












Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2020/2080(INI)	Procedure completed
Recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the Implementation and governance of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)		
Subject 6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs		02/04/2020
		 SIKORSKI Radosław	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 YONCHEVA Elena	
		 GROOTHUIS Bart	
		 WAITZ Thomas	
		 BONFRISCO Anna	
		 WASZCZYKOWSKI Witold Jan	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Constitutional Affairs		26/05/2020
		 GONZÁLEZ PONS Esteban	

Key events			
27/05/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/09/2020	Vote in committee		
30/09/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0165/2020	
19/10/2020	Debate in Parliament		

			
20/10/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
20/10/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0278/2020	Summary
20/10/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2080(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/9/02959

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE652.499	05/06/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE654.064	08/07/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	AFCO	PE653.752	02/09/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0165/2020	30/09/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0278/2020	20/10/2020	EP	Summary

Recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the Implementation and governance of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report Radosław SIKORSKI (EPP, PL) 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 implementation and governance of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

Members considered that permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) is an important step towards achieving the objective of progressively developing a common EU defence policy, leading to the establishment of a common defence.

The report recommends, inter alia, that the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should:

- consult Parliament on the review of the PESCO and ensure that Parliament's views are taken into account in order to ensure greater accountability, transparency and control;
- implement the Union's strategic vision, define common threats and strengthen the operational dimension of PESCO;
- prepare a White Paper on the security and defence of the Union;
- ensure coherence between the different EU defence initiatives and operations;
- encourage participating Member States to move from a strictly national view of defence to a European approach and to make structured efforts to increase the use of the European collaborative approach as a priority, as no individual pMS has the potential to address identified capacity shortfalls alone;
- increase the EU's budgetary ambition for the strengthening of defence capabilities, notably through the sufficient financing of the future EDF and Military Mobility in the upcoming multiannual financial framework (MFF);
- ensure that the PSC is effectively used as an instrument towards a sustainable and effective EU defence cooperation, improvement of defence capabilities and interoperability as a common objective, in line with the ambition of greater strategic autonomy of the Union;
- focus PESCO on constructive projects with a genuine European strategic dimension to strengthen Europe's defence industrial and technological base, while stressing the importance of a small number of strategic projects which should be prioritised as they lay the foundations for a more integrated European defence;

- ensure that key capabilities such as future key land, sea, air, cyber and other platforms for the armed forces of the Member States be brought under PESCO or at least be closely connected to it;
- enhance the coherence of EU defence planning and development tools and initiatives;
- reaffirm the central role of the PESCO secretariat as a single point of contact for all projects and invite the secretariat to carry out regular situation updates on the progress of projects;
- clarify the role of the Political and Security Committee in the PESCO process, which is not provided for by the TEU, and ensure, in this context, the important role played by the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) in the provision of ad hoc military advice;
- examine the establishment of an EU Council on Defence based on the existing Foreign Affairs Council in defence ministers format, which is also the EDA ministerial Steering Board and the PESCO format of EU Defence Ministers, in order to guarantee the prioritisation of resources and effective cooperation and integration among the Member States, as appropriate.

In general, Members believe that deepening defence cooperation between Member States at EU level should go hand in hand with strengthening the powers of scrutiny of Member States' parliaments and the European Parliament. The European Parliament should, together with the Council, exercise legislative and budgetary functions, as well as political scrutiny and consultation as provided for in the Treaties.

Recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the Implementation and governance of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

The European Parliament adopted by 464 votes to 90, with 137 abstentions, a recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the implementation and governance of permanent structured cooperation (PESCO).

Towards a common EU defence policy

Parliament considered permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) to be an important step towards achieving the objective of gradually developing a common EU defence policy, leading to the establishment of a common defence. PESCO should be used to put into practice the duty of mutual aid and assistance set out in the EU Treaty, in order to better prepare Member States to show solidarity towards another Member State if that State is the object of armed aggression on its territory.

Members stated that the development of a common EU defence strategy is more necessary than ever in a context of multiple and growing threats where no single Member State can protect itself. The PESCO should enhance the Union's capacity to act as an international security provider in order to contribute effectively and credibly to international, regional and European security.

Recommendations

The report recommended, inter alia, that the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should:

- underline the importance of seeking conflict resolution as a priority;
- implement the Union's strategic vision, define common threats and strengthen the operational dimension of PESCO;
- prepare a White Paper on the security and defence of the Union;
- ensure coherence between the different EU defence initiatives and operations;
- encourage participating Member States to move from a strictly national view of defence to a European approach and to make structured efforts to increase the use of the European collaborative approach as a priority, as no individual participating Member States has the potential to address identified capacity shortfalls alone;
- increase the EU's budgetary ambition for the strengthening of defence capabilities, notably through the sufficient financing of the future EDF and Military Mobility in the upcoming multiannual financial framework (MFF);
- ensure that the PSC is effectively used as an instrument towards a sustainable and effective EU defence cooperation, improvement of defence capabilities and interoperability as a common objective, in line with the ambition of greater strategic autonomy of the Union;
- focus PESCO on constructive projects with a genuine European strategic dimension to strengthen Europe's defence industrial and technological base, while stressing the importance of a small number of strategic projects which should be prioritised as they lay the foundations for a more integrated European defence;
- ensure that key capabilities such as future key land, sea, air, cyber and other platforms for the armed forces of the Member States be brought under PESCO or at least be closely connected to it;
- enhance the coherence of EU defence planning and development tools and initiatives.

Governance

Parliament recommended:

- reaffirming the central role of the PSC secretariat as a single point of contact for all projects;
- clarifying the role of the Political and Security Committee in the PESCO process, which is not provided for in the EU Treaty, and ensure, in this context, the central role played by the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) in the provision of ad hoc military advice;
- examining the creation of a European Defence Council based on the current Foreign Affairs Council in Defence Ministers format, which corresponds to the EDA Ministerial Steering Board and the PESCO format of the EU Defence Ministers.

Strengthening Parliaments powers

Members recommended that Parliament be consulted on the review of PESCO, and that its views be taken into account to ensure greater accountability, transparency and oversight.

In general, Members believe that deepening defence cooperation between Member States at EU level should go hand in hand with strengthening the powers of scrutiny of Member States' parliaments and the European Parliament. The European Parliament should, together with the Council, exercise legislative and budgetary functions, as well as political scrutiny and consultation as provided for in the Treaties.