

**14th Inter-Parliamentary Conference
for the Common Foreign and Security Policy
and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP)
Bucharest, 7 – 8 March 2019**

Final statement by the co-presidency

The 14th Inter-parliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP was held in Bucharest on 7 and 8 March 2019. It was attended by Parliamentarians from the EU Member States and the European Parliament. The Members exchanged views on a range of current foreign and security policy issues, which is reflected in our final statement.

CFSP/CSDP priorities and strategies. The future of European security

The time has come for the EU to develop a genuine common foreign and security policy (CFSP) to promote its interests, principles and values in the face of increasing challenges, notably in its neighbourhood. Available instruments need to be used more effectively and Member States should prioritise unified EU positions. EU ambitions need to be met with adequate commitment in terms of decision-making processes. **Ideas such as** the setting up of a EU Security Council and introducing qualified majority voting in the Council of the EU on matters relating to the CFSP other than those having military or defence implications, **worth a deeper analysis before being contemplated by the Member States.**

The end of the Intermediate range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty confronts us with the perspective of a new nuclear arms race in Europe. We, the Europeans, are required to stand firmly together and harness our collective security, we need to stand firmly together with our allies through the strongest NATO possible, and to fend off Russia's moves to intimidate us, to confuse our unity and to jeopardise decades of peace in Europe.

CSDP Triangle: CARD – PESCO – EDF

The new CFSP instruments: The Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) matches the ambitions from the Capability Development plan with the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) **goals.** The European Defence Fund (EDF) incentivises broad EU level cooperation in developing defence technologies and prototypes of future systems, in particular under PESCO. These three instruments are essential for framing the future of the security and defence policy at Union level. We note that progress needs to be made to use these instruments in concert with each other, and with others, in particular NATO's Defence Planning Process.

Parliaments at national and at Union level need to develop a practical approach to their related cooperation in the future, as there is only one single set of forces in Europe, and of taxpayers.

Invites the Member States to continue negotiations on the European Peace Facility which can contribute to supporting the EU capacity to respond to its international

commitments.

Eastern Partnership – 10 years of European aspirations

We reiterate the shared EU's commitments to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Eastern Partnership countries, peaceful resolution of any disputes and application of international law, democratic standards and the respect of human rights, the rule of law, and good and transparent governance.

We believe in the need to keep focus on reform agenda in these countries by applying the "more for more" principle and building incentives and conditionality and assist those who share our common values, and show true willingness to implement the necessary reforms. For this reason, a more ambitious Eastern partnership Plus is an option for countries who are ready to take more ambitious steps.

We deplore Russia's continuous violations of international law and its hybrid warfare in the region.

The strategic importance of the Black Sea on the EU agenda

The Black Sea region remains one of the most crucial regions for EU security. We condemn Russia's actions in the Sea of Azov, which constitute a breach of international maritime law and Russia's international commitments, as well as the building of the Kerch Bridge and the laying of underwater cables to the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula without the consent of Ukraine. The Russian militarisation of the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea region and Kaliningrad District as well as the recurring pattern of violating the territorial waters of European countries in the Baltic Sea remain of serious concern.

We call on the European institutions to increase visibility of the Black Sea region and to build a more articulated regional approach as it is necessary to address common problems in a joint manner.

Future of CFSP/CSDP from BREXIT perspective

We recognise the need to look for creative solutions for future cooperation between the European Union and the United Kingdom in the area of CFSP and CSDP to ensure that mutual interests are not compromised. Close cooperation and engagement are required in all areas and in particular in the coordination of positions in international organisations and as regards the sanctions policy. In the area of CSDP, the United Kingdom and the Member States have expressed their desire to maintain the closest cooperation possible, including through NATO.

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

We consider that the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a Community instrument well adapted for the macro-regional cooperation of the fourteen riparian states, precisely nine EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany (through Bavaria and Baden Württemberg Länder), Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, as well as the five non-EU states: Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

We support the strengthening and development of the regional political, economic and social cooperation and the implementation of the EU policies and legislation within the Danube macro-region.

Cyber Security and Hybrid Warfare

Cyber and hybrid warfare are at the core of the future challenges our armed forces are facing. As parliaments we need to be resilient, we need to foster resilience of our societies, and we need to be actors in carrying our message of democracy, freedom, human dignity and a multilateral world order, thereby reinforcing our European identity and our independence in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and in the world.

Military mobility, a challenge to develop synergies between NATO and EU

The challenges of the international security environment require higher attention to the collective defence and its needs, notably military mobility. Procedures and infrastructures in Europe are not **properly dimensioned for a larger dislocation of forces**.

The newly developed military mobility concepts in NATO and the projected funding from the Union and the national budgets will lead to smoothed procedures and to the right investments to be made in the right places in the Member States.

Inter-parliamentary cooperation will be essential for the prioritisation of the projects, their funding and the common political scrutiny on the progress made. We recognize the role of the national Parliaments to provide a higher level of approximation of legislations and national relevant procedures.

A credible perspective for enlargement and a strengthened EU commitment to the Western Balkans

We commend the determination/ perseverance and courage demonstrated by political and civic actors, leading to the implementation of the Prespa Agreement as a major building block for peace and stability in the South Eastern Europe. We urge decision-makers across the region to build upon the positive momentum to resolve other long-standing disputes, notably through the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue facilitated by the EU. We reconfirm the Union's enduring engagement for lasting internal and external reconciliation, which is a prerequisite for EU accession and urge the countries of the region to overcome remaining differences.

We welcome the ongoing reform efforts undertaken in the region and reiterate our support to its transformation, with democracy, good governance and the rule of law being the cornerstones of a secure and sustainable European future for the Western Balkans. In particular, internal political dialogue, fighting corruption and organised crime, protecting human rights notably through minorities and defending media freedom are of utmost importance.

Cristian-Sorin Dumitrescu, Head of the delegation of the Romanian Parliament

Ioan Mircea Pascu, Head of the delegation of the European Parliament