

## RECOMMENDATION 767<sup>1</sup>

### *on the way ahead for the European Security and Defence Policy and its democratic scrutiny – reply to the annual report of the Council*

The Assembly,

- (i) Welcoming the perceptible progress the European Union member states have made in the last five years to acquire the instruments necessary to implement the ESDP goals laid down in the Treaty on European Union;
- (ii) Recalling its conviction, already stated in Recommendation 759, that the provisions of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe that concern strengthening ESDP decision-making and operational instruments would significantly facilitate the European Union's ability to implement future actions enabling it more readily to take on its share of the responsibility for international security;
- (iii) Convinced nevertheless that the uncertainty now hanging over the fate of the Constitutional Treaty does not affect continuing efforts to carry on the ESDP project, either through cooperation or the structures established pursuant to the existing Treaties, or through arrangements or cooperation falling outside them;
- (iv) Convinced in particular that it would be desirable to support moves to strengthen the role of the EU CFSP High Representative and to set up a European diplomatic service to give greater coherence and visibility to the foreign and security policy of the European Union;
- (v) Drawing attention to the fact that European Union involvement on the ground with a dozen or so missions currently spread across the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East, central Europe, the Caucasus and Indonesia, together with the Union's political involvement in the Middle East, and more particularly in the negotiations with Iran, are raising considerable expectations of the EU's determination in regard to the management of crises and the means it can make available to that end;
- (vi) Recalling that the military and civil instruments that are to be available to the ESDP are still, for the most part, not yet operational and that the success of the work of the European Defence Agency will be decisive in ensuring that European forces in the service of the ESDP are well equipped;
- (vii) Stressing in that connection that it is for the WEU Council to make sure that WEAG and WEAO experience and *acquis* are appropriately transferred to the European Defence Agency and use made of them by the latter, and that non-EU members of WEAG and WEAO are as closely associated as possible with its activities;
- (viii) Hoping earnestly that an inclusive approach will be taken towards ESDP activities as a whole, and that they will not be excessively curtailed by institutional considerations;
- (ix) Observing that involvement in crisis flashpoints in Africa, now a European Union priority, represents a major challenge for the ESDP and EU cooperation with other players on that continent, like the United Nations, the African Union and NATO, given the extent of the problems that have to be resolved;
- (x) Stressing the importance of reviving the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership project set in train under the Barcelona Process, whose "Peace, Security, Stability" dimension does not yet measure up to initial aspirations;
- (xi) Deeply concerned about the unpredictable nature of developments in Iranian foreign policy and Iran's highly aggressive stance against Israel, and about the deadlock caused by the problems

---

<sup>1</sup> Explanatory Memorandum: see the report tabled on behalf of the Political Committee by Andrea Manzella, Rapporteur (Italy, Socialist Group), Document 1915.

encountered in the talks with Iran, led by France, Germany and the United Kingdom, to try and persuade that country to abandon a nuclear programme allowing it to acquire nuclear weapons capability;

(xii) Desirous that *ad hoc* European Union missions to Palestine and Iraq go hand in hand with a coherent EU policy towards the Middle East as set out in the priorities laid down by the EU CFSP High Representative;

(xiii) Recalling that it is extremely important for all the parties concerned that there should be a satisfactory outcome to the future negotiations on the political status of Kosovo, for dependent on that outcome is an improvement in the situation in all the neighbouring countries in the Balkan region, where the European Union has concentrated most of its peacekeeping and post-conflict stabilisation effort;

(xiv) Convinced of the need to develop a more coherent European Union policy towards all countries in the region covered by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which is riven by tension and conflict both between and internal to states, the course of which is bound to have consequences for security and stability to the east of the European Union;

(xv) Concerned by the unequal development of the political situation in the CIS countries, some of which are advancing towards democracy while others still cling to authoritarian regimes and systems;

(xvi) Emphasising that consolidating the conditions for democracy is a prime requirement for a productive strategic partnership between the European Union and Russia and for stabilisation of the CIS;

(xvii) Convinced that the ESDP should envisage more vigorous measures than those foreseen in the framework of the international negotiations to counter the threat of the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery and of a form of “disaster” terrorism, ready to use such weapons;

(xviii) Regretting in that connection the failure of the conference of signatory states of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime;

(xix) Deploring also the omission from the final declaration of the United Nations Summit held in New York in September 2005 of:

- a common position on the conditions for recourse to force in the event of a threat against peace;
- a firm commitment to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and to disarmament,

and the failure to reach agreement on a general counter-terrorism convention;

(xx) Welcoming, however, the establishment at the same summit meeting of a Peacebuilding Commission, a measure vigorously supported in Assembly Recommendation 759;

(xxi) Recalling the need to redefine the institutional framework and the nature, content and purpose of the EU-NATO strategic partnership;

(xxii) Emphasising once again that implementation of the ESDP as a whole and of its various projects cannot be guaranteed or funded without regularly consulting and informing national parliaments at the European level;

(xxiii) Expressing its willingness to support any efforts to ensure that the ESDP and ESDP funding are commensurate with the resources genuinely available to the European Union and its member states, by creating synergy between the Assembly and the European Parliament on the basis of the former becoming part of regular machinery for consultation with the relevant European authorities;

(xxiv) Considering the half-yearly meetings of the WEU Permanent Council/PSC with the Committees of the Assembly a welcome preliminary to such consultative machinery;

(xxv) Wishing nevertheless that the Council would make greater use of its annual report in informing the Assembly about all ESDP developments and NATO activities;

(xxvi) Deploring all the more the fact that the Council did not send either the first part of its 51<sup>st</sup> annual report to the Assembly or its replies to Recommendations 759-766 in sufficient time for Committees to take these texts into consideration,

I. RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL INVITE THE WEU NATIONS AS MEMBERS OF THE EU AND NATO TO REQUEST THE EUROPEAN UNION TO:

1. Make the fullest use of the possibilities offered by Article 17.4 TEU, which permits closer cooperation between two or more member states at bilateral level or within the WEU framework;
2. Allow all WEU associate members and EU accession candidates concessionary status as compared with other third countries so as to enable them play a full part in all ESDP activities and projects – especially the European Defence Agency and the battlegroups – and to be more involved in ESDP decision-making structures;
3. Urge all member states to participate in the 13 battlegroups and in the European Gendarmerie project, with its centre in Vicenza, which is currently supported by five member states (France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain);
4. Make a critical evaluation of the European Union resources genuinely available at present and in the foreseeable future to the ESDP, as compared with the stated ambitions of the European Security Strategy and the Headline Goal;
5. In particular, evaluate the implications for ESDP planning of the European Union's priority commitments in Africa, Kosovo and the Middle East, as unveiled by the EU CFSP High Representative;
6. Reactivate the "Peace, Security, Stability" dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiated through the Barcelona Process and develop a coherent European policy towards the Middle East;
7. Agree a more coherent policy towards the European Union's eastern neighbourhood with a view to helping stabilise the precarious situation within the general area of the Commonwealth of Independent States, where a number of areas of tension and conflict flashpoints still subsist;
8. Take advantage of its engagement in Moldova and Georgia to re-establish a more intensive dialogue with Russia in the security area of the strategic partnership with that country so as to help build confidence between Russia and its neighbours and dispel Russian reservations about OSCE activities within the general area of the CIS;
9. Draw the implications for European Union cooperation with the United Nations in ESDP matters of the disappointing results of the United Nations World Summit held in New York in September 2005;
10. Play a constructive part in the work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission set up at that summit;
11. Ensure that the problem of what measures to take against the threat of the development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, and the dangers of such weapons being used in acts of "disaster" terrorism comes high on the ESDP's agenda for discussion;
12. In that connection, adopt a contingency plan in coordination with the main allies in the event of Iran's nuclear policy putting international peace in jeopardy;
13. Make clear the nature and conditions for "preventive engagement" by the European Union as advocated in the European Security Strategy, and the implications thereof for ESDP planning;

14. Take a constructive position on proposals drawn up by NATO with a view to widening the area of dialogue and cooperation between the European Union and NATO within a redefined institutional framework and giving substance to the strategic partnership between the two organisations in the area of crisis management;

15. Include the WEU Assembly in the EU process of regular democratic consultation about ESDP choices and their financial implications by creating institutional synergy with the European Parliament;

## II. RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

16. Implement paragraph II.14 of Recommendation 759 requesting it to transmit its annual report to the Assembly sufficiently early to allow its Committees to examine and formulate their replies, and continue to include in it all information concerning the activities of member states under the ESDP and in NATO;

17. Speed up the transmission of its replies to Recommendations of the Assembly;

18. Intensify the dialogue with the Assembly on the basis of its reply to Written Question 388 and envisage supporting the Assembly within the European Union in its function as the sole forum in which representatives of national parliaments are able to be collectively informed and consulted on ESDP and NATO developments and draw up joint recommendations to the European governments, working in institutional synergy with the European Parliament.