Basic information

2019/2136(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy - annual report **Subject** 6.10 Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AFET Foreign Affairs	MCALLISTER David (EPP)	15/07/2019
		Shadow rapporteur LÓPEZ Javi (S&D) VAUTMANS Hilde (Renew) BÜTIKOFER Reinhard (Greens/EFA) FOTYGA Anna (ECR) RIVIÈRE Jérôme (ID) VILLANUEVA RUIZ Idoia (GUE/NGL)	

European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**
	Budget	OETTINGER Günther

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/10/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/12/2019	Vote in committee		
18/12/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0054/2019	Summary
14/01/2020	Debate in Parliament		
15/01/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0008/2020	Summary
15/01/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		

15/01/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/2136(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/01503

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE641.442	17/10/2019	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE643.168	13/11/2019	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0054/2019	18/12/2019	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0008/2020	15/01/2020	Summary

Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy - annual report

2019/2136(INI) - 18/12/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by David McALLISTER (EPP, DE) on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) - annual report.

In a context where the EU's strategic environment is deteriorating, Members insisted on the need for a stronger Europe that acts on its external relations in a unified manner in order to face the multiple challenges that directly or indirectly affect the security of its Member States: armed conflicts immediately to the east and south of the European continent and fragile states; terrorism – and in particular Jihadism –, cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns; foreign interference in European political and electoral processes, challenges to arms non-proliferation agreements, increased forced displacement and uncontrolled migration flows, strains on Member States' energy supplies and climate change.

Multilateralism at stake: urgent need for a stronger and more united Europe

At a time when competing powers are increasingly challenging the rules-based global order, Members believe that Europe must defend universal values, rules and principles – in particular multilateralism, international law, the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, free and fair trade, non-violent conflict resolution and shared European interests – both outside and inside the EU.

The report stressed that multilateralism is the cornerstone of the Union's foreign and security policy and should be the cornerstone of the Union's efforts to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts by upholding the norms and principles of international law.

While expressing regret that the United States is gradually withdrawing from the rules-based multilateral global order, Members stressed that the transatlantic partnership remains indispensable for security and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic.

They called for an EU foreign policy that unites the European institutions and Member States around a strong common foreign policy at Union level to give it more credibility.

The report stressed the urgent need to increase the EU’s resilience and independence by reinforcing the CFSP that is committed to peace, regional and international security, human rights, social justice, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in the EU, its neighbourhood and throughout the world. It expressed its support for the Commission President's decision to transform the EU executive into a "geopolitical Commission" aspiring to become a credible external actor that will systematically address external policy issues.

Reinforcing the European Parliament as a pillar of the CFSP

Members stressed that the only way for the European Union to deliver its potential is to act and speak with one voice and to gradually bring decision-making from national to supranational level, making full use of the possibilities offered by the European treaties, and respecting the principle of subsidiarity and the competences of the Member States. The European Union should use all available means to achieve this objective, including those offered by parliamentary diplomacy.

In this respect, the report stressed Parliament's powers of supervision and control and called for greater attention to be paid to its reports and resolutions. It stressed the importance of parliamentary assemblies as forums for cooperation and institutional dialogue and highlighted the essential role of EU election observation missions.

Members called for comprehensive information sharing between the Commission and the EEAS to enable Parliament to exercise its scrutiny function effectively, including in the area of CFSP. They called for the strengthening of parliamentary scrutiny and oversight roles over the EU's external action, including in the context of the negotiation process for the future agreement with the United Kingdom. They also called for an increased role of Parliament during the scrutiny and steering of all EU external instruments, including the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for the period 2021-2027 (IPA III).

Strengthening the CFSP to counter global threats

Members considered that qualified majority voting (QMV) would make the EU’s foreign and security policy more effective and would speed up the decision-making process. They called on the Council to make regular use of QMV in the cases envisaged in Article 31(2) of the TEU and on the Council to take up this initiative by making use of the ‘passerelle clause’ contained in Article 31(3) of the TEU. They support a European debate on new formats, such as a European Security Council.

The report called for the strengthening of the capacity of the Union and its Member States to act autonomously in the fields of security and defence, while underlining the important role of NATO, one of the pillars of European security.

In particular, Members recommended:

- integrating climate security concerns and the commitment to global environmental governance into the EU's foreign policy;
- working towards a more coherent internal and external policy, an Arctic strategy and a concrete action plan on the Union's engagement in the Arctic that also takes into account geostrategic and security aspects;
- strengthening support for the EU’s maritime security strategy globally and in its neighbourhood;
- establishing an EU-wide monitoring and control mechanism for arms exports and make multilateral nuclear disarmament a priority of the EU's foreign and security policy; the EU should continue its efforts to rescue the Iranian nuclear agreement;
- promoting a more integrated internal market for defence equipment and a coordinated policy of support for defence research and development;
- stepping up efforts to combat cyber and hybrid threats and develop a comprehensive strategy to combat foreign electoral interference and disinformation in national and European democratic processes, including in the form of state-sponsored Russian propaganda;
- increasing investment in developing reliable artificial intelligence technologies to ensure the EU’s strategic autonomy;
- allocating to civilian and military CSDP missions the human and material resources necessary for peacekeeping and conflict prevention and increase the participation of women and their presence in management positions in these missions.

Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy - annual report

2019/2136(INI) - 15/01/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 454 votes to 148, with 102 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) - annual report.

An effective common foreign policy

In a context where the EU’s strategic environment is deteriorating, Parliament stressed that no single Member State is capable on its own of tackling any of the challenges facing the European continent today: armed conflicts on the eastern and southern borders of the European continent, terrorism - and in particular jihadism, cyber-attacks, foreign interference in European electoral processes, challenges to arms non-proliferation agreements, an increase in forced displacements and uncontrolled migration flows, tensions over Member States' energy supplies and climate change.

Multilateralism at stake: urgent need for a stronger and more united Europe

At a time when competing powers are increasingly challenging the rules-based global order, Members believe that Europe must defend universal values, rules and principles – in particular multilateralism, international law, the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, free and fair trade, non-violent conflict resolution and shared European interests – both outside and inside the EU.

The resolution stressed that multilateralism is the cornerstone of the Union's foreign and security policy and should be the cornerstone of the Union's efforts to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts by upholding the norms and principles of international law.

While expressing regret that the United States is gradually withdrawing from the rules-based multilateral global order, Members stressed that the transatlantic partnership remains indispensable for security and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic.

Parliament called for an EU foreign policy that unites the European institutions and Member States around a strong common foreign policy at Union level. It supported the Commission President's decision to transform the EU's executive into a 'geopolitical Commission' aspiring to become a credible external actor that will systematically address foreign policy issues.

Members stated that the EU should rely more on trade and development instruments such as bilateral and free trade agreements with third countries, making ratification of an agreement conditional on the signature of the Paris Agreement and respect for fundamental European values. In order to maintain its external credibility, the EU should also make its agreements with third countries conditional on respect for human rights clauses and enforce those clauses.

Reinforcing the European Parliament as a pillar of the CFSP

Parliament recalled its duty and responsibility to exercise democratic scrutiny over the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The resolution stressed Parliament's powers of supervision and control and called for greater attention to be paid to its reports and resolutions. It stressed the importance of parliamentary assemblies as forums for cooperation and institutional dialogue and highlighted the essential role of EU election observation missions.

Members called for comprehensive information sharing between the Commission and the EEAS to enable Parliament to exercise its scrutiny function effectively, including in the area of CFSP. They called for the strengthening of parliamentary scrutiny and oversight roles over the EU's external action, including in the context of the negotiation process for the future agreement with the United Kingdom. They also called for an increased role of Parliament during the scrutiny and steering of all EU external instruments, including the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for the period 2021-2027 (IPA III).

Strengthening the CFSP to counter global threats

Parliament welcomed the decision taken by the President of the Commission to establish, within five years, a genuine and operational European Defence Union and called for transparent exchanges with Parliament and the Member States to this end. It considered that qualified majority voting would enhance the effectiveness of the EU's foreign and security policy and speed up the decision-making process. It supported a European debate on new formats, such as a European Security Council.

Parliament called for the strengthening of the capacity of the Union and its Member States to act autonomously in the fields of security and defence, while underlining the important role of NATO, one of the pillars of European security.

In particular, Members recommended:

- integrating climate security concerns and the commitment to global environmental governance into the EU's foreign policy;
- working towards a more coherent internal and external policy, an Arctic strategy and a concrete action plan on the Union's engagement in the Arctic that also takes into account geostrategic and security aspects;
- strengthening support for the EU's maritime security strategy globally and in its neighbourhood;
- establishing an EU-wide monitoring and control mechanism for arms exports and make multilateral nuclear disarmament a priority of the EU's foreign and security policy; the EU should continue its efforts to rescue the Iranian nuclear agreement;
- promoting a more integrated internal market for defence equipment and a coordinated policy of support for defence research and development;
- stepping up efforts to combat cyber and hybrid threats and develop a comprehensive strategy to combat foreign electoral interference and disinformation in national and European democratic processes, including in the form of state-sponsored Russian propaganda;
- increasing investment in developing reliable artificial intelligence technologies to ensure the EU's strategic autonomy;
- allocating to civilian and military CSDP missions the human and material resources necessary for peacekeeping and conflict prevention and increase the participation of women and their presence in management positions in these missions.

Lastly, Parliament called for a credible EU enlargement strategy in the Western Balkans, rooted in strict and fair conditionality in accordance with the application of the Copenhagen criteria, and which remains for foreign policy reasons an important tool for promoting security by enhancing the resilience of countries in a region of strategic importance to the EU.