

EU External Action

**Contribution by Juraj Migaš,
alternate representative of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the Convention
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- The European Union should work toward more cohesion and coordination in its external activities. In order to achieve a greater cohesive action, the EU must gradually get rid of its three pillar structure and replace it with one single structure.
- The forces of globalization are proving that questions of security need a comprehensive understanding. Internal security cannot be clearly separated from external security (there is a connection between international crime and external trade policy, for example).
- We support the use of qualified majority voting in matters pertaining to non-military crisis management. Enlargement to more member states may put more strain on the existing decision-making mechanisms and already today a number of policy tools relevant to the area of non-military crisis management fall within the first pillar of the EU.
- The post of the High Representative for CFSP and of the Commissioner for External Relations should be gradually merged. This would be along with our aim to simplify the structure and be more transparent and accountable.
- We are ready and prepared to participate fully in the development of ESDP. Thus, in this respect is important not to harm the transatlantic relations. It should be in the EU's interest to include the soon-to-be partners under a more encompassing umbrella of partnership. For the applicants, ESDP should have a definite Euro-Atlantic dimension. From our standpoint, one of the preconditions for active inclusion in ESDP is NATO's involvement and a satisfactory agreement between the EU and NATO on strategy, assets and capabilities, and structures of consultation.
- In helping to formulate a more comprehensive and multi-faceted EU Eastern Policy Slovakia can add new value to future specific initiatives. Its comparative advantage stems from common historical ties, geographic and linguistic proximity as well as the shared experience of post-Communist transition.
- The CFSP domain may indeed become sensitive – with possible future implications for national sovereignty – but this has not been an issue in my country thus far. Solving the question of legal personality would bring more clarity and legitimacy in the external actions of the EU.