

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2013/2626(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on preparations for the European Council meeting (19-20 December 2013)		
Subject 8.40.14 European Council		

Key players			
European Parliament			
Council of the European Union			
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	3276	03/12/2013
	General Affairs	3274	19/11/2013
	Foreign Affairs	3273	18/11/2013
European Commission			
	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Secretariat-General	BARROSO José Manuel	

Key events			
18/11/2013	Debate in Council	3273	
19/11/2013	Debate in Council	3274	
03/12/2013	Debate in Council	3276	
11/12/2013	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/12/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0597/2013	Summary
12/12/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/12/2013	Additional information		Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/2626(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B7-0560/2013	09/12/2013	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0565/2013	09/12/2013	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0566/2013	09/12/2013	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0584/2013	09/12/2013	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0597/2013	12/12/2013	EP	Summary

Resolution on preparations for the European Council meeting (19-20 December 2013)

The European Parliament adopted by 423 votes to 135 with 15 abstentions, a resolution on preparations for the European Council meeting (19-20 December 2013). The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, and ALDE groups.

On the Banking Union: noting that the restoration of financial credibility needs to be completed by a true Banking Union, Parliament insisted that the Community method was the appropriate approach for dealing with the regulation of financial services and the Banking Union. It reminded the European Council that the Single Resolution Mechanism should be agreed before the end of the current legislative term, and that the negotiations on the Deposit Guarantee Directive and the recovery and resolution framework be concluded successfully before the end of 2013.

On deepening EMU: since better economic policy coordination was needed in order to enhance competitiveness, and job creation in the EU, Parliament called on the European Council to make a political commitment with regard to legislative preparation of better economic policy coordination, with Parliament agreeing the key features before the end of the current legislative term.

Furthermore, it called for the following:

- a legal act on convergence guidelines be adopted under the ordinary legislative procedure, laying down, for a set period, a very limited number of targets for the most urgent reform measures;
- Member States to ensure that the national reform programmes, which should be established on the basis of the aforementioned convergence guidelines and verified by the Commission, to be discussed and adopted by their national parliaments;
- Member States to commit themselves to fully implementing their national reform programmes, as verified, and entering into a convergence partnership with the EU institutions, with the possibility of conditional funding for reform activities;
- any additional funding or instruments, such as a solidarity mechanism, to be an integral part of the EU budget, but outside the agreed multiannual financial framework (MFF) ceilings;

On defence policy: in a rapidly changing and volatile geostrategic environment marked by the US rebalancing towards the Asia-Pacific region, Parliament felt that the EU needed to assume its responsibility as a global political player and a credible security provider, particularly in its neighbourhood. The only way for the heads of state and government to address these geopolitical trends and the uncoordinated decline in defence spending was to accelerate the coordination of defence cooperation.

Members called on the European Council to implement the suggestions made in Parliaments reports on the [Common Foreign and Security Policy](#), [the Common Security and Defence Policy](#) (CSDP) and the [European Defence Technological and Industrial Base \(EDTIB\)](#).

They underlined the fact that the Lisbon Treaty introduced several new instruments relating to the CSDP, such as permanent structured cooperation among Member States, the start-up fund and the possibility of entrusting CSDP missions and operations in particular to that group of Member States. These had not been put into practice, and Parliament called on the Council to take full advantage of these instruments. It stated its support for the creation of a Council of Defence Ministers to give defence the weight it deserves.

Parliament highlighted the need for the following:

- the importance of launching a process of strategic reflection with a view to defining EU objectives and priorities and setting out a roadmap, with timelines, for deeper defence cooperation (a White Book that would serve as a framework to reflect on national processes);
- support for a robust EDTIB which could overcome the fragmentation, and enhance the creativity and strength, of European industries through closer coordination of the planning of national defence budgets (potentially through the setting-up of a European Semester for defence issues) and closer coordination at the industry level (harmonisation of standards and certification of defence equipment);
- enhanced cooperation in the field of armament, notably by empowering the European Defence Agency to play its full role in promoting coordination, and prioritising investment in technologies (including strategic enablers such as air-to-air refuelling, satellite communication, strategic airlift, remotely piloted air systems, cyber defence and the Single European Sky), agreeing on the greater use of coalitions of the willing / core groups, and finding a workable solution for the use of Battlegroups;
- further incentives and support for the defence industry, with a commitment to the development of key defence technologies and systems (tax incentives, financial support for research and development, and the institutionalisation of synergies between civilian

and military capabilities);

· significantly deeper cooperation between Member States and coordination on those aspects of defence which are relevant for an effective CSDP, with a much more ambitious pooling and sharing process;

Members emphasised that the EU's strength, as compared with other organisations, lies in its unique potential to mobilise the full range of political, economic, development and humanitarian instruments under the roof of a single political authority – the VP/HR – and that this comprehensive approach, whether through its soft power or through more robust actions, gave it unique and widely appreciated flexibility and efficiency.

Lastly, Members stated that they were deeply concerned about the political situation in Ukraine in the aftermath of the Vilnius Summit and called on the Council to address it.

Resolution on preparations for the European Council meeting (19-20 December 2013)

See also the [conclusions](#) of the European Council (19-20 December 2013).