European Union and United Nations relations

2003/2049(INI) - 29/01/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Armin LASCHET (EPP-ED, D) on relations between the European Union and the United Nations. (Please see the document dated 26/11/03.) Parliament welcomed the Commission's communication but regretted that the Commission did not make any recommendation regarding the development of the cooperation between the UN and the European Parliament. As well as reform of Security Council representation, Parliament stated that reform should include making relations between the UN Secretary-General and the International Court of Justice more flexible by giving the former possibility to ask for the legal advice of the Court. Parliament also suggested improving law enforcement at the level of the Security Council (enforcement of its resolutions) and of the International Court of Justice. Furthermore, the Council should reflect on the possibility to propose the participation of the EU as a full member in the Security Council and the General Assembly of the UN. Parliament went on to stress that enhancing the EU's role within the UN would demand Joint agreement among EU institutions on the political sectors where the EU should have a front-runner role in the definition of the UN politics. These include the articulation of the UN with other international organisations such as NATO. In addition, parliament felt that, in the event of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, it must be possible for the United Nations to be authorised to intervene rapidly. The possibility must be created of circumventing the veto of a permanent member of the Security Council should an independent body endowed with legitimacy under international law (for instance, the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court) establish that there is an imminent danger of the abovementioned crimes being committed. Parliament moved on to discuss the need to clarify the relations between the EU Council and its Member States represented in the UN Security Council. These could be dealt with within the framework of a code of conduct. Such a code should underline that whenever an EU statement is presented on behalf of the European Union or the European Community, EU Member States should refrain from making their national statements, which should only be envisaged on an exceptional basis and justified in advance to the EU Presidency. Finally, Parliament proposed that the Council and the Commission organise joint meetings between representatives of the EU Presidency, the Secretariats of the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament with representatives of the UN. These meeting would coordinate and, wherever possible, do joint country assessments in terms of conflict prevention, the functioning of an "early warning system" and implementation of the crisis management mechanisms available in the EU and the UN.