Basic information

2008/2111(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly **Subject** 6.40.13 Relations with/in the context of international organisations: UN, OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe, EBRD	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AFET Foreign Affairs	LAMBSDORFF Alexander Graf (ALDE)	06/05/2008

European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**
	External Relations	FERRERO-WALDNER Benita

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/04/2008	Non-legislative basic document published	B6-0176/2008	Summary
22/05/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/06/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
26/06/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0265/2008	
09/07/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0339/2008	Summary
09/07/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/07/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2111(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/6/62515

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Non-legislative basic document		B6-0176/2008	17/04/2008	Summary
Committee draft report		PE405.972	06/05/2008	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE407.704	04/06/2008	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0265/2008	26/06/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0339/2008	09/07/2008	Summary

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly

2008/2111(INI) - 09/07/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament approved a resolution on the EU priorities for the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly. The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Alexander **LAMBSDORFF** (ALDE, DE) on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In this resolution, the Parliament makes a number of recommendations to the Council and it also presents its official position for the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly. The recommendation includes the following main points:

(1)the EU at the UN and ratification of the Lisbon Treaty: the Parliament calls for:

- the Union's political priorities for the next UN General Assembly session to be the subject of an in-depth, wide-ranging debate within the European institutions. It considers that this formal position should be regarded by the Permanent Representations of EU Member States in New York as a binding political platform to be used in negotiations with third countries;
- a reorganisation and expansion of the offices in New York and Geneva;
- the Council and the Commission to study in depth the implications which the Treaty of Lisbon has for the Union's future representation at the United Nations;
- the Council to define, as soon as possible, the operational nature of the EU's observer status at the United Nations;
- the Parliament be kept informed about the implications, including the budgetary ones, of any possible steps towards reorganisation of the EU's presence within the various component parts of the UN.

(2)the EU contribution to UN reforms: the Parliament calls for:

- Member States to demand the review of the mandate and of the programme of work of the United Nations, so that it responds to the contemporary requirements of Member States;
- the Council to ensure that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs are staffed to a level commensurate with their tasks and responsibilities;
- Members State to support efforts by the UN Secretary-General in the process of implementation of the concept of 'responsibility to protect';
- Member States to arrive at a more cohesive position on the reform of the UN Security Council, whilst maintaining the ultimate objective, **of one permanent seat for the European Union within the United Nations,** by aiming to increase the weight of the EU in a manner which is commensurate with the EU's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and to UN development assistance;
- EU Member States present in the UN Security Council to uphold EU official positions.

(3) the EU and the UN Human Rights Council: the Parliament calls for:

- France and Slovakia, as newly elected members of the UN Human Rights Council, to double their efforts in ensuring the successful operation of the Human Rights Council;
- the Council to sustain efforts aimed at increasing the accountability of UN Member States in the field of human rights, by increasing the efficiency of the Universal Peer Review;
- more attention to be given to civil society, ensuring that effective ways and instrumentsare introducedso thatcivil society can fully participatein the UN Human Rights Council deliberations;
- all EU Member States to protect the rights of children by supporting the mainstreaming of children's rights in all activities within relevant organs and mechanisms of the UN system.

(4) the EU and the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC): the Parliament believes that it is necessary to:

- strengthen the role of the PBC in relation to the UN system and encourage contributions to the UN Peacebuilding Fund;
- facilitate consultation of the PBC on the mandate of integrated peace-building operations;
- improve coordination between actors, ensuring predictable financing and extend the international attention paid to post-conflict countries;
- ensure that human and financial resources available to the PBC are proportionate to the tasks and expectations of UN bodies and of the beneficiary countries.

(5) the EU and the MDGs: the Parliament requests:

- that the Council supports the calls by President Barroso and Commissioner Louis Michel for Member States to draw up clear, binding national timetables and budgets to increase real aid in order to reach the promised collective target of 0.56% of gross national income in 2010 and 0.7% in 2015;
- that the Council and the EU Member States initiate a UN-wide discussion on the targets to be met in terms of climate change;
- that the Council and EU Member States renew discussions about debt relief at the UN level;
- focusing on gender issues, particularly the abnormally high maternal mortality rates (500 000 women dying each year), and increasing funding for reproductive health services substantially;
- focusing on the current food crisis.

(6) improving EU-UN cooperation in practice: the Parliament requests that:

- EU Member States which are permanent or non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council advocate a revision of the UN sanctions system (terrorists' blacklists) to bring it into line with the obligations of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (UNCCPR);
- the EU actively encourage the parties in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to pursue negotiations with a view to concluding an international climate change agreement by the end of 2009, and promote the use of renewable and CO2-neutral energy sources;
- the Council continue to give high priority to building successful cross-regional partnerships to ensure effective implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 62/149, which calls for a worldwide moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;
- the Member States make the necessary efforts to secure an international consensus that will enable the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to be concluded;
- the 63rd UN session offer the opportunity to promote the treaty banning cluster munitions, with a view to the conclusion of an International Arms Trade Treaty (particularly weapons containing uranium);
- the Council encourage all activities aimed at the mainstreaming of gender issues into all aspects of the UN's activities.

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly

2008/2111(INI) - 17/04/2008 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to propose a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

CONTENT: pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure, Alexander **LAMBSDORFF** (ALDE, DE)and Annemie **NEYTS-UYTTEBROECK** (ALDE, BE) propose, on behalf of the ALDE Group, a draft recommendation to the Council on the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In this recommendation, the European Parliament notes that the coordination of EU Member States' positions within the United Nations varies sharply from body to body and from policy to policy. It also notes that the Treaty of Lisbon confers legal personality upon the EU, an innovation which will have major repercussions for the representation of the Union at the United Nations.

Visibility of the European Union at the United Nations: Parliament calls for the Union’s political priorities for the next UN General Assembly session to be the subject of an in-depth, wide-ranging debate in Brussels, and to be spelt out in a formal position of the Council. This formal position should be regarded by Permanent Representations in New York as a binding political platform to be used as a basis for negotiations with other countries. Parliament urges the Council to study in depth the implications which the Treaty of Lisbon has for the Union’s future representation at the UN and Member States to commit themselves unequivocally to taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the Union enjoys adequate visibility and authority within the UN bodies and fora.

The EU contribution to the United Nations reform: Parliament calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to continue to press for the establishment of membership criteria for the purposes of elections to the UNHRC. Pending such a reform, EU Member States in the UNHRC are asked to apply those criteria when determining their support for candidate countries. Parliament points to **the need for the EU to speak with one voice in addressing human rights issues**, but also to the fact that it is important for each EU Member State to voice the EU position, in order to give it more

weight. It strongly believes that, by establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations member states have created an important new structure to support fragile societies recovering from the devastation of war. The Council must support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, highlighting any gaps that threaten to undermine peace.

Lastly, Parliament felt that Member States need to find a more cohesive position on the reform of the UN Security Council.