Progress achieved in implementing the Common Foreign and security policy CFSP (Article 21 TEU)

2002/2010(INI) - 26/09/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report drafted by Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, Germany) on the implementation of the CFSP. (Please refer to the document dated 10/09/02.) Parliament felt that the Western Balkans remains the test case by which the EU's ability to deal with successful crisis management would be judged. Through its Stabilisation and Association Process, economic aid from the CARDS programme and decisive political mediation, the EU has helped the NATO military presence in stabilising an unstable region on the brink of collapse. Many serious problems remain, including widespread levels of organised crime. The presence of state-like entities could undermine the future stability of the region. There needs to be strategy for the future of Kosovo. With regard to the Middle East, Parliament regretted the decision of the Israeli government to prevent the elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council taking part in the most recent Parliamentary session in Ramallah. It urged the Israeli authorities to stop all actions aimed at weakening and undermining the legitimate Palestinian institutions. On Afghanistan, Parliament noted that the EU is the largest source of international funds, but its actions lack visibility. With regard to Iraq, Parliament welcomed the unconditional return of inspectors and urged Iraq to comply with the UN resolutions. Member States should refrain from unilateral initiatives which aggravate the present tense situation. The EU's poor crisis management in the case of presidential elections in Zimbabwe is the basis for the Parliament's proposal to allow decision-making in the Council by qualified majority. In matters of security and defence policy, the rule of enhanced co-operation should be used so as to permit a coalition to be built between those Member States who are desirous of carrying out certain Petersburg operations. The area around the Black Sea and Caucasian states is an increasingly fragile one, where the EU should join with the US and Russia, and the states concerned to prevent conflict. This region is marked by tension over gas and oil pipelines and is also developing into a dangerous transit area for drug smuggling, illegal immigration and trafficking in women. The south Caucasus is a potential crisis area. Finally, Parliament pointed to the definitive strategic importance of the Euro-Mediterranean area and the need to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. The signatories of the Barcelona Declaration must take concrete measures to implement all aspects of the partnership. Crisis prevention and ESDP should be integrated into the Barcelona Process.