Basic information

2015/2002(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Review of the European neighbourhood policy **Subject** 6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	KUKAN Eduard (PPE)	07/10/2014
	Shadow rapporteur CRISTEA Andi (S&D) JUREK Marek (ECR) AUŠTREVIČIUS Petras (ALDE) VAN BAALEN Johannes Cornelis (ALDE) NART Javier (ALDE) SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL) COUSO PERMUY Javier (GUE/NGL) MESZERICS Tamás (Verts/ALE) URTASUN Ernest (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Foreign Affairs	3382	2015-04-20

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	HAHN Johannes

Key events			
Date	**Event**	**Reference**	**Summary**
15/01/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/04/2015	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
11/06/2015	Vote in committee		
19/06/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0194/2015	Summary
08/07/2015	Debate in Parliament		
09/07/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0272/2015	Summary
09/07/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/07/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2002(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/8/02473

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee draft report		PE551.887	22/04/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE557.155	13/05/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE557.192	13/05/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0194/2015	19/06/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0272/2015	09/07/2015	Summary

European Commission			
Document type	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2015)575	01/12/2015	

Review of the European neighbourhood policy

2015/2002(INI) - 19/06/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Eduard KUKAN (EPP, SK) on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

The report stressed that the ENP is an essential part of the EU´s foreign policy and must remain a single policy. An effective ENP is vital to enhance the EU's foreign policy credibility and global positioning.

The Neighbourhood is currently in a **state of flux** due to the increasing number of long-standing and newly emerging security challenges, and is less stable, considerably less secure and facing a more profound economic crisis than when the ENP was launched.

Revised policy: the revised policy should be based on mutual accountability and shared commitment to EU values and principles. Despite the complexities and challenges in practice, the EU must remain steadfastly in support of transition processes in all and any countries and democratisation, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Developments in the region since 2004, but in particular in the last few years, have shown the ENP to be unable to respond adequately and promptly to rapidly changing and challenging circumstances.

This report stressed the importance, **necessity and timeliness of the review of the ENP** and emphasised that the revised ENP should be able to provide a quick, flexible and adequate response to the situation on the ground. According to Members, the ENP should become a stronger, more political and more effective policy.

The report stated that the renewed policy must be more strategic, focused, flexible and coherent, and politically driven. The EU is called upon to formulate a clear and ambitious political vision on the ENP, and to pay special attention to its own political priorities in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods, taking into account the different challenges facing countries in each region.

Resources: Members regret the **limited resources allocated to the EU's cooperation with its partners within its neighbourhood**, notably in comparison with the significantly higher levels of resources invested in ENP countries by stakeholders from third countries. They noted that this undermines the EU' s ability to promote and implement policies that are in line with its strategic interests in its neighbourhood. They stressed the need to streamline support and increase funds in this area as well as the need to strengthen accountability and transparency mechanisms in the partner countries in order to ensure that they have the capacity to absorb and spend the funds in an efficient and meaningful way.

Moreover, Members called for **more coherence and consistency** between the various **EU external financing instruments** and called on the Commission to allocate more resources to the **European Endowment for Democracy** (EED) which complements EU instruments with a new approach that is more flexible and responsive, gap-filling and financially efficient.

Members also considered that the EU's financial and technical assistance should be conditional on successful achievement of tangible benchmarks in the reform process, on the basis of which further support will be allocated.

Reshaping the European Neighbourhood Policy: Members stressed the need to reshape the ENP and for the technical aspects of the policy to be underpinned by a clear political vision. They stressed that enlargement policy and neighbourhood policy are separate policies with different objectives. However, they reiterated that European countries within the ENP, like any European country, can apply for EU membership if they satisfy the criteria and conditions of eligibility and admission under Article 49 TEU. The report underlined the continuous need to focus on strengthening and consolidating democracy, the rule of law, good governance, the independence of the judicial system, the fight

against corruption, respect for women, the rights of LGBTI persons, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities.

Members called for the ENP to be developed into a more **tailor-made and flexible policy framework** that is able to adapt to the diversity that exists among partner countries, and for a consistent implementation of the 'differentiated approach'.

The need for a **strong security component** in the ENP has been stressed as well as for a closer coordination between the ENP and wider Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) activities.

Parliamentary dimension: the parliamentary dimension of the policy needs to be reinforced by enhancing the effectiveness of the interparliamentary meetings and the joint parliamentary bodies established under agreements with the EU, and of the parliamentary assemblies. Members welcomed, in this context, the new approach that Parliament has adopted to parliamentary democracy support. They called for the Parliament to be involved in the implementation of the new ENP and to be kept regularly informed and consulted on its progress in the partner countries.

Assessment and visibility: the EU is called upon to:

- design a **special mechanism for providing EU humanitarian assistance** to the neighbourhood countries that would differ from the model used for third countries worldwide and would ensure high visibility for the EU and its political agenda, among other goals;
- strengthen its capacity to **counter misinformation and propaganda campaigns** against itself and its Member States which are aimed at diminishing their unity and solidarity;
- **strengthen its visibility** in order to show clearly its support for and engagement with and in the partner countries;
- prepare a clear communication strategy for societies in the ENP countries, in order to explain to them the benefits of the Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Trade Areas (DCFTA's), as a tool for modernising their political systems and economies.

Review of the European neighbourhood policy

2015/2002(INI) - 09/07/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 460 votes to 61, with 55 abstentions, a resolution on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Parliament stressed that the ENP is an essential part of the EU´s foreign policy and must remain a single policy. An effective ENP is vital to enhance the EU's foreign policy credibility and global positioning.

The Neighbourhood is currently in a **state of flux** due to the increasing number of long-standing and newly emerging security challenges, and is less stable, considerably less secure and facing a more profound economic crisis than when the ENP was launched.

Revised policy: the revised policy should be based on mutual accountability and shared commitment to EU values and principles. Despite the complexities and challenges in practice, the EU must remain steadfastly in support of transition processes in all and any countries and democratisation, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Developments in the region since 2004, but in particular in the last few years, have shown the ENP to be unable to respond adequately and promptly to rapidly changing and challenging circumstances.

Parliament stressed the importance, **necessity and timeliness of the review of the ENP** and emphasised that the revised ENP should be able to provide a quick, flexible and adequate response to the situation on the ground. According to Members, the ENP should become a stronger, more political and more effective policy.

The resolution stated that the renewed policy must be more strategic, focused, flexible and coherent, and politically driven. The EU is called upon to formulate a clear and ambitious political vision on the ENP, and to pay special attention to its own political priorities in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods, taking into account the different challenges facing countries in each region.

Resources: Members regret the **limited resources allocated to the EU's cooperation with its partners within its neighbourhood**, notably in comparison with the significantly higher levels of resources invested in ENP countries by stakeholders from third countries. They noted that this undermines the EU' s ability to promote and implement policies that are in line with its strategic interests in its neighbourhood. They stressed the need to streamline support and increase funds in this area as well as the need to strengthen accountability and transparency mechanisms in the partner countries in order to ensure that they have the capacity to absorb and spend the funds in an efficient and meaningful way.

Moreover, Parliament called for **more coherence and consistency** between the various **EU external financing instruments** and called on the Commission to **allocate more resources** to the **European Endowment for Democracy** (EED) which complements EU instruments with a new approach that is more flexible and responsive, gap-filling and financially efficient.

Parliament also considered that the EU's financial and technical assistance should be conditional on successful achievement of tangible benchmarks in the reform process, on the basis of which further support will be allocated.

Reshaping the European Neighbourhood Policy: Parliament stressed the need to reshape the ENP and for the technical aspects of the policy to be underpinned by a clear political vision. It stressed that enlargement policy and neighbourhood policy are separate policies with different objectives. However, they reiterated that European countries within the ENP, like any European country, can apply for EU membership if they satisfy the criteria and conditions of eligibility and admission under Article 49 TEU. The resolution underlined the continuous need to focus on strengthening and consolidating democracy, the rule of law, good governance, the independence of the judicial system, the fight against corruption, respect for women, the rights of LGBTI persons, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities.

Parliament called for the ENP to be developed into a more **tailor-made and flexible policy framework** that is able to adapt to the diversity that exists among partner countries, and for a consistent implementation of the 'differentiated approach'. The need for a **strong security component** in the ENP was stressed as well as for a closer coordination between the ENP and wider Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) activities. In this regard, by means of an oral amendment, Parliament called on the **VP/HR to develop proposals** for cooperation with willing European Neighbours based on the model of the European Economic Area, which could constitute a further step in their European perspective, be based on enhanced inclusion in the EU area in terms of freedoms and full integration within the common market, and also include closer cooperation in common foreign and security policy (CFSP).

Parliamentary dimension: the parliamentary dimension of the policy needs to be reinforced by enhancing the effectiveness of the interparliamentary meetings and the joint parliamentary bodies established under agreements with the EU, and of the parliamentary assemblies. Parliament welcomed, in this context, the new approach that it has adopted to parliamentary democracy support. Parliament should be involved in the implementation of the new ENP and be kept regularly informed and consulted on its progress in the partner countries.

Assessment and visibility: the EU is called upon to:

- design a **special mechanism for providing EU humanitarian assistance** to the neighbourhood countries that would differ from the model used for third countries worldwide and would ensure high visibility for the EU and its political agenda, among other goals;
- strengthen its capacity to **counter misinformation and propaganda campaigns** against itself and its Member States which are aimed at diminishing their unity and solidarity;
- **strengthen its visibility** in order to show clearly its support for and engagement with and in the partner countries;
- increase its presence in the partner countries using more interactive audiovisual means and social media in the respective local languages, in order to reach all of society;
- prepare a clear communication strategy for societies in the ENP countries, in order to explain to them the benefits of the Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Trade Areas (DCFTA's), as a tool for modernising their political systems and economies.