

Draft as of 7 February 2020

Inter-parliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP

Zagreb (2-4 March 2020)

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference:

1. Notes that the Union's strategic environment has become unstable; takes the view that the EU needs to take on a global leadership role and actively defend and promote its values and interests worldwide, notably on multilateralism, international law, democracy and human rights;
2. Recalls that traditional partners are retreating from the global stage, increasing pressure on multilateral cooperation and institutions, and regional powers are becoming increasingly assertive;
3. Stresses, therefore, the urgent need for a strong political and strategic coordination and more united and proactive external action for Europe to be able to face the multiple challenges that directly or indirectly affect the security of EU Member States and their citizens; emphasises the importance of improving effectiveness of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including by reviewing its decision-making processes;
4. Recalls that, in order to become a more effective actor in its neighbourhood and beyond, the EU needs to be able to team up with strategic like-minded partners around the world; in this regard, calls for an improvement of its capacities for anticipating and responding to the effects of globalisation, and the new priorities and alliances being set by emerging powers;
5. Supports the initiative for setting up new platforms for policy dialogue within the EU in full cooperation with the Member States, in order to agree on the joint European positions on the current issues of EU security architecture and to facilitate a more efficient decision-making process in the field of security policy;
6. Underlines the crucial role of parliaments played through parliamentary diplomacy, mediation and conflict prevention, as a pillar of the EU's CFSP; calls for an increased involvement of the national parliaments and the European Parliament in the scrutiny, oversight and steering of all EU external instruments; reiterates the importance of the

national parliaments and the European Parliament in their role as soft-power actors in the CFSP;

7. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to the accession perspective of the Western Balkans and the reaffirmation of the region's enormous strategic importance to the Union; stresses its commitment to enlargement, which remains an important pillar of EU foreign policy; reiterates that the EU needs an ambitious and credible stance on enlargement;
8. Takes note of the new enlargement methodology; reiterates that the EU should continue guiding the Western Balkan countries towards accession and invites the European Council to continue supporting the European perspective of the Western Balkans; highlights that enlargement is a merit-based process and depends on their adherence to the Copenhagen criteria, the principles of democracy, respect for fundamental freedoms and human and minority rights, observance of the rule of law and their individual achievements in meeting the relevant criteria;
9. Recalls that the European perspective constitutes a powerful catalyst for reforms, democratic consolidation and enhanced EU scrutiny in candidate and potential candidate countries; notes that both Albania and North Macedonia meet the EU's requirements for opening accession negotiations; looks forward to the EU – Western Balkans summit, taking place in Zagreb in May 2020, with a view of providing new impetus to enlargement process;
10. Underlines that the EU should retain its focus on the Western Balkans also in the area of security and defence by providing them with capacity building support in countering hybrid and cyber threats, notably through a structured dialogue, exercises and strategic communication;
11. Recognises that the Union's stability is affected by the situation in its Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood and encourages the development of closer strategic relations with the Eastern and Southern partners; recalls the EU's transformative potential for neighbouring regions and countries; reiterates its support for the Eastern Partnership; stresses, however, that in order to be more successful, the Eastern Partnership needs renewed dynamism and reinforced approach to achieve further convergence in line with the aspirations of each country in the spirit of the "more for more" principle and in full compliance with political conditionality; in this regards, looks forward to the discussion on the priorities and goals of the Eastern Partnership for the period beyond 2020 at the forthcoming Eastern Partnership Summit; stresses the importance of complementing any efforts in political and security terms with a clear strategy aiming at delivering security for the Southern Neighbourhood region and promoting democratic values and processes;
12. Recognises the efforts of the Member States in the area of security and defence aimed at further enhancing European defence cooperation, among other by continued implementation, consolidation and coherence of the launched defence initiatives (PESCO, CARD, EDF, military mobility), and by development of industrial and research dimension of EU defence; encourages progress in the ongoing debate regarding the proposed European Peace Facility; supports more targeted EU-NATO

cooperation as a key investment into European security and contribution to transatlantic relations;

13. Calls for closer and more coherent cooperation between the national parliaments and the European Parliament in the field of security and defence; underlines the need to ensure effective parliamentary scrutiny of initiatives within the Common Security and Defence Policy;
14. Welcomes the PESCO strategic review and calls on the Member States to fully commit to the ambition of progressively framing a common defence policy in accordance with the provisions of Article 42 TEU, thereby reinforcing the European identity and its independence in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and in the world; recommends to the Commission and the VP/HR to share their reflections in this regard in their first-one-hundred-days reporting.
15. Underlines the importance of maintaining the budget allocation and level of ambition for the EDF and military mobility within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2020-2027, which will support the achievement of the EU's strategic security and defence objectives; supports a strategic approach to long term common capability development; underlines the need to include a procurement support strand within the EDF, thereby operationalising European solidarity and cohesion in defence capacity building and urges the Commission and the VP/HR to treat this as a priority;
16. Recalls that an inclusive approach to conflict prevention, resolution and mediation is paramount to their long-term viability and recalls the increased success of conflict resolution when gender parity and equality are respected throughout the process; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to provide for the structural engagement of women in all its crisis management related activities; calls on the EU and Member States to actively contribute to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and its follow-up resolutions;
17. Welcomes the VP/HR's commitment to work closely with the national parliaments and the European Parliament; looks forward to co-operating with the VP/HR on the important matters discussed at this Conference; expresses its wish to assess progress on these matters together with the VP/HR at the next IPC.