

Basic information	
2020/2207(INI)	Procedure completed
INI - Own-initiative procedure	
Implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy - annual report 2020	
Subject	
6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs		
		Shadow rapporteur DANJEAN Arnaud (EPP) GROŠELJ Klemen (Renew) RIVIÈRE Jérôme (ID) DEMIREL Özlem (GUE/NGL)	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
22/10/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/12/2020	Vote in committee		
15/12/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0265/2020	Summary
19/01/2021	Debate in Parliament		
20/01/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0013/2021	Summary
20/01/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/01/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2020/2207(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/9/04210

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE657.487	12/11/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE660.086	18/11/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE660.087	18/11/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0265/2020	15/12/2020	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0013/2021	20/01/2021	Summary

Implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy - annual report 2020

2020/2207(INI) - 15/12/2020 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Sven MIKSER (S&D, EE) on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy – annual report 2020.

Members stressed that given the current, increasing multi-faceted threats to global regional and national security and stability the EU is facing, a more robust Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is needed in order to play a stronger and more relevant role on the international stage.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the EU's vulnerability and its dependency on third countries. Therefore, there is a need to provide a common formal definition of strategic autonomy and intensify the EU's efforts towards this goal.

Strengthening cooperation with Strategic Partners

The report noted the level of cooperation between NATO and EU in assisting civilian authorities in containing and stopping the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they are called on to enhance the mutually reinforcing cooperation including between missions and operations, and to deepen their Strategic Partnership.

More effective EU security and defence cooperation should be regarded as a factor that strengthens the European pillar of NATO and as the EU taking up a bigger part in ensuring its own security.

Members stressed the need for EU-NATO cooperation with a view to achieving a common effective approach to threats to maritime security, such as cross-border and organised crime, including organised crime networks facilitating human, arms and drug trafficking, smuggling, maritime piracy.

While welcoming the progress of the EU-UN partnership, Member States are urged to contribute more to UN peacekeeping.

The report reaffirmed that, despite Brexit, the United Kingdom remains a close strategic partner of the EU and its Member States and that it is essential to maintain strong, close defence and security cooperation. The UK is encouraged to participate in CSDP missions and operations.

Increasing the EU's resilience and preparedness

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed new global fragilities and tensions and amplified existing ones. In this regard, the EU is called on to enhance its role on the international scene, for more European unity, solidarity and resilience, for a more cohesive foreign policy with effective multilateralism as a central element.

Proactively countering and preventing hybrid threats

The EU and its Member States are urged to develop and strengthen the security of their information and communication systems, including secure communication channels. There is an urgent need for the EU to introduce a more robust strategy to detect and proactively counter aggressive and malicious disinformation campaigns against it coming from third countries and non-state actors.

Given the growing importance of space security and satellites, Members stressed the importance of the European Union Satellite Centre and commissions the agency to analyse and provide a report regarding the safety and/or vulnerabilities of the EU and Member-State satellites to space debris, cyberattack and direct missile attack.

Giving the Union the means to implement CSDP

Members regretted the European Council's current lack of ambition in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for security and defence initiatives. They urged the Council to restore an ambitious budget for the EDF that is designed to strengthen collaborative actions and cross-border cooperation throughout the EU for military mobility.

The report called for the EU to build its own ballistic missiles defence system, as well as an integrated and layered strategic air defence system, that is also designed to counter hypersonic missiles.

Setting up an ambitious EU agenda for global arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament

Recalling that effective international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation regimes are a cornerstone of global and European security and stability, Members expressed alarm at the current threats to international values and rule-of-law and potential future erosion of the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. It feared that non-compliance with, withdrawal from, or the non-extension of, major arms control treaties would seriously damage the international arms control regimes that have provided decades of stability, would undermine relationships between nuclear-armed states could directly threaten European security.

Members stressed the urgent need to restore cross-border trust. They are convinced that as the EU is increasingly ambitious in the defence area, there is a need for greater convergence, transparency and consistency in the Member States' arms export policies, as well as for the strengthening of public oversight.

Implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy - annual report 2020

2020/2207(INI) - 20/01/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 387 votes to 180, with 119 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) - Annual Report 2020.

Members stressed that given the current and growing multifaceted threats to the EU's regional and national security and stability, a stronger Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is needed in order to play a more relevant role on the international stage.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the vulnerability of the EU and its dependence on third countries. Parliament therefore called on the Council to give a common formal definition of strategic autonomy and to define very clearly the objectives, means and resources for its implementation.

Preserving stability in the immediate neighbourhood

Members stressed the primary geopolitical importance for the Union of sustainable regional stability, security and prosperity and preventing destabilising processes in its neighbourhood, both East and South and the Arctic.

Parliament reiterated its condemnation of Russia's military intervention and illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula and the perpetuation of the frozen conflict in Moldova, stressing the need for the EU to speak with one voice in this context. It expressed concern about the recent escalation of tensions in some potential flashpoints in the Indo-Pacific region, such as the disputed border between India and China, the East and South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. In addition, it expressed concern about Turkey's illegal activities and threats of military action against Member States in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Enhancing the effectiveness of CSDP missions and operations in an unpredictable and destabilised environment

Parliament called on Member States to increase their contribution of forces and assets to all CSDP missions and operations, in particular by addressing existing shortfalls, as the issue of financing CSDP missions and operations is crucial for their sustainability.

Parliament recognised the contribution made by civilian and military CSDP missions to maintaining peace and stability, strengthening international security and supporting third countries in the fight against terrorism. It urged the EU to enhance its institutional capacity for conflict prevention and mediation. It called for a more pro-active approach in resolution of protracted conflicts in the immediate EU's neighbourhood and called for conflict-sensitive and people-centred approaches that put human security and rights at the core of EU engagement.

Developing effective CSDP capabilities

Parliament stressed that it was crucial to enhance the coherence and coordination of all EU defence planning instruments and capability development tools and initiatives. It called on Member States to increase their defence spending to reach a target of 2% of GDP.

Strengthening cooperation with strategic partners

Parliament recalled that NATO remains the cornerstone of collective defence for those Member States that are also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. EU-NATO cooperation should be complementary and take full account of each of the two institution's specific features and roles and should avoid any unnecessary duplication or replacement of structures.

Members stressed the importance of further strengthening the EU-NATO partnership in the field of military mobility and of organising joint training and exercises between European armed forces.

While welcoming the progress of the EU-UN partnership, Member States are urged to contribute more to UN peacekeeping.

Parliament reaffirmed that, despite Brexit, the United Kingdom remains a close strategic partner of the EU and its Member States and that it is essential to maintain strong, close defence and security cooperation. The UK is encouraged to participate in CSDP missions and operations.

Proactively countering and preventing hybrid threats

Parliament welcomed the set of priorities and guidelines adopted for EU cooperation in the field of countering hybrid threats and enhancing resilience to these threats. It called on the EU and its Member States to strengthen the security of their information and communication channels. It stressed the urgent need for the EU to introduce a more robust strategy to detect and proactively counter aggressive and malicious disinformation campaigns against it coming from third countries and non-state actors.

Global arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament

Recalling that effective international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation regimes are a cornerstone of global and European security and stability, Members expressed concern that non-compliance, withdrawal or non-renewal of key arms control treaties would seriously undermine international arms control regimes, jeopardise relations between nuclear-weapon states and directly threaten European security.

Giving the EU the means to implement CSDP

Members regretted the European Council's current lack of ambition in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for security and defence initiatives. They urged the Commission to present and implement an ambitious strategic work programme for the European Development Fund that is designed to strengthen collaborative actions and cross-border cooperation throughout the EU and for military mobility.

The EU is called on to build its own ballistic missiles defence system, as well as an integrated and layered strategic air defence system, that is also designed to counter hypersonic missiles.