

Working Group VII

Working document 69

Working group VII – "External Action"

**Subject: The comments by Mr Gijs de Vries to the revised draft final report of
Working Group VII on External Action (WG VII – WD 21 REV 3)**

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

The Chairman of the European Convention
Working Group VII- External Action,
Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene
European Convention Secretariat
Wetstraat 175

The Hague, December 12, 2002,

Please find attached my reaction on behalf of the Dutch Government to your excellent revised draft-report. I would appreciate if these remarks could be taken into account in the final report of the working group.

I limit myself to the operational recommendations, which we will discuss in the plenary session of next week.

I would be much obliged, if you could distribute this contribution to the members of the Working Group. I look forward to receiving the final report.

Yours sincerely,

Gijs de Vries,
Representative of the Dutch Government to the European Convention.

**Comments by the Netherlands' government representative, Mr. Gijs de Vries
On the Revised Draft Final Report of Working Group VII External Action
(Working Document 21 rev 3)**

General Comment:

The Netherlands is of the view that ESDP should be considered an integral part of the EU's external action.

Separate chapters in a new Treaty on 'External Action' and 'Defense' should be avoided; future work and discussion in the framework of the Convention should as much as possible be combined. Thus combining the results of the working-groups on External action and Defence.

Specific Comments:

Recommendation nr. 2: Principles and Objectives

- 2: adjust last sentence to read: '...,these principles and objectives should be guiding when formulating and implementing external aspects of EU internal policies.'

Recommendation nr. 3: Strategic objectives and interests

- add after 'specific country/region': 'theme'

Recommendation nr. 5: Enhancing coherence and efficiency between institutions and actors

- second indent: replace 'under the guidance of the Council' by 'under the guidance of the External Action Council'.
- third indent: replace 'possibly' by 'preferably'.

Recommendation nr.6: Enhancing coherence and efficiency in external action within each institution

- second indent: replace ‘possibly the Vice-President’ by ‘preferably the person who would combine the functions of HR and Relex Commissioner and who preferably would be the Vice-President of the Commission’.

Recommendation nr. 7: Enhancing coherence and efficiency at the level of services

- second indent: add ‘seconded’ before ‘members of national diplomatic services’.

Recommendation nr. 8: Instruments and decision-making

- b) third indent: add after ‘joint initiatives’: ‘ and joint actions’. The Netherlands submitted an initiative before, which pleads in favour of extending QMV to ‘joint actions’.
- c) add: ‘and of more involvement of the European Parliament’.

Recommendation nr. 9: Development Cooperation Policy

- third paragraph: add after ‘..EU external action’: ‘as well as between development cooperation and external aspects of EU internal policies...’
- third paragraph: add: ‘Coherence issues should be brought to the attention of the Council in a more systematic way, in order for them to be fully taken into account in the decision-making process.’
