Establishing a common diplomacy fot the European Union

2000/2006(INI) - 05/09/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament accepted a resolution on a Common Community diplomacy divided into three sections as follows: 1) Training of Community officials to work in the field of external activity and the contribution of the Member States' diplomatic services. Here, it is proposed that a College of European Diplomacy devoted specifically to vocational training be set up to ensure that Community officials involved in external activities are given not only technical training in Community policies, but also full diplomatic and international training. However, the Parliament urges the Commission and the Council to consider the various possible procedures for setting up an effective 'bridging' system to link the national and Community external services, allowing the temporary placement of Member States' diplomats in the Community's external service. Finally, adequate funding should be provided in the General Budget for the extension of the training of officials and the first step towards the creation of a College of European Diplomacy. 2) Clarification and development of the legal status and the role of the Commission delegations and their relations with the Community institutions. Here, the Parliament proposes that Commission delegations become Community delegations. Also, it proposes that relations between the delegations and the parliamentary committees and interparliamentary delegations be regulated in such a way so as to promote a better flow of information and improved political control. Furthermore, it requests that the Commission submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the functioning of the delegations. Finally, the Parliament proposes that rules be introduced governing relations between the delegations and the High Representative for the CFSP and that the Commission submit to Parliament for debate a redrawn map of its external delegations. 3) Coordination between delegations and the Member States' external services. Here, the Parliament proposes that joint reports be drawn up by the embassies of the Member States and the delegation concerned, as a joint statement of their views. Furthermore, it proposes that the High Representation for the CFSP present an annual report to the Council and the Parliament on the results of coordinating the positions of the Member States in international organisation. In conclusion, the Parliament's resolution proposes that information to the Parliament and the Council be supplied on a joint basis, that arrangements be made for combining the diplomatic missions of States which so desire with the Commission delegations and finally, that Member States which so wish, be encouraged to use the current Commission delegations in third countries in which they have no diplomatic representation.