Basic information

2014/2231(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
EU's new approach to human rights and democracy – evaluating the activities of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) since its establishment **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	GRZYB Andrzej (PPE)	27/11/2014
	Shadow rapporteur MARTIN David (S&D) DEMESMAEKER Mark (ECR) MICHEL Louis (ALDE) COUSO PERMUY Javier (GUE/NGL) BÜTIKOFER Reinhard (Verts/ALE) CORRAO Ignazio (EFDD)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
European External Action Service	MOGHERINI Federica

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/01/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/05/2015	Vote in committee		
03/06/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0177/2015	Summary
09/07/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0274/2015	Summary
09/07/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/07/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/2231(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/02278

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE544.402	25/02/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE552.133	16/04/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0177/2015	03/06/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0274/2015	09/07/2015	Summary

EU's new approach to human rights and democracy – evaluating the activities of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) since its establishment

2014/2231(INI) - 03/06/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Andrzej GRZYB (EPP, PL) on the EU's new approach to human rights and democracy – evaluating the activities of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) since its establishment.

Recalling that the promotion of and support for democracy, the rule of law and respect for the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms are among the core objectives of the EU's foreign policy, Members welcomed the EED's track record to date and considered that it is fulfilling its main objective of 'fostering and encouraging democratisation and deep and sustainable democracy in countries in political transition.

General evaluation: Members welcomed the EED's consistent engagement in favour of freedom of expression and association, the strengthening of the rule of law, the fight against corruption, and social and political pluralism to support the development of democratic regimes in both the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods. The initiatives taken by the EED have demonstrated its unique capacity to bridge or fill gaps in cases where it has been impossible to obtain financing from EU Member States or non-EU countries.

Financing: Members called on the EED founding parties, and especially on all the Member States and the Commission, to contribute, or increase their contributions, to the EED in line with the commitments they have made. As at 26 April 2015, the following countries have pledged and contributed to the EED: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. They stressed that, in order to sustain and further develop the effectiveness of the EED, it is vital to ensure long-term, sufficient, stable, transparent and predictable funding.

Members welcomed the financial contributions received by the EED from EU partners such as Switzerland and Canada.

Members also called for **an end to earmarking of funds** by donors for particular countries or project

Grants and beneficiaries: whilst welcoming the lifting of the initial geographical limitation of the EED, Members considered it crucial to ensure sustainable funding for EED recipients in the long run by strengthening complementarity links with other bilateral donors and with European external

financing instruments, in particular the EIDHR, which – where appropriate – could take over medium-term financial support for 'mature' EED beneficiaries.

To this end, Members invited the Commission to:

- set up a contact group with the goal of identifying the best way for EED beneficiaries to transition to EIDHR financial support;
- come forward with specific proposals for mechanisms for programming interface and cooperation with the EED (in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Further, they called on the EED to further actively engage in countries where the space for external support for civil society is severely hampered.

They welcomed the EED grants offered to Ukrainian actors and the support offered to all pro-democracy activists engaged in the EU's neighbourhood.

Members encouraged the EED to place stronger emphasis on groups suffering from social exclusion or political marginalisation (e.g. women's movements LGBTI human rights activists, persecuted religious minorities and civic activists).

Cooperation with the European Parliament: Members called for effective links between the EED, the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) and the relevant parliamentary committees. They called for the development of further cooperation between the EED, its beneficiaries and the Sakharov Prize Network.

Whilst calling for enhanced policy coherence of actions financed by the EED, Members called for EED to continue to develop new innovative means and instruments for democracy assistance, with particular regard to new media and grassroots initiatives in these countries.

Lastly, Members considered that further underlining the uniqueness and added value of the EED and communicating about the subject widely and on a regular basis would increase the EED's fundraising capacity.

EU's new approach to human rights and democracy – evaluating the activities of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) since its establishment

2014/2231(INI) - 09/07/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 395 votes to 86, with 18 abstentions, a resolution on the EU's new approach to human rights and democracy – evaluating the activities of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) since its establishment.

Recalling that the promotion of and support for democracy, the rule of law and respect for the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms are among the core objectives of the EU's foreign policy, Parliament welcomed the EED's track record to date and considered that it is fulfilling its main objective of 'fostering and encouraging democratisation and deep and sustainable democracy in countries in political transition.

General evaluation: Parliament welcomed the EED's consistent engagement in favour of freedom of expression and association, the strengthening of the rule of law, the fight against corruption, and social and political pluralism to support the development of democratic regimes in both the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods. The initiatives taken by the EED have demonstrated its unique capacity to bridge or fill gaps in cases where it has been impossible to obtain financing from EU Member States or non-EU countries.

Financing: Parliament called on the EED founding parties, and especially on all the Member States and the Commission, to contribute, or increase their contributions, to the EED in line with the commitments they have made. As at 26 April 2015, the following countries have pledged and contributed to the EED: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. It stressed that, in order to sustain and further develop the effectiveness of the EED, it is vital to ensure long-term, sufficient, stable, transparent and predictable funding.

Parliament welcomed the financial contributions received by the EED from EU partners such as Switzerland and Canada and called for **an end to earmarking of funds by donors for particular countries or projects**.

Grants and beneficiaries: whilst welcoming the lifting of the initial geographical limitation of the EED, Parliament considered it crucial to ensure sustainable funding for EED recipients in the long run by strengthening complementarity links with other bilateral donors and with European external financing instruments, in particular the EIDHR, which – where appropriate – could take over medium-term financial support for 'mature' EED beneficiaries.

To this end, the Commission is invited to:

- set up a contact group with the goal of identifying the best way for EED beneficiaries to transition to EIDHR financial support;
- come forward with specific proposals for mechanisms for programming interface and cooperation with the EED (in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Further, it called on the EED to further actively engage in countries where the space for external support for civil society is severely hampered.

They welcomed the EED grants offered to Ukrainian actors, which set a good example of swift support for political and civic activists who then become democratically elected representatives. It welcomed the EED support offered to all pro-democracy activists engaged in the EU's neighbourhood, which is intended to sustain the development of consolidated democratic regimes.

Members encouraged the EED to place stronger emphasis on groups suffering from social exclusion or political marginalisation (e.g. women's movements LGBTI human rights activists, persecuted religious minorities and civic activists). They recalled that the church has played a crucial role in opposing communist regimes and in the democratic transformation processes in central and eastern Europe.

Cooperation with the European Parliament: Parliament called for effective links between the EED, the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) and the relevant parliamentary committees. It called for the development of further cooperation between the EED, its beneficiaries and the Sakharov Prize Network.

Whilst calling for enhanced policy coherence of actions financed by the EED, Parliament called for EED to continue to develop new innovative means and instruments for democracy assistance, with particular regard to new media and grassroots initiatives in these countries.

Plenary called for the composition of the EED Board of Governors to represent political groups, on the basis of the D'Hondt system.

Lastly, Parliament considered that further underlining the uniqueness and added value of the EED and communicating about the subject widely and on a regular basis would increase the EED's fundraising capacity.

It should be noted that an alternative motion for a resolution, tabled by the GUE/NGL Group, was rejected in plenary.