

Working Group VIII

Working document 31

WORKING GROUP VIII « DEFENCE »

Subject : **Comments by Ms Piia-Noora Kauppi on the preliminary draft final report of Working Group VIII "Defence" (WD 022)**

Members of Working Group VIII will find attached comments by Ms Piia-Noora Kauppi, alternate member of the Convention, on the preliminary draft final report.

**Contribution by MEP Piia-Noora KAUPPI
on the
Preliminary Draft Report from the Convention Working Group on
Defence (WD 22)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The European Union has proven to be an effective co-operative forum for European States to successfully tackle common challenges. Having secured peace, trust and by international standards, a tremendously deep level of co-operation among its Member States, the European Union finds itself nevertheless in a situation, where the crises in the international political system necessitate Europeans to pool their efforts also in the fields of security and defence.

The tragical and traumatic events on the Balkans following the breakdown of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia brought in an ashaming way to daylight European inability to dispel hostility and channel turbulent processes of change in a peace- and security-enhancing manner on its own continent.

Progress to enhance the efficiency of the CFSP and ESDP has since then taken place, but the current ESDP structures and co-operation levels are far from satisfactory.

An up-dating and widening of the Petersberg tasks, to include for example support measures for another MS fallen victim of a terrorist attack, is sensible. The geographical area for carrying Petersberg missions should be limited to the area of the Member States and the imminent neighbouring areas of the Union.

The development of a common ESDP must not be detrimental to the existing positive transatlantic security co-operation structures.

II. MRS KAUPPI'S COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS-PART OF WD 22

Mrs Kauppi's following comments on different ESDP-issues focus on the Recommendations part (part E) of the Preliminary Draft Report (WD 22 – WG VIII).

ESDP-Structures: One High Representative for CFSP and ESDP

Comments on: I. Crisis management: coherence, efficiency, 35. (b)

The "Future HR", as referred to in the Preliminary Draft Report (p.12), should be the actual High Representative. The setting up of a separate post for a high representative for defence issues, acting in co-operation or under the supervision of the actual High Representative, is to be discouraged, as this would only lead to a unnecessary complication and blurring of ESDP-structures. The nature of defence and security matters demands clear, functional decision-making structures. The "Future High Representative" could act efficiently only with the fullest confidence of the Member States' governments. The institutional framework of the current High Representative has provided this.

Financing Crisis Management Operations

Comments on: I. Crisis management: coherence, efficiency, 35. (d)

The launching of a Crisis Management operation necessitates a swift access to financing. A flexible and speedy budgetary procedure is crucial, which, at the same time, must not fall outside the principles of democratically legitimated political and financial budgetary control.

*The wording of paragraph 35. (d) should thus be changed: “(...) As regards the civilian aspects of a crisis management operation, therefore the Group recommends that a provision be included in the Treaty allowing for **specific (5 words deleted)** procedures for calling on the Community budget in order to guarantee the requisite speed. (...)”*

The idea to set up a fund, as noted by the Secretariat in the Preliminary Draft Report (p.12), from which the preparatory stages of an operation could be financed is to be welcomed.

Information of the European Parliament on ESDP-matters

Comments on: II. The institutional framework: arrangements to be strengthened, B. Parliamentary scrutiny, 40.

The European parliament shall be kept duly informed by the Council and by the High Representative.

The wording of paragraph 40, 1st tiret should thus be changed: - In the area of the development of the ESDP, the European Parliament would be duly informed by the Presidency of the European Council and of the Council, and by the High Representative (...)

“Different speeds”

Comments on: IV. Petersberg missions: updating and flexibility, (c) Recognising the diversity of commitments, 47-48

It is sensible to give Member States wishing to undertake a firmer commitment to tasks already enshrined in the treaty the possibility to do so within the framework of the Union rather than a “Coalition of the Willing” outside the Union, if 1. these Member States form a significant majority among the Member States of the Union and 2. if the other Member States, that wish to remain preliminary outside this closer type of co-operation on defence matters, are guaranteed the possibility to “opt-in” at the stage they decide to do so.

Capabilities and Armaments: Render European Defence Industries Competitive

Comments on: V. Capabilities and armaments: towards a European agency, 49-52

The European defence industry is split up into significantly smaller units than for example its North-American counterparts. Economies of scale are urgently needed as competitive pressure by non-European producers rises permanently. Europe faces the risk of a future overdependency on non-European providers. The dilemma has been recognised and first, but very modest steps taken in the field of European armament co-operation.

A pooling of the current national research, planning and procurement efforts in a common European Capabilities Agency is to be welcomed warmly. Participation in the Agency must be guaranteed for all Member States of the European Union.

Council of Ministers of Defence to be established

Comments on: V. Capabilities and armaments: towards a European agency, 53

The enhancement of European capabilities is to be given the necessary political focus and level of attention. The setting up of a Council of Ministers to act in the sphere of capabilities, monitor Member States' efforts and to adapt the Union's capability objectives to the way requirements and the international situation evolve, as outlined in paragraph 53 is thus to be warmly supported.
