

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2009/2000(INI)	Procedure completed
European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 64th Session of the UN 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		16/12/2008
		ALDE LAMBSDORFF Alexander Graf	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development		05/11/2008
		PSE KINNOCK Glenys	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	External Relations	FERRERO-WALDNER Benita	

Key events			
08/01/2009	Non-legislative basic document published	B6-0034/2009	Summary
05/02/2009	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/03/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
13/03/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0132/2009	
24/03/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/03/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0150/2009	Summary
24/03/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2000(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/6/71375

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		B6-0034/2009	08/01/2009	EP	Summary
Committee draft report		PE419.867	03/02/2009	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE420.198	18/02/2009	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE418.091	19/02/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0132/2009	13/03/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0150/2009	24/03/2009	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2009)3060	04/06/2009	EC	

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly

PURPOSE: to present a proposal for a recommendation to the Council on the European Union priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly.

CONTENT: pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure, Alexander Graf LAMBSORFF (ALDE, DE) proposes a draft recommendation to the Council on behalf of the ALDE Group on the priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly.

MEPs recall that the EU's foreign policy is based on strong and unequivocal support for effective multilateralism, as embodied in the UN Charter. They stress that the EU is a key political and financial partner of the UN in fighting poverty and promoting economic and social development, providing collective security, including protecting the livelihood of endangered populations, and upholding human rights throughout the world. Moreover, they note that, with regard to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), EU efforts serve as an important catalyst and an example to other donors but will nevertheless, if current trends are not reversed, still fall short, by EUR 75 billion, of the EU's official development aid commitments by 2010.

MEPs make the following recommendations to the Council:

- the EU's political priorities for the next UN General Assembly session should be the subject of an in-depth, wide-ranging debate between Parliament, the Council and the Commission;
- the Council's formal position on the priorities for the UN General Assembly should be regarded by the Permanent Representations of EU Member States in New York as a binding political platform to be used in negotiations with other countries;
- the Council and the Commission should study in depth the implications which the Treaty of Lisbon has for the EU's future representation at the UN, and that the EU Member States commit themselves clearly and unequivocally to ensuring that the EU enjoys adequate visibility and authority within the UN bodies and fora.
- the Member states should remain engaged in the preparations for the 2009 Durban Review Conference and ensure that the Conference provides the opportunity for all stakeholders to renew their determination and commitment to fight racism, racial and caste discrimination, xenophobia and all other forms of intolerance. They should also adopt concrete benchmarks with a view to the eradication of racism, on the basis of, and fully respecting, the Durban Declaration and the Programme of Action.

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Alexander Graf LAMBSORFF (ALDE, DE) containing a series of recommendations to the Council on the EU priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Overall, MEPs ask the Union to present itself within the United Nations system as an honest broker between the interests and values of different membership groups in order to promote common understanding and greater cohesion around the three closely interconnected pillars on which the UN rests, namely peace and security, economic and social development and human rights.

MEPs recommend that the Council take the following approach as regards the following issues:

Peace and security: MEPs ask for the Council to foster the debate initiated by the UN Secretary-General about the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle. MEPs also encourage the African Union to further develop its crisis management capabilities, and

call on both EU and UN actors to support these efforts and to deepen the cooperation with the African Union in the establishment of peace and security on the African continent. They urge the EU Member States to make the necessary efforts so that the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism can be concluded.

Human rights: MEPs call on the UN Secretary-General to report to the UNGA's 65th session about Member States' compliance with the ban on the death penalty for juveniles and to include in his report information on the number of juvenile offenders currently sentenced to death and the number executed during the last five years. They call on the Council to promote and support efforts towards ensuring that the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime is subject to transparent and equitable procedures, particularly by introducing an effective notification procedure and by establishing an independent judicial review, in line with the case-law of the European Court of Justice. They urge the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee to cooperate with the relevant UN human rights bodies, in order to monitor continuously compliance with obligations under international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Once again, MEPs insist that all UN members ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

UN reform: MEPs call on the Council to develop EU coordination, including donor coordination, in relations with UN agencies, funds and programmes at headquarters as well as at country level, including by participating in UN-led multi-donor funds.

Environment: MEPs encourage the debate on the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen in order to build consensus on and momentum behind the adoption of a new international agreement on climate change for the period post-2012. They propose, that in this context, support should be rallied for a financial and technological package targeted at developing countries in order to facilitate their endorsement of a new binding agreement. In addition, MEPs endorse the adoption by the next UNGA of a more coherent structure for global environmental governance, as advocated by the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, a governance system which is capable of facing the enormous challenges ahead.

Global governance: MEPs consider that it is necessary to use the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council as an opportunity to focus on points of convergence and achieve tangible progress regarding the clarification of the Security Council's competences in relation to other UN bodies, the addition of new permanent and non-permanent members – possibly on a temporary basis – so as to improve the Security Council's representativeness and legitimacy, and the review of working methods of the Security Council. They emphasise that an EU seat in the Security Council remains the long-term goal of the European Union.

Non-proliferation and disarmament: MEPs call on the Council to promote conditions for a successful 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), notably by endorsing and promoting the proposed Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. They call on it to achieve consensus around the proposed Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. They should also engage multilaterally and bilaterally with UN Member States in order to relaunch the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Management reform: MEPs request that full use of its financial leverage in the UN should be made in order to ensure that the budget for 2010-2011 better addresses the pressing operational needs of that organisation. MEPs call for a clear link to be established between better representation within the different UN bodies and a fairer sharing of the financial burden.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): MEPs consider that the EU should exercise global leadership in galvanising international action to deliver on the MDG pledges in view of the growing evidence that the world is falling far short of the promises made in relation to the MDGs. They advocate, in tandem with all these initiatives, signing up to the principles enshrined in the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, and to the Accra Agenda for Action, in order to improve the quality and delivery of aid. They invite the Commission to report on the progress made in implementing MDG contracts and encourage other donors to deliver more of their aid on a long-term, predictable basis in the form of budget support.

In conclusion, MEPs urge EU Member States to follow up on their commitment to effective multilateralism by ensuring the systematic and swift ratification of all UN conventions and treaties. Other issues concerning national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies are also covered.

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly

The European Parliament adopted by 521 votes to 38, with 67 abstentions, a resolution addressing a series of recommendations to the Council on the EU priorities for the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Parliament asks the Union to present itself within the United Nations system as an honest broker between the interests and values of different membership groups in order to promote common understanding and greater cohesion around the three closely interconnected pillars on which the UN rests, namely peace and security, economic and social development and human rights.

Parliament recommends that the Council take the following approach as regards the following issues:

- **Peace and security:** Parliament asks for the Council to foster the debate initiated by the UN Secretary-General about the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle. Parliament also encourages the African Union to further develop its crisis management capabilities, and calls on both EU and UN actors to support these efforts and to deepen the cooperation with the African Union in the establishment of peace and security on the African continent. It urges the EU Member States to make the necessary efforts so that the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism can be concluded.
- **Human rights:** Parliament calls on the Council to uphold clearly in all resolutions debated and adopted in the UNGA the tenets of international humanitarian law and condemn unequivocally any violation thereof, especially regarding the safety and security of UN and other humanitarian workers. Parliament calls on the UN Secretary-General to report to the UNGA's 65th session about Member States' compliance with the ban on the death penalty for juveniles and to include in his report information on the number of juvenile offenders currently sentenced to death and the number executed during the last five years. It calls on the Council to promote and support efforts towards ensuring that the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime is subject to transparent and equitable procedures, particularly by introducing an effective notification procedure and by establishing an independent judicial review, in line with the case-law of the European Court of Justice. It urges the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee to cooperate

with the relevant UN human rights bodies, in order to monitor continuously compliance with obligations under international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Once again, Parliament insists that all UN members ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- Environment: Parliament encourages the debate on the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen in order to build consensus on and momentum behind the adoption of a new international agreement on climate change for the period post-2012. It proposes that, in this context, support should be rallied for a financial and technological package targeted at developing countries in order to facilitate their endorsement of a new binding agreement. Parliament also endorses the adoption by the next UNGA of a more coherent structure for global environmental governance.
- Global governance: Parliament considers that it is necessary to use the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council as an opportunity to focus on points of convergence and achieve tangible progress regarding the clarification of the Security Council's competences in relation to other UN bodies, the addition of new permanent and non-permanent members ? possibly on a temporary basis ? so as to improve the Security Council's representativeness and legitimacy, and the review of working methods of the Security Council. It emphasises that an EU seat in the Security Council remains the long-term goal of the European Union.
- Non-proliferation and disarmament: Parliament calls on the Council to promote conditions for a successful 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT), notably by endorsing and promoting the proposed Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. It also calls on it to achieve consensus around the proposed Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. It should also engage multilaterally and bilaterally with UN Member States in order to relaunch the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- Management reform: Parliament requests that full use of its financial leverage in the UN should be made in order to ensure that the budget for 2010-2011 better addresses the pressing operational needs of that organisation. It calls for a clear link to be established between better representation within the different UN bodies and a fairer sharing of the financial burden.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Parliament considers that the Union should exercise global leadership in galvanising international action to deliver on the MDG pledges in view of the growing evidence that the world is falling far short of the promises made in relation to the MDGs. It advocates, in tandem with all these initiatives, signing up to the principles enshrined in the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, and to the Accra Agenda for Action, in order to improve the quality and delivery of aid. It uses the occasion of the 64th UNGA to report on the progress made towards meeting the benchmarks set out in the EU Agenda for Action on MDGs. Overall, recalling that the value of existing EU aid commitments will fall by nearly USD 12 billion a year (because they are expressed as a percentage of Member States' GDP), Parliament encourages other donors to deliver more of their aid on a long-term, predictable basis in the form of budget support.

Recalling that the European Union indicated, in its Statement to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) of 19 September 2008, that the following four elements of the outcome document for the Durban Review Conference would be unacceptable (the so-called EU "red lines"): (1) singling out one region of the world in particular; (2) reopening the 2001 Durban declaration by inserting a prohibition against "defamation of religion", designed to restrict free speech and impose the censorship inherent in Islamic anti-blasphemy laws; (3) drawing up an order of priority among victims; and (4) politicising or polarising the discussion, the European Parliament calls on Member States to reconsider their participation in the Durban Review Conference in Geneva in April 2009 if the breach of all four "red lines" is confirmed in subsequent negotiations leading up to the Conference.

Lastly, Parliament urges the Member States to follow up on their commitment to effective multilateralism by ensuring the systematic and swift ratification of all UN conventions and treaties.