

# Annual report on Common foreign and security policy CFSP 2004

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by its chairman, Elmar BROK ( EPP-ED , DE ), in response to the Council's 2004 annual report on the EU's common foreign and security policy. In this wide-ranging report, MEPs expressed annoyance at the lack of "ex ante" consultation and information of Parliament by the Council in this area, and decided to see whether legal action could be taken. They asked Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee to look into whether action could be taken against the Council at the European Court of Justice for a breach of Article 21 of the EU Treaty, which explicitly states that Parliament must be consulted "on the main aspects and the basic choices of the common foreign and security policy" and that its views must be taken into account. The report also called on the Council High Representative, Javier Solana, to participate actively in the annual debate on the CFSP. It urged the Council to report to Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on every Foreign Ministers Council meeting and every high-level summit with key international partners.

More generally, MEPs said that the future priorities of the CFSP should be the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and relations with the US, as well as conflict situations, the promotion of peace, security in all its aspects, the fight against terrorism, disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They added that security also included aspects such as energy, climate change and the spread of poverty.

Turning to more specific issues, the report called for a solution to the future status of Kosovo which respects its territorial integrity, upholds minority rights and does not endanger the EU's overall policy for the Balkans. Special attention should also be given to the development of Africa . MEPs expressed their deep concern over the massive war crimes and human rights violations "which can be construed as genocide" in Darfur . The committee criticised the present partnership with Russia as reflecting "common economic interests without achieving any progress as regards human rights and the rule of law". It said that the EU policy towards Belarus had achieved few results, and new measures should therefore be proposed to strengthen links with the people of Belarus . Relations with China should be advanced in such a way that progress was also made on human rights and democracy. MEPs called on the Council to renew efforts for a revival of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians and to set up a comprehensive strategy for the broader region of the Middle East . Regarding Afghanistan, MEPs warned that ISAF's reconstruction mission should not be merged with the US Enduring Freedom operation.

Finally, the committee recommended that joint costs for military operations in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy should come from the Community budget, doing away with the current Member States' subsidiary budgets or start-up funds. This should also be the case for any future ESDP operations in the fight against terrorism.