

Working Group VII

Working document 47

Working group VII – "External Action"

Subject: The comments by Mr Gijs de Vries to the preliminary draft final report of Working Group VII on External Action (WD 021 - WG VII) and to the draft text on principles and objectives of EU external action (WD 007 - WG VII)

Members of Working Group VII will find hereafter comments by Mr Gijs de Vries, Netherlands government representative, member of the Convention.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION

Working Group on External Action (WG VII)

Comments and proposals for amendments by Mr Gijs de Vries, Netherlands Government Representative, including a text-proposal on an initiative to extend QMV to joint actions

Para 18

- include a reference to external third pillar activities (such as: migration, readmission agreements, terrorism), which is now missing.

Para 21

- Change the last sentence in: “Some suggested that this task should be entrusted to the Relex Commissioner, who should be made a Vice President of the Commission.”

Para 24

- Delete the following texts:
 - chairing of the external action Council by the HR;
This point is subject to the wider discussion in the Convention on presidency of the Council;
 - changing his title, possibly into “Minister of Foreign Affairs” of the EU

Para's 26, 27 and 28

- The order of the paragraphs should be changed:
 - First para 26 (practical cooperation between HR and Relex Commissioner)
 - Then para 28 (double hatting: one person in two institutions)
 - Final goal: para 27 (merger of HR and Relex Commissioner in Commission)

Para 29

- Change last sentence in “Others, however, considered that the scope of responsibilities could be dealt with by appointing to the “double hatted” person a number of deputies/assistants or Special Representatives with specific geographical/thematic responsibilities, nominated by the Council and under acting under responsibility of the “double hatted” person, as well as by having a burden sharing among members of the Commission of tasks relating to external action.”

Para 38

- Change this paragraph as follows:
“ The Group in general was favorable to encouraging joint initiatives of the HR and Relex Commissioner, which would cover foreign policy and external relations issues, since it would increase coherence in the external policy of the EU. The Group saw a possibility for extension of the use of QMV by the Council when it was presented with such initiatives. Another possibility would be the use of QMV by the Council and a possible role for the European Parliament for certain types of joint actions.”

Para 41

- Coherence within the EU’s development cooperation activities should be enhanced. Internal EU policies should not be contradictory to development policies.

Para 42

- Add the sentence: “Some suggested that in exchange for an increase of the current CFSP budget, consultation of the European Parliament should be made possible on how this budget is used.”

Para 48

- Add at the end the sentence: “Some suggested that the EU representation in the UN, especially in the UN Security Council, could also be improved, including through the possibility of an EU-seat”.

Para 49

- Delete the first sentence.

Para 50

- Add at the end of the second sentence “and would be open to officials of the Council Secretariat”.

Annex

- Annex sub 2 (a): the words “independence and integrity” should be removed. They might be seen to cover elements of self-defence. This issue will be dealt with in another working group.
- Annex sub 2 (c): should include the notion of ‘global free trade’.
- Annex sub 2 (g): should be moved upwards to become 2 (c).

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