

Working Group VII

Working document 23

## **Working group VII – "External Action"**

**Subject:**      **"EU external action"**  
                     **- Paper by Göran Lennmaker, member of the Convention**

Members of the Working Group VII will find hereafter a paper by Göran Lennmaker, member of the Convention.

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## **Contribution to the European Convention, WG VII**

### **EU external action**

1. EU external action has by and large been very successful. Particularly the enlargement process but also the Meda, Western Balkans initiative and the future neighbourhood policy are examples of coherent actions focused on openness towards third countries.
2. Common foreign and security policy has not been the most successful part of EU external action. Not because it has been ill-conceived, but because of inaction. Two examples illustrates that:
3. Africa. Annually, Africa receives some twelve billion Euro in humanitarian and development aid from EU and its member states. But a broader and coherent strategy is lacking. Africa needs first and foremost a security order to prevent the wars that devastates so much of development efforts in the continent. Africa also needs economic integration among countries with economies the size of Western European cities. In both cases EU has a particular role in sharing experiences from Europe.
4. Iraq. Since ten years it has been obvious that the Iraqi regime does not comply with the conditions the UN has set. During that period EU has not taken any initiative to support the UN in its role to stop further Iraqi aggression. Only when the US and UK have acted has there been response from EU and its members, often in a most disparate way.
5. Protectionism is a serious obstacle to efficient EU external action. In Asia, Latin America, and Africa they complain that the EU supports development with one hand and hinders development with the other.

## **Reform of EU external action is needed**

6. EU must have one single coherent centre of external action, a "Foreign Office" that is part of or closely related to the Commission. Today's situation with three different centres: the presidency, the council and the commission is not efficient.
7. EU must have one high representative/commissioner who is responsible for external action. She could possibly also be the permanent chair of the External Action council.
8. A future EU without the pillar structure and with a single legal personality still needs a particular decision making process for foreign and security policy since those decisions cannot be made in the same way as legislation. Vital interests of a member state must not be violated and constructive abstention must still be possible. Final decisions on own military troops must be made at national level. With these reservations QMV could be the norm. Parliamentary scrutiny must also be secured.
9. EU external action must be guided by openness to the outside world and not protectionism. This must be enshrined in the constitutional treaty. In particular the goal of abolishing all tariffs and quantitative restrictions must also be enshrined in the constitution, as was the case in the Rome Treaty concerning the dismantling of Europe's internal tariffs.