Basic information

2016/2036(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Implementation of the common foreign and security policy **Subject** 6.10 Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	BROK Elmar (PPE)	13/10/2015
	Shadow rapporteur FLECKENSTEIN Knut (S&D) TANNOCK Timothy Charles Ayrton (ECR) VAN BAALEN Johannes Cornelis (ALDE) LÖSING Sabine (GUE/NGL) MESZERICS Tamás (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	ARTHUIS Jean (ALDE)	03/02/2016
CULT Culture and Education	DZHAMBAZKI Angel (ECR)	26/02/2016

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
European External Action Service	MOGHERINI Federica

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

10/03/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/11/2016	Vote in committee		
30/11/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0360/2016	Summary
13/12/2016	Debate in Parliament		
14/12/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0503/2016	Summary
14/12/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/12/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2036(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/8/05935

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	CULT	PE578.556	27/04/2016	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE580.697	24/05/2016	
Committee draft report		PE587.509	06/10/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE592.239	18/10/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE592.245	18/10/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0360/2016	30/11/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0503/2016	14/12/2016	Summary

Implementation of the common foreign and security policy

2016/2036(INI) - 14/12/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 433 votes to 174 with 93 votes a resolution on the Annual Report on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

It noted that the European Union faces unprecedented internal and external challenges, and is now surrounded by an **arc of instability**, as large parts of the Middle East and North Africa are engulfed in ethno-religious conflicts and proxy wars. These conflicts have direct and serious consequences for the security and well-being of EU citizens as they increasingly spill over into the EU, be it in the form of terrorism, massive refugee flows, or disinformation campaigns aimed at dividing our societies.

Continuing the EU's success story: noting that the EU is one of the greatest achievements in European history, Parliament welcomed the roadmap and the commitments of the Bratislava summit of 16 September 2016, but felt that the **current challenges demand reform**. Member States must change their mentality since nowadays thinking about foreign policy and security in a narrow minded national perspective is obsolete. Parliament was convinced that no single Member State alone could tackle any of the challenges alone. It urged Member States to finally show **sufficient levels of unity, political will and trust in one another** to make it possible to use the tools at hand in a concerted manner. In this respect, it called for an effective implementation of the **EU Global Strategy** presented by the VP/HR in June 2016, including the appropriate human and financial resources to be allocated by Member States. In addition, Members called on the VP/HR to devise an implementation plan on security and defence, complemented by a White Book process, in order to deliver first results in 2017.

The resolution suggested that EU external action should be based on three pillars: diplomacy, development and defence. It also pointed out how recent crises have **shown the limits of the United Nations,** and called on the EU and its Member States to bring all their weight to bear in an attempt to reform the Security Council, in particular with a view to removing the veto with regard to mass atrocities.

Taking responsibility for security: noting that since **power politics** is again dominating international relations, and defence and deterrence capabilities are critical for leverage in diplomatic talks, Parliament emphasised that the **EU must strengthen its security and defence capabilities.** In view of an already underfinanced EU budget, it felt that additional efforts for operations, administrative costs, preparatory actions and pilot projects under the Common Security and Defence Policy, **additional funding from Member States,** as well as efforts to enhance synergies, are also needed. It called on the Commission and the Member States to seize the opportunity of the current revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) to address the budgetary needs for the growing security challenges.

Furthermore, the instruments provided by the Treaty of Lisbon must finally be implemented, **notably Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).** Members called on the VP/HR to take the lead on this initiative, as well as on other recent proposals, including the following:

- the creation of a **permanent civilian and military headquarter,** with an equally important Military Planning and Conduct Capability and Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability ;
- enhancing the EU's rapid reaction tools, notably by further improving the usability of battlegroups ;
- extending the common financing of CSDP operations, including through an urgent review of the Athena mechanism ;
- setting up a Defence configuration of the Council.

Parliament encouraged the speeding up of the ongoing work on the European Defence Action Plan and the Commission's efforts to maximise defence cooperation, including through incentives in areas such as the internal market, public procurement, research, transport, space, cyber, energy and industrial policies. It noted the proposal by the French President for a European Security and Defence Fund, and supported the development of new and innovative financing and investment concepts, including through the European Investment Bank and public-private partnerships.

Russia: Parliament felt that it is time to define a new, more realistic strategy for the EU's relations with Russia, based on credible deterrence but also on dialogue in areas of common interest, such as counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and trade. It underlined at the same time the importance of investing more into cooperation with and support to Russian civil society, so as to strengthen the long-term basis of EU-Russia relations. It felt that sanctions have proven to be an effective means of deterring further Russian aggression in Ukraine, and insisted that the EU should keep open the option of further gradual sanctions, in particular against high-technology products in the oil and gas, IT and armaments sectors, if Russia continues to violate international law.

ENI: noting that the revised European Neighbourhood Instrument has not lived up to its goals, especially when it comes to the 'more for more' principle, Parliament encouraged consideration of the policy of less for less with regard to those countries which go into reverse in terms of governance, democracy, and human rights.

Building resilience: Parliament took the view that it is necessary to tackle the root causes of instability and forced and irregular migration, namely poverty, the lack of economic opportunities, armed conflict, bad governance, climate change, human rights abuses, inequality and trade policies which do not address these challenges.

On Syria, it highlighted the importance of finding a sustainable solution to the conflict in line with the transition process set out in the Geneva Communiqué and UNSC resolution 2254 (2015), noting that the **bilateral negotiations between Russia and the United States will not be sufficient** to bring about a sustainable response to the Syrian crisis. In addition, the committee made recommendations on West Africa and the Sahel, Turkey and the Middle East.

European diplomacy: Parliament urged the EU to show political leadership in preventive diplomacy and conflict mediation, and welcomed in this regard the role of the EU Conflict Early Warning System, the EEAS Mediation Support Team and the European Institute of Peace.

Lastly, it regretted **the limited budget** of around EUR 320 million (0.2 % of the EU budget) for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), stressing that the budget allocations decided for 2016 remain at the same level as 2015 and that the margin available at the end of March was EUR 170 million. It expressed concern at the shortage of resources available in view of the commitments that will have to be met throughout 2016.

Implementation of the common foreign and security policy

2016/2036(INI) - 30/11/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Elmar BROK (EPP, DE) on the Annual Report on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

Members noted that the European Union faces unprecedented internal and external challenges, and is now surrounded by an **arc of instability**, as large parts of the Middle East and North Africa are engulfed in ethno-religious conflicts and proxy wars. These conflicts have direct and serious consequences for the security and well-being of EU citizens as they increasingly spill over into the EU, be it in the form of terrorism, massive refugee flows, or disinformation campaigns aimed at dividing our societies.

Continuing the EU's success story: noting that the EU is one of the greatest achievements in European history, Members welcomed the roadmap and the commitments of the Bratislava summit of 16 September 2016, but felt that the **current challenges demand reform**. Member States must change their mentality since nowadays thinking about foreign policy and security in a narrow minded national perspective is obsolete. The committee was convinced that no single Member State alone could tackle any of the challenges alone. It urged Member States to finally show **sufficient levels of unity, political will and trust in one another** to make it possible to use the tools at hand in a concerted manner. In this respect, it called for an effective implementation of the **EU Global Strategy** presented by the VP/HR in June 2016, including the appropriate human and financial resources to be allocated by Member States. In addition, Members called on the VP/HR to devise an implementation plan on security and defence, complemented by a White Book process, in order to deliver first results in 2017.

The resolution suggested that EU external action should be based on three pillars: diplomacy, development and defence.

Taking responsibility for security: noting that since **power politics** is again dominating international relations, and defence and deterrence capabilities are critical for leverage in diplomatic talks, Members emphasised that the **EU must strengthen its security and defence capabilities.** In view of an already underfinanced EU budget, they felt that additional efforts for operations, administrative costs, preparatory actions and pilot projects under the Common Security and Defence Policy, **additional funding from Member States,** as well as efforts to enhance synergies, are also needed. They called on the Commission and the Member States to seize the opportunity of the current revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) to address the budgetary needs for the growing security challenges.

Furthermore, the instruments provided by the Treaty of Lisbon must finally be implemented, **notably Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).** Members called on the VP/HR to take the lead on this initiative, as well as on other recent proposals, including the following:

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In a minority report, 4 GUE/NGL Members tabled objections to the report, stating it fostered further EU-militarization, stronger EU-NATO cooperation, and the merger of internal and external security.