Annual report on progress in the field of common foreign and security policy (Article J.7, Treaty on European Union)

1995/2058(INI) - 18/05/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Matutes (PPE, E) on progress with the implementation of the CFSP between November 1993 and December 1994 (271 votes to 44 with 53 abstentions). Adopting an amendment by Mr Sakellariou, Parliament called on the 1996 IGC to examine the question of the unanimity rule with regard to the CFSP and to draw up a list of the types of decision for which a majority vote (simple qualified or double qualified) or unanimity are required. Parliament also called on the Council to provide it with better and faster information on developments in the area of the CFSP and to consult it on the main aspects and basic options of this policy. Considering that the preeminence of individual national security interests and the lack of a common perception of the European Union's own interests worked to the detriment of the CFSP, the report affirmed that the Union should set up a risk analysis and evaluation centre. In addition, the geographical zones identified by the Lisbon European Council as priority zones for the application of CFSP should not exclude other zones and the Asia/Pacific zone, Latin America, the Mediterranean and the Middle East/Caucasus zone in particular should not be neglected. Finally, the European Parliament urged the Council to make less use of declarations and greater use of common positions and to be bolder in its use of joint actions. However, some passages of the report gave rise to certain difficulties. Approving the passage calling for a mutual assistance clause to be inserted in the Treaty where Member States' borders are violated, the European Parliament adopted an amendment by Mrs Rehn seeking to abolish the legal basis for this clause (Article 5 of the WEO Treaty). The European Parliament also rejected the passage of the report calling for the 1996 IGC to address the problem of European defence and, in particular, the extension of Article J.4 of the Treaty to the common defence area.