

Dok 35

Foreign and European Affairs Committee
Parliament of Malta

KOMITAT PERMANENTI GĦALL-AFFARIJET
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Comments on the RECOMMENDATION by the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Committee on Foreign Affairs to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, to the Council and to the Commission in view of the 2013 review of the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS.

Parliamentary oversight over the EEAS is essential if European external action is to be better understood and supported by EU citizens. Parliamentary scrutiny enhances the legitimacy of the external action.

The Foreign and European Affairs Committee:

- Welcomes and supports the European Parliament's demand for a stronger role of the European Parliament and is in agreement with the request for full political reporting from delegations.
- Supports the initiative of enabling delegations to provide consular protection to EU citizens from Member States who are not represented in a given country.
- Agrees with the measure of having new Heads of Delegations officially confirmed by the relevant committee of Parliament before taking up their posts.

In order for the EEAS to effectively contribute to EU foreign policy and external action the FEAC:

- Calls for a greater role for national parliaments in the scrutiny process of the EEAS and the EEAS budget. The Annual Report drafted by the High Representative should be formally submitted to national parliaments. National parliaments should be involved in the decision making process through consultation.
- Believes that this is the only way to enhance the Member States' sense of ownership of this instrument and assuage any fears or perceptions of the EEAS as a threat to the sovereignty of national policy.
- Insists on a greater geographical balance among EEAS staff at all levels of its structure to ensure that the EEAS represents the will of all the EU Member States.