

Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1995/2058(INI) Procedure completed
Annual report on progress in the field of common foreign and security policy (Article J.7, Treaty on European Union)	
Subject 6.10.01 Foreign and common diplomatic policy	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	PPE MATUTES JUAN Abel	23/11/1994

Key events			
12/04/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
12/04/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0083/1995	
25/04/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
15/05/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/05/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0235/1995	Summary
18/05/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/06/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2058(INI)
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Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 118
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/06573

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0083/1995 OJ C 126 22.05.1995, p. 0004	12/04/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0235/1995	18/05/1995	EP	Summary

Annual report on progress in the field of common foreign and security policy (Article J.7, Treaty on European Union)

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, Common Security and Defence Policy adopted the report by Mr MATUTES on progress with the implementation of the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (November 1993 - December 1994). In the first part of his report, Mr MATUTES urges the Council to inform the European Parliament of developments in the area of the CFSP and to consult it on the main aspects and basic options of this new policy. Similarly, he calls on the Commission to make greater use of its right to present proposals in this area. Mr. MATUTES calls for an interinstitutional agreement on the application of Article J.7 of the Treaty and the problem of funding the CFSP to be concluded quickly so that better account can be taken of Parliament's demands in this area. Parliament states that it is prepared to make a flexible and efficient contribution to foreign policy and security decisions. As regards progress with the CFSP since November 1993, the report highlights a number of defects, mainly due to the intergovernmental nature of the policy and the need for unanimity before any action is taken. In particular, the report stresses that the CFSP still falls well below public expectations, as the harrowing examples of the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda illustrate. In Mr MATUTES's opinion, the CFSP will suffer as the result of the lack of a common perception of the security interests of the Union. The European Parliament therefore proposes that the Union set up an analysis and evaluation centre to carry out an on-going assessment of risks and threats to the Union. As regards the definition of the concept of the "security interest of the Union", the report calls on the Council to make use of the historical and political experience of the Member States in order to define a "European" policy of prevention, security, stability, disarmament and cooperation with the CEECs and the Mediterranean basin. In the second part of his report, Mr MATUTES addresses the problem of the definition of common security, calling for the 1996 intergovernmental conference to reiterate the principle of solidarity between the Member States and insert a mutual assistance clause in the Treaty, especially where the borders of Member States are violated. With regard to defence, the report calls on the intergovernmental conference to address the future of the WEO and a practical definition of European defence. In particular, it finds the fact that the Member States of the WEO have differing status to be unsatisfactory and feels that the European Parliament should be able to play a part in drawing up and controlling the defence policy of Europe. With regard to the development of joint actions, the report stresses that the scope of these actions should be enlarged when the Treaty is revised and that the unanimity rule should be severely curtailed. In the last part of his report, Mr MATUTES reviews the main geographical zones with which the European Union should strengthen ties: Asia and the Pacific, the continent of South America, the Mediterranean basin (with which Europe must strengthen relations without fail, especially given the rise in fundamentalism), the Middle East/Caucasus zone and the Baltic states. Finally, in the diplomatic area, the Union should have its own diplomatic machinery: Mr MATUTES specifically raises the option of promoting Commission delegations in third countries to the rank of European Union embassies. Similarly, the Union should be able to set up its own information collection resources (with its own system of satellites).?

Annual report on progress in the field of common foreign and security policy (Article J.7, Treaty on European Union)

Mr MATUTES, quoting Article D of the Treaty on European Union, complained that the Council had not presented a specific report on the CFSP. The first assessment of the CFSP was not satisfactory: the most obvious failures were the war in the former Yugoslavia and the genocide in Rwanda. He thus called for more effective implementation of the CFSP. It was essential above all to find the political will to achieve positive results, such as the Pact for Stability in Europe. As regards food and economic aid, the Union's significant commitments meant that it had already surpassed the other major powers. Other progress included the reduction in the number of cases where unanimity was required in Council votes, given that positive abstention was already a qualifier. Ensuring democracy, respect for human rights and the protection of minorities were also key objectives of the CFSP, while preventive diplomacy was the most effective weapon in peaceful conflict resolution. Among the objectives of the 1996 IGC he emphasised the importance of: - the insertion of a mutual assistance clause, based on Article 5 of the WEO Treaty, for the defence of the Union's external borders; - the revision of paragraph 3 of Article J.4 of the Treaty on European Union (on defence policy) to clarify the relations between the Union and the WEO; - an interinstitutional agreement on the application of Article J.7 and the financing of the CFSP to take account of the EP's demands; - the creation of a risk assessment centre. Mr LAMASSOURE stipulated that the Council's annual report on all areas of the Union would soon be forwarded to Parliament and that, beyond the current experimental period, he agreed with the rapporteur that the number of votes for which unanimity was required should be reduced. He also proposed the establishment of a joint diplomatic executive under the auspices of the Council. Mr VAN DEN BROEK was in favour of doing away with unanimity in the Council and establishing structured dialogue with Parliament on the CFSP. The vote was postponed to 18 May.

Annual report on progress in the field of common foreign and security policy (Article J.7, Treaty on European Union)

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Matutes (PPE, E) on progress with the implementation of the CFSP between November 1993 and December 1994 (271 votes to 44 with 53 abstentions). Adopting an amendment by Mr Sakellariou, Parliament called on the 1996 IGC to examine the question of the unanimity rule with regard to the CFSP and to draw up a list of the types of decision for which a majority vote (simple qualified or double qualified) or unanimity are required. Parliament also called on the Council to provide it with better and faster information on developments in the area of the CFSP and to consult it on the main aspects and basic options of this policy. Considering that the preeminence of individual national security interests and the lack of a common perception of the European Union's own interests worked to the detriment of the CFSP, the report affirmed that the Union should set up a risk analysis and evaluation centre. In addition, the geographical zones identified by the Lisbon European Council as priority zones for the application of CFSP should not exclude other zones and the Asia/Pacific zone, Latin America, the Mediterranean and the Middle East/Caucasus zone in particular should not be neglected. Finally, the European Parliament urged the Council to make less use of declarations and greater use of common positions and to be bolder in its use of joint actions. However, some passages of the report gave rise to certain difficulties. Approving the passage calling for a mutual assistance

clause to be inserted in the Treaty where Member States' borders are violated, the European Parliament adopted an amendment by Mrs Rehn seeking to abolish the legal basis for this clause (Article 5 of the WEO Treaty). The European Parliament also rejected the passage of the report calling for the 1996 IGC to address the problem of European defence and, in particular, the extension of Article J.4 of the Treaty to the common defence area.?