Basic information

2017/2041(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed Important notice: The legal basis is Rule 113 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, and not Rule 11 as wrongly indicated below
Recommendation to the Council on the 72nd session of the United Nations 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	KOVATCHEV Andrey (PPE)	30/01/2017
	Shadow rapporteur POST Soraya (S&D) TANNOCK Timothy Charles Ayrton (ECR) KYUCHYUK Ilhan (ALDE) SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL) LOCHBIHLER Barbara (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/03/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/05/2017	Vote in committee		
09/06/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0216/2017	Summary
04/07/2017	Debate in Parliament		
05/07/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0304/2017	Summary
05/07/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/07/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2041(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 121
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/09435

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE601.127	13/03/2017	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE602.963	06/04/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0216/2017	09/06/2017	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0304/2017	05/07/2017	Summary

Recommendation to the Council on the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly

2017/2041(INI) - 09/06/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Andrey KOVATCHEV (EPP, BG) on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council concerning the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The report noted that the EU should play a proactive part in building a United Nations that can contribute effectively to global solutions, peace and security, human rights, development, democracy and a rule-of-law-based international order.

It also noted that the EU and its Member States remain collectively the single largest financial contributor to the UN system, providing almost 50 % of all contributions to the UN.

Members addressed the following recommendations to the Council:

Peace and security: on **borders**, Members called for the full respect of the sovereignty, internationally recognised borders and the territorial integrity of Eastern European and South Caucasus countries, including Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. They urged the international community to implement fully the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea.

They called for lasting sustainable political and peaceful solutions to current conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya. Moreover, the major security threats in the Sahel, Sahara and Lake Chad, the Great Lakes, and Horn of Africa regions should be continued to be addressed with a view to **eradicating the terrorist threat posed by ISIL/Daesh** and al-Qaeda affiliates and by Boko Haram or any other affiliated terrorist groups. Peace measures are called for to solve humanitarian and security crises threatening the African continent, in particular in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mali and Nigeria.

In general, they called for continued efforts to strengthen the practical application of the **principle of accountability to protect** and assist the United Nations to continue its role of supporting countries in their efforts to implement this principle. They also called for the use of all available instruments to enhance compliance by state and non-state actors' actions with international humanitarian law (IHL).

Member States should also significantly increase their support for the UN peacekeeping and peace-building operations.

It is also important to clarify the allegations of sexual abuse by United Nations-related personnel in peacekeeping operations.

Fight against terrorism: while reiterating its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and its full support for actions aimed at defeating and eradicating terrorist organisations, in particular ISIL/Daesh, Members called on the EU to make **counter-terrorism a key element of its prevention agenda.** They called for efforts to be stepped up to clamp down on recruitment and fight terrorist propaganda conducted not only through social media platforms but

also through networks of radicalised hate preachers. They also called for counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation policies in line with the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

The EU should work with the UN General Assembly to combat the financing of terrorism.

Non-proliferation and disarmament: Members insisted on full compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention and to actively take steps towards global disarmament. They promoted the full implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and encouraged all UN Member States to sign and ratify the ATT. Members called for the establishment of a legal framework on drones and armed robots in line with the existing international humanitarian law.

Migration: in general, Members advocated strengthening support for the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in implementing its international mandate to protect refugees, women and children. Measures to protect the rights of LGBTI people are also called for. They also called for greater efforts to prevent irregular migration and to fight smuggling and trafficking in human beings. In this context, they called for reinforced cooperation with third countries to track, seize and recover the proceeds of criminal activities in this sector.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law: Members reiterated that all human rights agreed under UN conventions are **universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated** and that respect for these rights must be enforced. They called for continued efforts to advocate freedom of religion or belief; to call for greater efforts to **protect the rights of religious and other minorities**. They also called for the eradication of all violence and discrimination against women and girls and promoting the support of further actions against violation of LGBTI rights. The role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the international criminal justice system should be strengthened in order to promote accountability and to end impunity. Members called for a strong engagement in promoting an **end to the death penalty worldwide**.

Climate change: Members called on the Union to remain at the forefront of the fight against climate change and cooperate further with the UN in this area. They also called on all UN Member States to uphold the Paris Agreement and to ensure swift implementation of the decisions taken at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference.

EU and reform of the UN system: Members should actively support a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council on the basis of a broad consensus and promote the revitalisation of the work of the UN General Assembly, and improve coordination and coherence of the action of all UN institutions.

Lastly, they urged UN Security Council members to **refrain from using their right of veto** in cases where crimes against humanity are being committed.

Recommendation to the Council on the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly

2017/2041(INI) - 05/07/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 457 votes to 124, with 66 amendments, a resolution containing a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council concerning the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Parliament recalled that the EU should play a proactive part in building a United Nations that can contribute effectively to global solutions, peace and security, human rights, development, democracy and a rule-of-law-based international order.

It also noted that the EU and its Member States remain collectively the single largest financial contributor to the UN system, providing almost 50 % of all contributions to the UN with the EU Member States contributing around 40 % of the UN’s regular budget. EU contributions to the UN should be more visible.

Parliament addressed the following recommendations to the Council:

Peace and security: on **borders**, Parliament called for the full respect of the sovereignty, internationally recognised borders and the territorial integrity of Eastern European and South Caucasus countries, including Georgia, Moldova and **Ukraine**. It called on the international community to reinvigorate diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful and lasting settlement of these ongoing conflicts, including Nagorno-Karabakh, without the use of force. Likewise, it called on the international community to fully implement the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of the Crimea.

Parliament fully supported the efforts undertaken by the United Nations to facilitate a comprehensive settlement to end the division of Cyprus.

It called for lasting sustainable political and peaceful solutions to current conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya. Moreover, the major security threats in the Sahel, Sahara and Lake Chad, the Great Lakes, and Horn of Africa regions should be continued to be addressed with a view to eradicating the terrorist threat posed by ISIL/Daesh and al-Qaeda affiliates and by Boko Haram or any other affiliated terrorist groups. Peace measures are called for to solve humanitarian and security crises threatening the African continent, in particular in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mali and Nigeria.

The ruling of the European Court of Justice on the Western Sahara should be acted upon.

In general, Parliament called for continued efforts to strengthen the practical application of the principle of accountability to protect and assist the United Nations to continue its role of supporting countries in their efforts to implement this principle. It also called for the use of all available instruments to enhance compliance by state and non-state actors' actions with international humanitarian law (IHL).

Member States should also significantly increase their support for the UN peacekeeping and peace-building operations.

It is also important to clarify the allegations of sexual abuse by United Nations-related personnel in peacekeeping operations.

Fight against terrorism: while reiterating its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and its full support for actions aimed at defeating and eradicating terrorist organisations, in particular ISIL/Daesh, Parliament called on the EU to make **counter-terrorism a key element of its prevention agenda.** It called for efforts to be stepped up to clamp down on recruitment and fight terrorist propaganda conducted not only through social media platforms but also through networks of radicalised hate preachers. It also called for counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation policies in line with the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

The EU should work with the UN General Assembly to combat the financing of terrorism.

Non-proliferation and disarmament: Members insisted on full compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention and to actively take steps towards global disarmament. They promoted the full implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and encouraged all UN Member States to sign and ratify the ATT. Members called for the establishment of a legal framework on drones and armed robots in line with the existing international humanitarian law.

Migration: in general, Parliament advocated strengthening support for the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in implementing its international mandate to protect refugees, women and children. Measures to protect the rights of LGBTI people are also called for. Members also called for greater efforts to prevent irregular migration and to fight smuggling and trafficking in human beings. In this context, they called for reinforced cooperation with third countries to track, seize and recover the proceeds of criminal activities in this sector.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law: Parliament urged all States, including EU Member States, to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which establishes complaints and inquiry mechanisms.

Members reiterated that all human rights agreed under UN conventions are **universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated** and that respect for these rights must be enforced. They called for continued efforts to advocate freedom of religion or belief; to call for greater efforts to **protect the rights of religious and other minorities**. They also called for the eradication of all violence and discrimination against women and girls and promoting the support of further actions against violation of LGBTI rights. The role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the international criminal justice system should be strengthened in order to promote accountability and to end impunity. Parliament called for a strong engagement in promoting an **end to the death penalty worldwide**.

It also reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of any act of violence, harassment, intimidation or persecution against human rights defenders, whistle-blowers, journalists or bloggers and advocates the appointment of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the safety of journalists.

Climate change: Parliament called on the Union to remain at the forefront of the fight against climate change and cooperate further with the UN in this area. It also called on all UN Member States to uphold the Paris Agreement and to ensure swift implementation of the decisions taken at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference.

The Union and the reform of the UN system: Parliament actively supports a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council on the basis of a broad consensus to better reflect the new world reality and to respond more effectively to future security challenges. It also urged members of the UN Security Council to refrain from using their right of veto in the presence of crimes against humanity.