

European Parliament Resolution on progress in implementing the CFSP (18 July 1996)

Caption: On 18 July 1996, the European Parliament adopts a resolution on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) during 1995.

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 09.09.1996, No C 261. [s.l.].

Copyright: All rights of reproduction, public communication, adaptation, distribution or dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

The documents available on this Web site are the exclusive property of their authors or right holders.

Requests for authorisation are to be addressed to the authors or right holders concerned.

Further information may be obtained by referring to the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/european_parliament_resolution_on_progress_in_implementing_the_cfsp_18_july_1996-en-78e73305-8d68-4055-b636-053815d46ca4.html

Publication date: 04/09/2012

European Parliament Resolution on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy (January-December 1995) (18 July 1996)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to Article J.7 of the Treaty on European Union,

— having regard to Rules 92(4) and 148 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to its resolutions of 18 May 1995 on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy (November 1993-December 1994) ⁽¹⁾ and of 17 May 1995 on the functioning of the Treaty on European Union with a view to the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference — Implementation and development of the Union ⁽²⁾,

— having regard to the report of its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy (A4-0175/96),

A. whereas, pursuant to Article J.7, second paragraph, of the TEU, it must hold an annual debate on progress in implementing the CFSP, on the basis of the objectives and instruments laid down in Title V and Article C of the TEU,

B. whereas, in accordance with the above, it is best merely to review implementation of CFSP in 1995 together with the main features of the Union's external activity and not to reiterate the work done or currently in hand with a view to the institutional improvements needed,

C. having regard to the use made by the European Council and the Council of the instruments provided for in the TEU, in particular joint actions and common positions, and the provisions of Article J.4(1) concerning the framing of a common security policy,

D. deploring the fact that, despite repeated attempts made by Parliament, no interinstitutional agreement on a CFSP has been reached, and hoping that the questions in abeyance may find an appropriate solution at the Intergovernmental Conference,

E. whereas in 1995 the treaty-based external activity of the Union was particularly intensive, especially that under measures deriving from the Community pillar,

F. whereas, despite the above, the perception and feeling of Union citizens is that no real progress has been made in implementing a genuine CFSP,

G. whereas the CFSP, as one of the chief expressions of Europe's integrative thrust, is an evolutionary process which involves learning to share sovereignty equitably and which must progress slowly but steadily in the direction, and on the basis, of the objectives clearly laid down in the TEU,

H. whereas it is essential that the CFSP is based on principles of common security and conflict prevention,

I. whereas progress in framing a common defence policy and developing a European security system, in which the EU has a central role to play, is essential to the Union if it is to have an effective CESP in the coming years,

J. having regard to the importance of national diplomatic services and the EU's external delegations in shaping foreign policy decisions, as well as their key role with regard to preventive diplomacy, early warning and non-treaty-based external activity,

K. whereas the establishment of a CFSP of the Union is not an end in itself but a means for the European

Union to contribute to peace and security beyond its borders by, at the same time, promoting missions of a preventive nature and peace through peaceful means and by promoting and defending its own values such as the idea of a democratic welfare state governed by law, tolerance and civil, social and economic rights and liberties, while at the same time adequately defending its interests and those of the Member States,

1. Makes a positive assessment of the Union's record on treaty-based external relations in 1995; in this connection the signing of the agreement with Mercosur, the Barcelona Conference, the promotion of and the active and concrete participation in the reconstruction plan for the former Yugoslavia, the Transatlantic Pact and the signing of association agreements with Morocco, Tunisia, Israel and the Baltic States and the ratification of partnership agreements with certain CIS countries, in particular Russia and the Ukraine, can be seen as highly significant;
2. Welcomes the significant increase in activity relating to the African continent, especially the adoption of common positions, but believes that the expected results have failed to materialise and highlights the unsustainable situations in Burundi, Rwanda and Angola as examples of impotence;
3. Welcomes the fact that the Union has enlarged its sphere of external activity to include Latin America and Asia without thereby neglecting priority areas such as the southern Mediterranean, eastern Europe, Russia and Africa;
4. Insists, however, that the Union's external action — especially on the southern shore of the Mediterranean — should not be confined simply to specific and unconditional economic aid, but should be an integral part of a global Mediterranean policy conducted by the Union in order to ensure or re-establish peace and stability throughout the area;
5. Hopes that the Council will commit itself firmly to implementing the important multilateral agreements which have been signed, such as the Transatlantic Pact and, above all, the decisions of the Barcelona Conference, the adequate implementation of which should become one of the priorities of the Union, and that it does this using the instruments provided by the TEU; regrets, in this respect, not having yet taken the initiative to convene the Mediterranean parliamentary forum as envisaged in the Barcelona protocols;
6. Notes with concern the Council's slowness in adopting the MEDA programme and the financial Regulation resulting from the customs union with Turkey, the delay being caused by its refusal to accept Parliament's proposals concerning majority decision-making, violations of human rights and consultation of the European Parliament itself;
7. Believes that the agreement signed with Mercosur should be seen as a springboard for maximizing the Union's political and trade relations with Latin America; welcomes the improvement in negotiations with Asia, as is clear from the Asia-Europe Meeting at the start of March 1996, and believes that these should take on greater significance;
8. Declares that the promotion of democracy and respect for, and protection of, human rights should be the guiding principle of the Union's external activity and endorses the considerable endeavours made by the Council in 1995 to uphold this principle; believes, in this respect, in the necessity to apply clear and stringent democracy and human rights clauses to all the external agreements signed by the Union with third countries; considers, in this connection, that each presidency should include in its programme a description of its specific priorities in the area of human rights;
9. Believes it to be inadequate and unsatisfactory that such intensive, fruitful treaty-based external activity should have produced so little development of the CFSP instruments and such little progress with regard to the development of the EU's capacity for conflict analysis and prevention;
10. Believes that implementation of the CFSP took a step backward in 1995, which was especially noticeable as the external activity of the Union was particularly intensive; deplores the fact that the quality

and quantity of the common positions and joint actions adopted were even worse than in 1994;

11. Believes, nevertheless, that the external visibility of the CFSP could be improved by attributing all the responsibilities in this field to one Commissioner;
12. Deplores the excessive use which the Council has been making of the conclusions of its meetings to encourage the Commission to submit to it proposals on external policy, the infrequent use made of the instruments specifically provided for in the Treaty and the apparent confusion between the use of common positions and joint actions;
13. Regrets the fact that the Commission, although the European Parliament has several times stressed the need to exploit fully all the instruments conferred on it by the TEU, in particular Article J.8(3) of the TEU, has not submitted any proposals for joint action to the Council; considers that it is politically important for the Commission to exercise this right of initiative in sectors for which predominantly intergovernmental procedures are envisaged;
14. Believes that only three joint actions and five common positions of the ten and thirteen, respectively, adopted in 1995 can be considered new initiatives and regrets that fact, the others being modified versions or implementations of previous ones or of resolutions of the UN Security Council;
15. Believes the joint action on anti-personnel mines to be a small example of what the Union's action should be in the field of security, although its precise content left something to be desired, and with regard to international conferences; in this connection believes that Union participation in international conferences should be increased by means of common positions and joint actions;
16. Regrets the fact that the Union did not, as Parliament requested, attend the Barcelona Conference with an established common position and finds it difficult to understand that there is no general common position on the former Yugoslavia or Algeria;
17. Regrets that it did not attend the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Renewal Conference in New York and further regrets that its positive policy proposals were ignored by the Presidency during the conference;
18. Deplores the fact that little progress has been made in 1995 on developing the principal innovations of the TEU — joint actions, common positions and the shaping of a common security policy — and considers it disappointing that, in the more than two years since the Treaty entered into force, voting in the Council, pursuant to Article J.3(2), has not been used to develop a joint action;
19. Regrets that the Council has in many cases simply ignored its recommendations and calls relating to the common foreign and security policy (and especially to the former Yugoslavia, Turkey, Chechnya and Belarus);
20. Believes that, if the present path continues to be followed, it will be difficult to attain the objective laid down in Article B of the TEU of asserting the Union's identity on the international scene;
21. Acknowledges that the Member States have differing historical experience in the field of security policy and believes, therefore, that the issue of differing points of view, particularly in the area of security and defence, must be reconciled in cautious steps;
22. Considers that a common security policy devoted to conflict prevention requires from the outset a drafting body which would propose its definition and implementing measures and, subsequently, both civilian and military forces capable of participating in peace-keeping or humanitarian aid missions and that the Union should concentrate its military efforts in these areas;
23. Believes, in this respect, that in the framework of a common defence policy the possibility of

establishing a European Civil Peace Corps should be taken into account in order to strengthen humanitarian action, lead to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, prevent the outbreak of new conflicts and provide the necessary confidence-building measures;

24. Considers that the external frontiers of the Member States should be considered external frontiers of the European Union and that solidarity should be shown in cases where these frontiers are not respected;

25. Notes that the establishment of diversified relations between the Member States of the European Union and the WEU has not brought about progress towards the necessary integration;

26. Emphasizes the important role of national diplomatic services in shaping foreign policy and the lack of effort being made to adapt them to the new circumstances of European integration;

27. Notes the continued absence of an identifiable analysis centre capable of evaluating risks and threats from a European perspective and the continued existence of the complex network made up of various Commission departments, the Council Secretariat, Coreper, the Political Committee and various committees of experts, plus the various diplomatic services of the Member States, which perform this role;

28. Regrets the fact that it has not been possible to reach an interinstitutional agreement on the application of Article J.7 of the TEU and urges the Council to inform it regularly about the development of the CFSP and consult it beforehand on the common positions and joint actions which it intends to adopt, forward to it as a matter of priority draft declarations and decisions and allow it a reasonable period of time to express any reservations on texts before they are published;

29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.

(1) OJ C 151, 19.6.1995, p. 223.

(2) OJ C 151, 19.6.1995, p. 56.