

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2020/2206(INI)	Procedure completed
Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy - annual report 2020		
Subject 6.10 Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	 MCALLISTER David	07/07/2020
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 OLEKAS Juozas	
		 VAUTMANS Hilde	
		 BÜTIKOFER Reinhard	
		 BERG Lars Patrick	
		 FOTYGA Anna	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
22/10/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/12/2020	Vote in committee		
15/12/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0266/2020	Summary
19/01/2021	Debate in Parliament		
20/01/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
20/01/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0012/2021	Summary

21/01/2021

End of procedure in Parliament

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2206(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/04191

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE657.447	07/10/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE659.001	28/10/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0266/2020	15/12/2020	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0012/2021	20/01/2021	EP	Summary

Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy - annual report 2020

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by David McALLISTER (EPP, DE) on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy annual report 2020.

Positioning the EU as a partner of choice in a changing geopolitical order

The report highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for the need for a stronger, more autonomous, more united and assertive foreign and security policy to step up the EUs leadership on the international scene in order to defend and develop a rules based international order which guarantees multilateralism, democracy and human rights, and to promote its values and interests more decisively worldwide. In order to achieve this, the EU first has to successfully assist its partners in the immediate neighbourhood. The EU is called on to establish more strategic cooperation with third countries based on trust and mutual benefit, and of building alliances with like-minded democracies. Its partnership with the UN and NATO should be enhanced in order to build a common complementary approach to current and future regional and global security challenges as well as to conflict situations, health crises, asymmetric and hybrid threats, cyberattacks and disinformation.

A new level of ambition for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): strategic regional approaches based on a stronger political will

Recalling that no EU Member State alone has sufficient capability and resources to effectively deal with current international challenges, Members considered that, in this context, the EU needs first and foremost a stronger and genuine political will on the part of the EU Member States to jointly agree on and push EU foreign policy goals.

The EU institutions and Member States are called on to coordinate any actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis among themselves and with international partners in order to foster a coherent and inclusive global response to the pandemic. In this regard, they reiterated their call for a revision of the EU Global Strategy in order to draw the lessons from the new geopolitical dynamics, current threats including the COVID-19 pandemic and expected upcoming challenges, and to reassess the goals and means of the CFSP.

The report recalled that the European Parliaments diplomacy constitutes an important pillar of the EUs foreign policy, with its own distinct and complementary instruments and channels. It stressed that Parliament should therefore be recognised as an integral part of the Team Europe approach promoted by the Commission and the EEAS).

Geopolitical priorities

UK

Members stressed that it is essential to agree on common responses to address foreign, security and defence policy challenges based on the principles of multilateralism, the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy, and international law, bearing in mind that most international threats affect both sides with the same intensity.

Turkey

The report reiterated that the accession negotiations with Turkey are formally frozen, in light of human rights situation, democratic back-sliding and challenges to the rule of law inside Turkey. It is of common strategic interest to the European Union, its Member States and Turkey that a stable and secure environment be established in the Eastern Mediterranean;.

US

Members stressed that transatlantic cooperation remains crucial and is paramount in the EUs common foreign and security policy. This

partnership should be revitalised in order to deal more effectively with the pandemic and other major international challenges such as climate change.

Russia

The report called for a new EU-Russia strategy to be elaborated, which would send a clear signal to the prodemocracy faction in Russian society of the EUs continued willingness to engage and cooperate. It called for the sanctions regime to be strengthened. Members deplored Russias negative role in disinformation campaigns and other forms of hybrid warfare waged against the EU and the West, which seek to weaken its internal cohesion and thereby its ability to act effectively on the global stage.

China

Members underlined the importance for the EU of pursuing a unified, realistic, effective, firm and more assertive strategy that unites all Member States and shapes relations with China. They encouraged China to assume greater responsibility in dealing with global challenges. As regards Hong Kong, the report noted that the EU will not tolerate its continued human rights violations in Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang, nor its treatment of people belonging to minorities.

Marine security

The report called for stronger support for the EU maritime security strategy, as maintaining freedom of navigation presents a growing challenge both globally and for the neighbourhood.

Funding

Members stressed that the EU must assume a global leadership role in tackling the consequences of the pandemic, which requires sufficient financial resources. Regretting the proposed cuts by the Council on the external financial instruments and the lack of funding via the Next Generation EU recovery package, they highlighted the need for a more ambitious multiannual financial framework (MFF) in the area of external action and defence and called, in this regard, on the Council to ensure early approval of the European Peace Facility.

The EU budget resources should also be boosted for civilian conflict prevention, for peacebuilding, dialogue, mediation and reconciliation.

Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy - annual report 2020

The European Parliament adopted by 340 votes to 100, 245 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy annual report 2020.

Positioning the EU as a partner of choice in a changing geopolitical order

Parliament stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for the need for a stronger, more autonomous, more united and assertive foreign and security policy. If the EU wants to play a leading role on the international scene, it should defend and develop a rules based international order which guarantees multilateralism, democracy and human rights, and to promote its values and interests more decisively worldwide. To achieve this, the EU first has to successfully assist its partners in the immediate neighbourhood.

Parliament called on the EU to establish more strategic cooperation with third countries based on trust and mutual benefit, and of building alliances with like-minded democracies. Its partnership with the UN and NATO should be enhanced to build a common complementary approach to current and future regional and global security challenges as well as to conflict situations, health crises, asymmetric and hybrid threats, cyberattacks and disinformation.

A new level of ambition for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): strategic regional approaches based on a stronger political will

Recalling that no EU Member State alone has sufficient capability and resources to effectively deal with current international challenges, Members considered that, in this context, the EU needs first and foremost a stronger and genuine political will on the part of the EU Member States to jointly agree on and push EU foreign policy goals.

The EU institutions and Member States are called on to coordinate any actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis among themselves and with international partners to foster a coherent and inclusive global response to the pandemic. In this regard, Parliament reiterated its call for a revision of the EU Global Strategy in order to draw the lessons from the new geopolitical dynamics, current threats including the COVID-19 pandemic and expected upcoming challenges, and to reassess the goals and means of the CFSP.

The resolution recalled that the European Parliaments diplomacy constitutes an important pillar of the EUs foreign policy, with its own distinct and complementary instruments and channels. It stressed that Parliament should therefore be recognised as an integral part of the Team Europe approach promoted by the Commission and the EEAS).

It called on Member States to urgently open a debate on the possibility of moving from unanimity to qualified majority voting at least in selected areas of CFSP, such as decisions on human rights issues and sanctions, as a concrete means by which to strengthen the EUs influence on the global scene.

Geopolitical priorities

UK

Members stressed that it is essential to agree on common responses to address foreign, security and defence policy challenges based on the principles of multilateralism, the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy, and international law, bearing in mind that most international threats affect both sides with the same intensity.

Turkey

Parliament reiterated that the accession negotiations with Turkey are formally frozen, in light of human rights situation, democratic back-sliding and challenges to the rule of law inside Turkey. It called on the EU to urgently define a better geopolitical strategy for its short, medium and long-term relations with Turkey, while underlining the common strategic interest of the EU and Turkey in establishing a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

US

Members stressed that transatlantic cooperation remains crucial and is paramount in the EU's common foreign and security policy. This partnership should be revitalised in order to deal more effectively with the pandemic and other major international challenges such as climate change. They strongly condemned the mob assault on the US Congress by rioters incited

by President Donald Trump's conspiracy theories and baseless claims that the presidential election of 3 November 2020 was rigged. They expressed concern about the rise of populism and extremism on both sides of the Atlantic.

Russia

Parliament called for a new EU-Russia strategy to be elaborated, which would send a clear signal to the pro-democracy faction in Russian society of the EU's continued willingness to engage and cooperate. It called for the sanctions regime to be strengthened, particularly in view of the attempted assassination of Alexei Navalny on Russian territory using a military nerve agent belonging to the Novichok family. It deplored Russia's negative role in disinformation campaigns and other forms of hybrid warfare against the EU and the West and recalled that compliance with the Minsk agreements was an essential condition for any substantial change in relations between the EU and Russia.

China

Members stressed the importance for the EU to pursue a unified, realistic, effective and more assertive strategy towards China. They called for an EU policy based on the principles of cooperate where possible; compete where needed; confront where necessary.

Regarding Hong Kong, they called on China to make clear that the EU will not tolerate the continuation of human rights violations in Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang, nor its treatment of people belonging to minorities.

Strengthening the EU's capacities and means in the CFSP

Parliament supported the progressive definition and promotion of a common defence policy, while calling on Member States to invest more in their defence capacities and to rebalance responsibilities within NATO. It insisted that the EU should take a leading role on the international stage in dealing with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires sufficient financial resources. Similarly, it stressed the importance of CSDP missions and operations, insisting on the existence of framework agreements with third countries for their participation in European crisis management operations.

Lastly, the resolution stressed the need to develop a coherent climate policy dimension in the CFSP.