

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2166(INI)	Procedure completed
The European Civilian Peace Corps		
Subject 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	V GAHRTON Per	24/09/1998

Key events			
15/07/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0791/1998	
17/07/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/01/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
20/01/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0047/1999	
10/02/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0090/1999	Summary
10/02/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/05/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2166(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/10354

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		B4-0791/1998	15/07/1998	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0047/1999 OJ C 150 28.05.1999, p. 0005	20/01/1999	EP	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0090/1999 OJ C 150 28.05.1999, p. 0153-0164	10/02/1999	EP	Summary
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The European Civilian Peace Corps

The idea of setting up a European Civilian Peace Corps (ECPC) was backed by MEPs at a meeting of the Committee. The committee voted to adopt a report by Per GAHRTON (Greens, S) proposing that Parliament adopt a recommendation to the Council on this subject. The Early Warning Unit would be instructed to examine and identify cases in which an ECPC could be used. The report's basic assumption is that a purely military response to cases of conflict is in many cases insufficient and will not bring about real reconciliation between the belligerent parties. The committee believes that an ECPC should be seen as an additional instrument of the EU for underpinning its external action in the field of conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution. In no way should the ECPC be seen as an alternative to ordinary peace-keeping missions. Although the EU's experience of setting up the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) in former Yugoslavia could be used as a first step on the way to establishing an ECPC, the report says the Kosovo experience shows that "the inadequate deployment of unarmed observers ... may also have politically undesirable consequences", e.g. because it is easy to take such observers hostage. ?

The European Civilian Peace Corps

The own-initiative report by Per Gahrton (V,SE) recommending the establishment of a European Civil Peace Corps (ECPC) was adopted without debate by the European Parliament. The report recommends that the Council should conduct a feasibility study of establishing such a Corps within the framework of a stronger and more effective Common Foreign and Security Policy and, in so doing, consider the possibility of a range of practical peace-making measures. The Parliament also requests a hearing to evaluate the role played by NGOs in the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the prevention of violence in the former Yugoslavia and Caucasia. It further recommends that the Council should make minimum, flexible arrangements for reviewing, mobilising and possibly coordinating NGO and Member State resources and should instruct the Early Warning Unit to identify where the ECPC could be used. Finally, the European Parliament requests a report about the role and future perspectives and limitations of the European Community Monitoring Mission, considering the experience gained through such a body to be a possible first step on the way to establishing an ECPC.?