



Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2018/2237(INI)
Procedure completed	
Recommendation for a Council decision establishing a European Peace Facility	
Subject 6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	 Foreign Affairs		11/07/2018	
		 VAUTMANS Hilde		
		Shadow rapporteur		
		 DANJEAN Arnaud		
		 FRUNZULICĂ Doru-Claudian		
		 JUREK Marek		
		 MESZERICS Tamás		
European Commission	Commission DG External Relations	Commissioner MOGHERINI Federica		

Key events			
25/10/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/02/2019	Vote in committee		
07/03/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0157/2019	Summary
27/03/2019	Debate in Parliament		
28/03/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
28/03/2019	Decision by Parliament	T8-0330/2019	Summary
28/03/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2018/2237(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 118
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/14680

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE629.525	07/11/2018	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE632.922	17/01/2019	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A8-0157/2019	07/03/2019	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T8-0330/2019	28/03/2019	EP	Summary

Recommendation for a Council decision establishing a European Peace Facility

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Hilde VAUTMANS (ALDE, BE) on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with the support of the Commission, to the Council for a Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility.

The European Peace Facility

Members recalled that the European Peace Facility is expected to give the Union the capacity to contribute directly to the financing of peace support operations led by third countries, as well as relevant international organisations, on a global scale and not only in Africa.

The proposed Facility will replace the Athena mechanism and the African Peace Facility. It will complement the Capacity Building for Security and Development initiative by financing the costs of EU defence activities such as AU peace-keeping missions, common costs of own military CSDP operations, and military capacity building of partners, which are excluded from the EU budget.

Operations carried out under the Facility must comply with the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and respect international humanitarian and human rights law.

Recommendations

In general, Members recommended, inter alia:

- work towards the establishment of a mechanism within the European Parliament to provide timely access, according to strictly defined parameters, to information, including original documents, on the annual budget of the European Peace Facility, amending budgets, transfers, action programmes, implementation of assistance measures, agreements with implementing actors, reports on the implementation of revenue and expenditure, as well as to the annual accounts, financial statements, evaluation reports and the annual report of the Court of Auditors;
- to agree to include access to all confidential documents in the negotiations for the updated Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the Council concerning access of Parliament to sensitive information of the Council in the field of security and defence policy;
- to ensure that operations, action programmes, ad hoc assistance measures and other operational actions funded by the Facility will not in any way violate or be used to violate the fundamental principles laid down in Article 21 of the TEU or be used to violate international law, in particular international humanitarian and human rights law.

The committee proposed to insert a number of amendments into the proposal. It also recommended that the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

- consult Parliament on the recommended amendments, and to ensure that Parliament's views are taken into consideration;
- implement Parliament's views when preparing proposals for multi-year action programmes or ad hoc assistance measures, including by withdrawing proposals that are opposed by Parliament;
- submit draft Council decisions relating to the European Peace Facility to Parliament for consultation at the same time as they are submitted to the Council or to the Political and Security Committee;
- ensure complementarity with existing EU funds, programmes and instruments, the consistency of the European Peace Facility with all other aspects of the EU's external action;
- provide regular feedback to Parliament on the progress made in implementing Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, and to consult Parliament on the recommended gender component focusing on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- ensure the consistency of the European Peace Facility with all other aspects of the EU's external action, including its development and humanitarian policies.

Recommendation for a Council decision establishing a European Peace Facility

The European Parliament adopted by 328 votes to 80, with 67 abstentions, a European Parliament recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with the support of the Commission, to the Council for a Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility.

A financial instrument for peacebuilding

The European Peace Facility (EPF) should yield synergies and efficiency gains through a comprehensive approach to the operational financing of current external action where funding from the EU budget is not possible. In particular, the EPF should finance EU military missions, strengthen the military and defence capabilities of third countries and regional or international organisations, and contribute to the financing of peace support operations carried out by a regional or international organisation or by third countries.

The proposed Facility will replace the Athena mechanism and the African Peace Facility. It will complement the Capacity Building for Security and Development initiative by financing the costs of EU defence activities such as AU peace-keeping missions, common costs of own military CSDP operations, and military capacity building of partners, which are excluded from the EU budget.

As an off-budget mechanism financed through yearly contributions by Member States, based on a GNI distribution key, the EPF is expected to allow the EU to fund a higher proportion of the common costs (35-45 %) of military missions and operations, as is currently the case with the Athena mechanism.

Recommendations

In general, Members recommended, inter alia:

- work towards the establishment of a mechanism within the European Parliament to provide timely access, according to strictly defined parameters, to information, including original documents, on the annual budget of the European Peace Facility, amending budgets, transfers, action programmes, implementation of assistance measures, agreements with implementing actors, reports on the implementation of revenue and expenditure, as well as to the annual accounts, financial statements, evaluation reports and the annual report of the Court of Auditors;
- to agree to include access to all confidential documents in the negotiations for the updated Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the Council concerning access of Parliament to sensitive information of the Council in the field of security and defence policy;
- to ensure that operations, action programmes, ad hoc assistance measures and other operational actions funded by the Facility will not in any way violate or be used to violate the fundamental principles laid down in Article 21 of the TEU or be used to violate international law, in particular international humanitarian and human rights law.

Parliament proposed to include a number of amendments into the proposal. In particular, it recommended the establishment of a Facility Committee composed of one representative per participating Member State. Representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and representatives of the Commission would be invited to attend the Committee's meetings, but would have no voting rights. Representatives of the European Parliament and, where appropriate, the European Defence Agency (EDA) could be invited to attend the Committee's meetings, but would have no voting rights and would not be present at the voting.

Parliament also recommended that the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

- implement Parliament's views when preparing proposals for multi-year action programmes or ad hoc assistance measures, including by withdrawing proposals that are opposed by Parliament;
- submit draft Council decisions relating to the European Peace Facility to Parliament for consultation at the same time as they are submitted to the Council or to the Political and Security Committee;
- ensure complementarity with existing EU funds, programmes and instruments, the consistency of the European Peace Facility with all other aspects of the EU's external action;
- provide regular feedback to Parliament on the progress made in implementing Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, and to consult Parliament on the recommended gender component focusing on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- ensure the consistency of the European Peace Facility with all other aspects of the EU's external action, including its development and humanitarian policies.