Basic information

2017/2276(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
EU-NATO relations **Subject** 6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AFET Foreign Affairs	PAŞCU Ioan Mircea (S&D)	15/01/2018
		Shadow rapporteur DANJEAN Arnaud (PPE) VAN ORDEN Geoffrey (ECR) VAUTMANS Hilde (ALDE) COUSO PERMUY Javier (GUE/NGL) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)	
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	European External Action Service	MOGHERINI Federica	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/01/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/05/2018	Vote in committee		
25/05/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0188/2018	Summary
12/06/2018	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0257/2018	Summary
13/06/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/06/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2276(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/8/11771

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE615.554	21/02/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE620.774	05/04/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0188/2018	25/05/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0257/2018	13/06/2018	Summary

EU-NATO relations

2017/2276(INI) - 13/06/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 569 votes to 84 with 35 abstentions, a resolution on EU-NATO relations.

Members were convinced that the EU and NATO, who share the same values in pursuit of international peace and security, faced **similar strategic challenges**. With 22 members in common, they have converging strategic interests including the protection of their citizens against any threats.

Stronger partnership: Parliament believes that the strategic partnership between the Union and NATO is fundamental to tackle common security challenges. Cooperation between the Union and NATO should be complementary and respectful of the specificities and roles of each of the two organisations.

Convinced that for its members, NATO is the cornerstone of collective defence and deterrence in Europe, Members were also convinced that a stronger EU with a more effective Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), through multiple projects between Member States and capable of honouring the provisions of Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), by which Member States can request assistance, contributes to a stronger NATO.

Parliament stressed the importance of developing a **common European strategic culture** and achieving common threat perception, while the Union must work to strengthen its strategic autonomy. It welcomed the launch of **Permanent Structured Cooperation** (PESCO) and highlighted its potential to strengthen the European contribution within NATO.

The resolution emphasised the need to **strengthen EU-NATO cooperation on missions and operations**, at both the strategic and tactical level, noting that this strategic partnership is equally fundamental for the EU's evolving CSFP and for the future of the Alliance, as well as for EU-UK relations after Brexit. According to the report, after Brexit, 80 % of NATO's defence spending will be non-EU and three out of four battalions in the east will be led by non-EU countries.

US commitment: Members welcomed the re-affirmation of US commitment to NATO and European security. However, recent political developments could have an impact on the strength of the transatlantic relationship. They noted that the US, which generally encouraged and welcomed the substantive developments in EU defence, should continue efforts for a better understanding of European strategic interests, including the development of European defence capabilities.

Main areas of cooperation: Members emphasised the importance of improving NATO's rapid reinforcement capabilities through improving **EU and national infrastructure**, removing bureaucratic and infrastructural barriers to the swift movement of forces and by pre-positioning military equipment and supplies.

Parliament believes that initiatives to strengthen the Europe of Defence should benefit both organizations, thus enabling EU Member States to be able to intervene militarily together, in a credible way, while ensuring implementation of the **principles of openness, reciprocity and full respect for the decision-making autonomy** of both organisations.

The resolution emphasised the need to:

- improve coordination of crisis response mechanisms to respond coherently to **hybrid threats;**
- strengthen **cooperation on the exchange of classified information and intelligence analysis,** particularly in the fight against terrorism but also irregular migration flows. The Union should increase capacity by providing more Union staff with security clearance and specific training to work with classified information, and by investing in secure communications;
- intensify the exchange and sharing of information in the field of **cybersecurity;**
- take into account the importance of **women's role** in CSDP and NATO missions, especially for relations with women and children in conflict zones.

Parliament encouraged all EU Member States that are also members of NATO to redouble their efforts to achieve the **2% of GDP** defence target, and to allocate 20% of this spending to the acquisition of major new equipment.

Lastly, it emphasised the need for the EU to ensure a close security and defence relationship with the **United Kingdom** after Brexit, acknowledging that the UK will remain a lead contributor to European defence as both a NATO member and European nation, while no longer being a member of the EU.

EU-NATO relations

2017/2276(INI) - 25/05/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Ioan Mircea PAŞCU (S&D, RO) on EU-NATO relations.

The EU and NATO are indispensable for ensuring the security of Europe and of their citizens. Their cooperation should not be considered a goal in itself but a way to achieve shared security priorities and goals through complementarity of missions and available means.

More substantive partnership: the EU and NATO, both engaged in crisis management, would be more efficient in that activity if they were to act in a **truly coordinated manner** and make the most of their expertise and resources. Members stressed **openness and transparency** in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations. Moreover, the report noted that cooperation with non-NATO EU Member States and non-EU NATO members is an integral part of EU-NATO cooperation.

Convinced that for its members, NATO is the cornerstone of collective defence and deterrence in Europe, Members are also convinced that a stronger EU with a more effective Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), through multiple projects between Member States and capable of honouring the provisions of Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), by which Member States can request assistance, contributes to a stronger NATO.

They emphasised the need to strengthen EU-NATO cooperation on missions and operations, at both the strategic and tactical level. The EU-NATO strategic partnership is equally fundamental for the EU's evolving CSFP and for the future of the Alliance, as well as for EU-UK relations after Brexit. According to the report, after Brexit, 80 % of NATO's defence spending will be non-EU and three out of four battalions in the east will be led by non-EU countries.

US commitment: Members welcomed the re-affirmation of US commitment to NATO and European security. However, recent political developments could have an impact on the strength of the transatlantic relationship. The report noted that the US, which generally encouraged and welcomed the substantive developments in EU defence, should continue efforts for a better understanding of European strategic interests, including the development of European defence capabilities.

Improved infrastructure and cooperation: Members emphasised the importance of improving NATO's rapid reinforcement capabilities through improving EU and national infrastructure, removing bureaucratic and infrastructural barriers to the swift movement of forces and by pre-positioning military equipment and supplies. They welcomed the launch of **Permanent Structured Cooperation** (**PESCO**) and stressed its potential to strengthen the European contribution within NATO. They highlighted PESCO's complementarity to NATO and that it should be a driver for further EU-NATO cooperation in the development of capabilities as it aims to strengthen the EU's defence capacities and, in general, to make CSDP more effective and relevant for responding to today's security and military challenges.

Members considered that the development of common standards, procedures, **training** and exercises should be considered an important enabler for more efficient EU-NATO cooperation.

Security threats have become more **hybrid and less conventional**, and that international cooperation is required to tackle them. The EU and NATO should further build resilience and develop shared situational awareness of hybrid threats.

The EU should increase its capacity by providing more EU staff with security clearance, dedicated training for working with classified information and by investing in secure communications. Fostering reciprocity and a 'need-to-share' approach to the exchange of appropriate information would also benefit missions and operations of both organisations.

In this regard, Members invited the EU and NATO to enhance their cooperation on strategic communication, especially in the area of **cybersecurity**. There is a need to improve cyber incident prevention, detection and response.

The important role of women in CSDP and NATO missions, in particular in dealing with **women and children** in conflict areas is stressed.

Lastly, Members emphasised the need for the EU to ensure a close security and defence relationship with the United Kingdom after Brexit, acknowledging that the **UK will remain a lead contributor** to European defence as both a NATO member and European nation, while no longer being a member of the EU.