

Working Group VII

Working document 30

Working group VII – "External Action"

Subject: Amendments to the preliminary draft final report of Working Group VII on External Action (WD 021 - WG VII), supported by Mr Adrian Severin, Mr Elmar Brok, Mr Alain Lamassoure and Mr René van der Linden

Members of Working Group VII will find hereafter comments by Mr Adrian Severin, representative of the Romanian Parliament, alternate member of the Convention, Mr Elmar Brok, member of the European Parliament, member of the Convention, Mr Alain Lamassoure, member of the European Parliament, member of the Convention and Mr René van der Linden, representative of the Dutch Parliament, member of the Convention.

Amendments to the preliminary draft final report of the Working group VII – “External Action”

supported by Mr. Elmar Brok, Mr. Alain Lamassoure,
Mr. Rene van der Linden, Mr. Adrian Severin

A. Members acknowledged that only a stronger political EU could be a relevant player in the world. Members were of the opinion that a common European position in many aspects of the foreign policy would meet the interests of the national states.

In the context of globalization, it is not possible any longer to exercise the sovereignty in the traditional way. We have to give credit to the absolute concept of sovereignty for its decisive contribution to the development of the nation states during the past couple of centuries. However, in present times the absolute character of the sovereignty no longer offers full guarantees for the national development. Therefore, European states make the best use of their sovereignties by sharing them and by pooling them at the European level.

Members considered that the principles and general objectives of all areas of EU’s external action must be incorporated into the Constitutional Treaty. Likewise they stressed that both the concept on a common European Foreign and Security Policy and the said policy as such must be coherent and lead to efficiency.

Considering the all abovementioned ideas are points of consensus of the members within the working group, we suggest that on page 15, chapter VII, the following paragraphs, reflecting a possible compromise, are added as parts of the future constitutional text:

- 1. The Member States affirm that a strong Europe which could play a first hand role within a multipolar world is in their national interest.*

They also recognize that in order to achieve such a goal a common European foreign and security policy is an absolute need.

Consequently they are ready to exercise jointly their sovereignty to that extent to which is necessary in order to develop a coherent and efficient European foreign and security policy.

2. *The principles and objectives of the European Union's external action are those mentioned in the Annex.*
3. *The EU member states also recognize that a successful common internal policy could not be performed within an interconnected world but if it has the possibility to be developed through the specific means of European external action policy as well. The internal and external action/policy of the European Union must be coherent.*
4. *The EU Member States further recognize that they must achieve coherence between the foreign and security policy, the defence and crisis management policy, the commercial policy, the international development policy and the humanitarian aid policy of the Union.*
5. *The EU must have a common diplomatic position, at least, in the following issues:*
 - *Humanitarian and development aid*
 - *International negotiations in the following matters:*
 - *Environment*
 - *Finance, with a focus on the prevention and the management of the financial crises*
 - *Commerce*
 - *Nuclear safety, notably in the ex-Soviet Union*
 - *Energy security, mainly the oil strategic stake*
 - *Near neighborhood: Balkans, North Africa, European ex-Soviet countries (Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine), Middle East, Caucasus.*
 - *The EU-USA relations*
 - *The EU-Russia relations*
 - *The EU-Asia relations*
 - *The EU-South America relations*

In other matters of external action, prior a Member State conveys its own position or takes action, the whole of the Member States will hold joint consultation.

6. *The main responsible person for the initiation, enhancement and coordination of the EU's foreign and security policy will be the Foreign Minister of the European Union (FMEU).*

The FMEU will be the Vice-President of the European Commission and in this capacity he will chair the European Council for Foreign Affairs.

He will be appointed by the approval of the European Parliament based on the nomination by the Council, which will decide by QMV on a proposal of the President of the Commission.

7. *The European Council/the Council for Foreign Affairs will have the right to decide on the main common strategies and political guidelines for the EU's foreign and security policy, having in mind the provisions of the paragraphs 1-5 above.*

The FMEU alone or the European Commission will have the right to initiate common strategies and political guidelines which will have to be confirmed by the Council. Any amendment to these proposals should be agreed in advance with the initiator. If an agreement cannot be reached the final decision will be taken by the Council by unanimous vote.

8. *The Commission will approve all measures necessary for the enhancement of the strategies and guidelines adopted as per the above paragraph 7, following the proposals initiated by the FMEU. If the Council (Legislative Council-if any) appreciate that the implementation measures established by the Commission are not appropriate, it could ask for a call back. If the Commission does not agree to revise the disputed measures and policies, the final decision on a call back will be made by the European Parliament (in a joint session with the Legislative Council-if any) or by the European Council by unanimity.*

The call back right could be exercised within three months from the date the measure or the policy in dispute was adopted/ announced to those concerned.

9. *The decision on the CFSP will be taken by QMV except when the provisions of the Treaty provide a different procedure and when the decision concerned implies, directly or indirectly, the recourse to a military action.*

10. Every five/ten years, the Commission will make a report on how the CFSP could be further developed and integrated. The report could also propose amendments to the above paragraph 5. The Commission's proposals could be adopted by the European Parliament by QMV. The decision of the European Parliament must be ratified by the European Council by unanimity.

B. The sponsors of the above amendment, in the light of the solutions hereinabove, reiterate their opposition to the idea concerning a permanent President of the Council.
