

Working Group VII

Working document 25

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

**Subject:**      **Comments on the paper "Principles and Objectives of EU External Action"**  
**(WG VII – WD 7)**  
–              Paper by Mr Bobby Mc Donagh, alternate member of the Convention

Members of Working Group VII will find hereafter a paper by Mr Bobby Mc Donagh, representative of the Irish Government, alternate member of the Convention.

**From: Bobby McDonagh, Alternative Representative of the Irish Government**  
**To: Chairperson of Working Group VII on External Action**  
**Subject: Comments on the paper 'Principles and Objectives of EU External Action'**

The task of defining the principles and objectives of the European Union in its external action is both complex and sensitive. In effect, a statement of this kind will represent not only a definition of the basis for the Union's external relations but also a statement of these principles to the Union's citizens, and to the outside world. As such, this will require the most careful consideration both in this Working Group and elsewhere.

It is important that this statement of our principles and objectives be comprehensive. The text prepared by the Secretariat provides a useful starting point. In particular, the concepts and values of Article 11 TEU rightly form the core of the paper. However, there are a number of areas in which the present text might be reinforced.

In particular, the references to the Charter of the United Nations should be given greater prominence both in the statement of principles and in the section on objectives. We should also make clear that the fundamental values which we share in the Union are universal values shared by peoples around the world. I have also worked on the assumption that the allocation of competences between the Union on the one hand, and the Member States on the other in the area of external action will be stated elsewhere and that there is, therefore, no need to repeat them in this exercise.

On a final general observation, there is a degree of repetition between the first and second paragraphs which could be addressed without any diminution in either the content or the scope of the text. However, I have confined myself to the draft as it stands for the purpose of setting out proposed amendments.

## 'Principles and Objectives of EU External Action'

1. **The European Union affirms its commitment to the ideal of peace and friendly cooperation amongst nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Its** action on the international stage will be guided by, and designed to advance in the wider world, the ~~very~~ **fundamental** values ~~which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement of~~ democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity **with the developing world, the peaceful settlement of disputes,** respect for the independence of sovereign states, freedom of opinion and opportunity, freedom from ~~famine want and oppression fear~~. **The Union is committed to collective security based on** multilateral solutions to common problems. **It** will seek to develop relations and build partnerships with all countries, regional or global organisations who share ~~its~~ **these** values; ~~will seek multilateral solutions to common problems;~~ **and** will fully respect all international obligations. ~~and will act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.~~
2. The European Union will **seek, in the pursuit of its external relations,** ~~define and pursue common policies in all areas of external relations where competence has been attributed to it and will work for the closest possible co-operation and the maximum degree of joint action in those areas where responsibility remain with the Member States~~
  - (a) to safeguard the **common values, fundamental** interests, independence and integrity of the Union **in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;**
  - (b) to consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, international justice and human rights;
  - (c) **to preserve peace and international security, including through conflict prevention and crisis management, and in accordance with the principles of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter;**
  - (d) to encourage the integration of all countries into the world economy **on a balanced and sustainable basis** including through the **progressive** abolition of restrictions on international trade;
  - (e) to foster the **sustainable** ~~economic and social~~ development of developing countries, and to reduce poverty, ~~in the world,~~ in particular in the least developed countries, **in line with the objectives of the UN Millennium Declaration;**

- (f) to assist communities, countries or regions confronting human or natural disaster;
- (g) to develop international measures to preserve the environment and global natural resources, and ensure sustainable development.
- (h) ~~To preserve peace, and strengthen international security, in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter.~~

3. **The Union shall seek to take account of these objectives when framing relevant internal policies.** ~~Some EU internal policies have external aspects. When considering such aspects, the Union will have in mind the above objectives.~~

Bobby McDonagh

Irish Government Alternate Representative

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