

RESOLUTION “TOWARDS A FEDERAL EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE: A EUROPE THAT PROTECTS, EMPOWERS AND DEFENDS”

Adopted by the UEF XXVI European Congress of 23-25 November 2018 in Vienna

The European Congress of the Union of European Federalists:

In reference to the resolutions on Europe Defence adopted by the Federal Committee in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016;

In reference to the resolution on foreign and defence policy adopted by the UEF XXV European Congress in June 2016;

Having regard to the Rome Declaration on the 60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome;

Having regard the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy of June 2016;

Having regard the EU-NATO Joint Declaration of July 2016;

Having regard the European Commission EU Defence Action Plan;

Having regard the Council decision establishing PESCO, its list of participants and the list of adopted projects;

Having regard the launch of the European Defence Fund and the European Intervention Initiative (EI2), launched on 25 June 2018;

Having regard of the Civilian Compact adopted by the Council on 19th of November 2018;

Whereas Europe's security environment has changed dramatically in the past few years. The changes of World Order require the EU to assertively assume responsibility for its own security in order to cope and address the changing global relationships and emerging threats such as cyber security, terrorism and environment degradation, etc.;

Whereas EU security is based on civilian conflict prevention and diplomatic efforts, only a handful of Member states have significant military capabilities, which can be used only for a specific mission, limited in duration and field of operation. European defence still relies mostly on NATO which in turn depends on the increasingly unreliable US and their capabilities;

Whereas the EU has still substantial capabilities gaps in the areas of civilian CSDP;

Whereas at present, neither individual EU Member States nor the EU as a whole have enough and coordinated means to protect the integrity of the European border or to play the role of stabilizer and peacemaker in the unstable regions bordering Europe;

Whereas the fragmentation of the current intergovernmental institutional framework hampers the EU's effectiveness in the field of security, defence and foreign policy and the EU's role on the global stage.

EU defence - Policy Objectives

Stress that reforms to enable the EU to speak with one voice in international relations and in international institutions should be a fundamental component of the process of building a truly European foreign, security and defence policy;

Calls for the establishment of a truly EU foreign and security policy that would enable the EU to promote its values in today's globalised world;

Urges for the increased use of majority vote in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy as already provided by EU treaty;

Calls for the swift implantation of the Civilian Compact and the further development of civilian CSDP;

Calls for a European Union permanent seat at the Security Council of the United Nations. In this way, the European Union would finally be a transformative power that contributes to a peaceful and cooperative multilateral global order through a broad range of policies and operational capabilities;

Considers the immediate neighbourhood of the European Union a priority, calling for a greater EU role in filling the security vacuum in its wider neighbourhood;

Calls for the EU member states to strengthen the cooperation in cyber defence and mutual assistance in cyber security;

Stresses the need to improve the European Union's strategic communication, strengthen resilience to systematic disinformation campaigns and counter hybrid interference by foreign governments; with financing from the R&D fund Horizon Europe.

From PESCO to EU Army, passing by EU integrated forces

Calls on the Member States and the EU institutions to make full use on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and to exploit the recent established permanent structured cooperation PESCO that should ultimately lead to a European Defence and Security Union;

Supports the establishment of permanent EU military headquarters, headed by a Military Operations Commander, with its own operational assets, that would enable the EU, when necessary, to respond to crises without relying exclusively on NATO, and to plan and run EU military and civilian missions. This military HQ would complement the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability, which was already established in 2007 and runs all civilian CSDP missions. Synergies between the two HQs as well as with the European Commission and relevant JHA-Agencies, such as the newly established European Border and Coast Guard Agency, should be actively sought;

Supports the transfer, to the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) of the executive missions (that is, peace-enforcing missions) and the related operational assets;

Calls for the procedural, financial and political obstacles which so far prevented the deployment of the existing Battle groups to be removed as soon as possible, as suggested in the EU Global Strategy;

Stress that within PESCO, participating Member States should establish a European Integrated Forces allowing for divisions of national armies to come together in a permanent and structured missions and operations under the orders of a common European chain of command; including inter alia coordination of the recruitment, training, and harmonization of rules of engagement;

Stress that in the longer term this integrated force should evolve into a true federal European Army. This European federal army should complement, initially, the national forces, leading one day to European Defence becoming a European shared competence.

Defence Budget and EU industry

Welcomes the creation of a European Defence Fund. For it to become a step-change in the way defence is financed, it should move away (at least partially) from a system of simply national contributions and should be financed by the EU own resources;

Calls for a substantial increase of this fund by shifting from national to the European level both in the stage of research and development and in the stage of operations;

Calls for the transfer to the European Defense Fund (EDF) the financial resources mobilized for military operations supported by member States on behalf of EU and UN (ex.: Sophia, Atalanta, EUTM missions, and so on), equal to 40 bn/€;

Calls for a single market on defence. The application of EU's internal market rules (namely competition law) to national defence procurement, combined with an EU-level public procurement and EU funding for research and technology development, would greatly incentivise the creation of a truly European defence industry and a robust single market for defence;

Calls for an improvement of the “Military Erasmus”, called today Exchange of Military Young Officers , by granting more resources to the European Defence College (ESDC) and open the possibilities to participate for all military ranks as well as civilian staff.

Decision - making

Stress that Decision-making on CSDP issues should be democratic and transparent. Today, CSDP is largely determined by the EU Member States, deciding at unanimity, with little parliamentary involvement and democratic accountability;

Stress that the European Parliament sub-committee on Security and Defence (SEDE) of the Foreign Affairs Committee should become a fully-fledged committee;

Calls for the nomination of a Commissioner responsible for Defence and Security; in the long run, the European Parliament should be entitled to co-legislate on all aspects of security and defence policy (capabilities, procurement, priorities, missions' mandates, geopolitical strategies etc.) on an equal footing with a Council configuration of Defence ministers (chaired by the High Representative) on proposals made by the European Commission. This would ensure fully democratic CSDP decision-making processes;

Highlights that the intergovernmental method prevailing within the EU cannot produce a European Defence and Security as well as common EU foreign policy. Only a federal political Union would promote the EU values and enable the EU to speak with one voice.