

Working Group VII

Working document 33

Working group VII – "External Action"

Subject: **The comments by Mr Jan Kohout to the preliminary draft final report of Working Group VII on External Action (WD 021 - WG VII)**

Members of Working Group VII will find hereafter comments by Mr Jan Kohout, Czech government representative, member of the Convention.

Jan Kohout, Czech Government Representative

Comments on the preliminary draft final report of the WG VII (WD21)

Par. 10 - general support for the paper of Mr Bobby Mc Donagh (WD25), differently not to mention in the list of objectives any concrete UN or other papers with the exception of the UN Charter.

Par. 16 - suggestion to add to the par. 15

Par. 17 - suggestion to delete

Par. 20 - suggestion to complement as follows (or to introduce a new par.):

"According to some members those structures should be based on the experience of the current Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit (PPEWU) located in the Council. The PPEWU should be reinforced in order to become a real tool for joint assessment of EU interests and for presenting elaborated options of EU action in the field of the external policy. With that regard the PPEWU could be considered a central analytic and foreign policy planning body combining the resources from MS and EU institutions."

Par. 24 - suggestion to formulate as follows "... a large majority of members proposed a certain number of measures that would further strengthen the HR's role and status **irrespectively of his/her relations with the Commission**".

Par. 34 - suggestion not to use the expression "a new instrument of EU external action" and to clarify what kind of acts would be taken at the basis of joint proposals by the HR and the Commission (common positions, joint actions, decisions).

Par. 39 - suggestion to add a bracket **"(to extend eventually the closer cooperation beyond the present scope of implementing common positions and joint actions and to soften the emergency brake for the launching of closer cooperation)"**.

Par. 45 - suggestion to delete (due to amendments in par. 20)

Par. 50 - suggestion to extend the part about an EU diplomatic academy: **"The EU diplomatic Academy would as a two-way mechanism contribute to the preparation of EU diplomatic service and to the "europanisation" of the MS foreign services."**