Basic information

2008/2202(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
European Security Strategy and ESDP **Subject** 6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	VON WOGAU Karl (PPE-DE)	24/06/2008

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	24/09/2008

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2903	2008-11-10
General Affairs	2915	2008-12-08

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
External Relations	FERRERO-WALDNER Benita

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/09/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/11/2008	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
08/12/2008	Debate in Council		
21/01/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
28/01/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0032/2009	
18/02/2009	Debate in Parliament		
19/02/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0075/2009	Summary

19/02/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/02/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2202(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/6/66876

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE414.030	05/11/2008	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE416.605	17/12/2008	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0032/2009	28/01/2009	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0075/2009	19/02/2009	Summary

European Security Strategy and ESDP

2008/2202(INI) - 19/02/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 482 votes to 111, with 55 abstentions, a resolution on the European Security Strategy (ESS) and ESDP.

The resolution calls on the European Union to develop its strategic autonomy through a strong and effective foreign, security and defence policy and to advance respect for human rights and democratic values worldwide, and to safeguard world peace. The Parliament stresses the need to strengthen multilateralism and reiterates its view that the United Nations must be reformed. At the same time, the plenary embraces the concept of the “responsibility to protect”, adopted by the UN in 2005, and the concept of "human security", which is based on the primacy of the individual and not of the state. Moreover, the Parliament underlines that these concepts entail strong political guidelines for the strategic orientation of European security policy. However, the plenary believes that there is neither an automatic obligation nor the means available for the EU to deploy ESDP missions, be they civilian or military, in all crisis situations.

In order to combat the dangers to which the EU is exposed, the Parliament calls for the use of both civilian and military assets and capabilities and the **pooling of efforts and capabilities at the EU level**. The Parliament therefore calls for an **integrated European Armed Force**, equipped with common weapon systems and closely scrutinised by the European Parliament and the parliaments of EU Member States.

Overall, the Parliament considers that the European Union should play a more decisive role in boosting the legitimacy, transparency and effectiveness of the institutions of global governance. It also stresses the need for full and timely implementation of the ESS. In an amendment adopted in plenary, the Parliament also reiterates the importance of the transatlantic relationship and stresses the need for a more balanced partnership, without competition and with respect for each others' autonomy and mutual understanding where there are diverging strategic considerations.

The Parliament welcomes the launch of the operation “Atalanta” against piracy off the Somali coast. It also stresses the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination of anti-terrorist policy as between EU Member States, the USA and NATO, aiming in particular at improving the effectiveness of rescue operations.

European security interests: noting that, all too often, thinking in the Member States remains confined within the framework of national security interests, the Parliament urges Member States to widen their thinking in order to **make the EU a more important actor on the international scene**, providing for more effective European security arrangements. In addition to the challenges identified in the ESS as adopted in 2003, the Parliament

believes that the security interests of the Union should include the protection of its citizens and its interests inside the EU as well as abroad, the security of its neighbourhood and the protection of its external borders and critical infrastructure, as well as the improvement of its cyber security, the security of energy supply and sea lanes, the protection of its space assets and protection against the consequences of climate change.

European security ambitions: the Parliament considers that the European Union must define more clearly its ambitions concerning its role in the world and that it **should not try to become a superpower like the United States** but that it should instead guarantee its security and security in its neighbourhood. It must give priority to crisis prevention, as well as post-conflict management and resolution.

Developing Europe's security strategy, towards a European Civil Peace Corps: the Parliament congratulates the French EU Presidency and welcomes the High Representative's report on the implementation of the ESS, which includes many recommendations from Parliament's previous reports on the ESS and the ESDP. It welcomes, in particular, the Council's commitment to the idea that, by 2010, Europe should be capable of deploying **60 000 men in 60 days** for a major operation. More generally, the plenary calls for the further development of the Peace-building Partnership into a **European Civil Peace Corps**. With regard to the ESS, the Parliament suggests that this should be **reviewed every five years** at the beginning of a new EU legislative period.

Relationship with Russia: the Parliament stresses that, due to its geopolitical position, military power, political weight, energy wealth and economic potential, Russia is of strategic importance for Europe. Moreover, it considers that both the EU and NATO should pursue a frank and realistic dialogue with Russia covering such matters as regional security, energy, missile defence, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, limitation of armed forces and space policy. The Parliament considers it important to enhance a multilateral dialogue on security issues within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

Building Europe's capabilities: regretting the slow level of progress in the area of civil capabilities and conflict prevention, the Parliament calls on the EU to endeavour to make a **force of 60 000 soldiers permanently available**. It reiterates its proposal that the Eurocorps should be the core of this force, if necessary reinforced by additional maritime and air capacities. Furthermore, the Parliament recalls that the EU Member States together spend more than EUR 200 billion per year on defence (which is more than half the defence expenditure of the United States). It remains deeply concerned about the lack of efficiency and coordination in the utilisation of those funds and therefore urges that greater efforts be made to eliminate unnecessary duplication between Member States. All efforts must be made to **exploit synergies and enhance interoperability between armed forces** and security forces.

Improving European intelligence: the Parliament strongly requests that the EU and its Member States focus their efforts on common capabilities which can be used for both defence and security purposes. In this context, the Parliament considers satellite-based intelligence, surveillance and warning equipment, unmanned air vehicles, helicopters and telecommunication equipment and air and sea transport to be crucial. It therefore demands a common technical standard for protected telecommunications and ways of protecting critical infrastructure.

The need for new structures: SAFE: the Parliament is of the opinion that the EU's capacity for autonomous foreign and security policy action should be improved through goal-oriented enhancement of its analysis, planning and leadership and intelligence capacities. In this context, it calls for the setting-up of an EU Operational Headquarters and the creation of a **Council of Defence Ministers**. It calls, in particular, for an increase in Community funding for security research and the creation of joint research programmes involving the Commission and the European Defence Agency (EDA). The Parliament approves the dynamic further development of cooperation between national armed forces so that they become increasingly synchronised and proposes that this process and the armed forces be given the name "SAFE" – Synchronised Armed Forces Europe.

The need for a new spirit: lastly, the Parliament calls for the European Security and Defence College to be strengthened. It calls, in particular, for further initiatives concerning common training and common standards for personnel who are to be deployed and to work together in civilian and military operations, increased interaction between the armed forces and civilian personnel of EU Member States, coordination of crisis-related training, exchange programmes among armed forces in Europe and the opening-up of armies to citizens of other EU Member States. It supports, in particular, the Eurofighter programme, which will serve as the backbone of the fighter capability of five European air forces in the coming decades.