

External Action Working Group Draft Report

Preamble

We, the European students, gathered together at Sciences-Po in Paris, have decided upon the following proposals for the future of the External Action of the European Union (EU). The whole group feels that the cohesion in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) should be re-enforced in order for the Union to defend and promote the values that it stands for.

1. The first issue we debated was the **merger of the current posts of High Representative (HR) for CFSP and the External Relations Commissioner**. There was a unanimous agreement on the necessity of doing so in order to clarify the competencies in the field of the EU's external policy.

Regarding the naming of the new joint post, the members of the group put forward many proposals. The name of **EU External Representative** (hereafter "the Representative") emerged victorious after a two-round vote.

The Representative would be appointed by the Council and approved by the European Parliament (EP). Furthermore, he would be a member of the Commission, as well as be granted the status of observer in the Council. Nevertheless, given the considerable powers he would possess, he would be **personally accountable to the EP** (possibility of a Motion of Censure by the EP by a Qualified Majority Vote [QMV]) **as well as the European Council**.

2. **The EU External Representative would be the head of a newly constituted DG RELEX**. In this new body, we propose to regroup the former DG RELEX with the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit, the CFSP working Groups, the Committee for Civilian Aspects and Crisis Management as well as a new Group of Counselors.

The Representative would be head of the Diplomatic Missions of the EU. A new Diplomatic Academy is to be created.

Regarding the issue of EU diplomatic representation, the consensus among the Group was that **in third countries both EU and/or national representation should be possible**.

We believe that the Treaties should establish a legal framework and define issues where member states are bound to a **common vote in International Organisations** after previous consultation among the Member States.

3. Concerning the budget devoted to CFSP, we propose the **merging of the current two separate budgets of the HR and the RELEX Commissioner**.
4. We agreed that **national debates should take place whether Member States are willing to enter enhanced co-operation in which they would accept QMV in all**

fields. On this matter, the European Council should discuss the possibilities of a single mode of adoption in the whole EU.

5. There was a general agreement in the Group on the **principle of co-decision**. Co-decision applies to longer-term external action where the EU has exclusive or shared competence already lying with the Commission.
6. The Group agreed that prior to European Council meetings, an **extraordinary session of the EP should be able to lay out the long-term goals of CFSP**. The European Council will mention and reply to the EP resolutions in its Final Statements.
7. **Decisions are implemented by the Representative**. He/she also issues statements on behalf of the Council.
8. A clear majority of the Group agreed that in External Action, the **right of initiative** should lie with the Representative and the EP; others wanted a monopoly of initiative of the Commission. Some members of the Group wanted to establish a Joint Committee, whose members would be come from DG RELEX, the Political and Security Committee, the EP's Committee for External Relations, the COREPER and the Presidency of the Council. This body would ensure coherence, as it would be a permanent link between all the institutions involved in CFSP.
9. Regarding **crisis management** (this also applies to the deployment of the European Rapid Reaction Force [ERRF]), a majority agreed that the right of initiative should lie within the Council and the Commission. After the decision of the Council, the EP can have an extraordinary session within 5 days. The EP can reject the decision by a minimum 2/3 vote of its members voting by QMV. If the EP does not hold this extraordinary session, the decision of the Council is deemed accepted.