Turkey (following customs union) were pinpointed. This delay was caused by "refusal to accept the European Parliament's proposals". - Proposals: * the CFSP should reiterate its wish to ensure that human rights are respected by applying stringent "democracy and human rights clauses" to "all external agreements"; * unfortunately, the Council's work had resulted in "apparent confusion between the use of common positions and common measures". The committee called for improved "external visibility of the CFSP" by attributing, within the Commission, "all the responsibilities in this field to one Commissioner"; * a true CFSP would never be implemented "without a common defence policy and a common system of deterrence"; * the possibility of establishing a "European Civil Peace Corps" should be taken into account; * finally, it regretted that, despite repeated requests by the European Parliament, the Council had still not set up a "centre of analysis" capable of "evaluating risks and threats from a European perspective".