

16<sup>th</sup> Parliament  

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Italy's Chamber of Deputies

Document XVIII  
No. 26

Foreign and Community Affairs Committee  
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Final document pursuant to article 127 in the Rules of Procedure on:

Draft Council Decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (8029/10 POLGEN 43)

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Approved on 20 July 2010  

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The Foreign and Community Affairs Committee of Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Having examined the Draft Council Decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS);

Taking note of the opinion issued by the European Union Policies Committee on 16 June 2010;

Referring to the legislative resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 8 July 2010, endorsing its determination to strengthen cooperation with the national Parliaments of the Member States in relation to the Union's external action, with reference in particular to the CFSP and the CSDP, and appreciating the establishment of the service for parliamentary relations within the EEAS;

Having considered the statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on political accountability towards the European Parliament, including exchanges of views with the leading Heads of Delegation;

Noting that:

The establishment of the EEAS is an important realization of the institutional arrangements laid down in the Lisbon Treaty and has at last given the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy with the facilities and instruments needed for the performance of her remit;

The opinion polls suggest that seventy percent of Europe's citizens wish the Union to pursue a more commonly agreed foreign policy, such that the EEAS must contribute to ensure that the Union speaks increasingly with a single voice on the world stage;

The EEAS is a radical institutional novelty within the Union, and is required to pursue the ambitious objective of promoting its common foreign policy in implementation of the guidelines laid down by the

European Council and under the oversight of the High Representative;

The EEAS will eventually constitute the European diplomatic corps which, while initially composed by the staff members of the Commission, the Council and the Member States, will be required to develop a single, mature and representative professional body of its own;

Noting furthermore that it is necessary to:

Strengthen the coordination functions of the High Representative in relation to the competences of the other Commissioners in the sphere of the EU's external relations;

Hasten the pace of the start-up of the EEAS, making good the delay that has accumulated during the, albeit necessary, phases of inter-institutional concerted action;

Avoid any bureaucratic automatic personnel selection criteria for appointment to the EEAS, avoiding the creation of a burdensome structure weighed down by excessive administrative bureaucracy, therefore making provision for streamlined and as small as possible staffing;

Guarantee recruitment on the basis of merit, guaranteeing adequate geographic balance between all the Member States;

Define procedures for linking the EEAS to the Commission and the Council in order to foster functional integration while preserving its administrative autonomy and hierarchical line structure with direct accountability to the High Representative;

Clarify relations between the EEAS and the special representatives of the High Representative in order to avoid duplication and overlapping;

Reaffirm the practice of using English and French;

Develop the possibility for EEAS Delegations to represent the Member States abroad and coordinate their stances on the multilateral fora;

Support recognition, within the United Nations, of the new role which the Union has adopted by virtue of the Lisbon Treaty and hence guarantee the corresponding status of the EEAS;

Noting, with reference to the text of the draft, that:

In article 4, the secretary general – with the inappropriate addition of the adjective "executive" - does not appear able to perform the necessary political/administrative linkage function, also because of the equally inappropriate provision that the director-general for the budget and administration is required to work under the direct authority of the High Representative, which thereby has a further burden thrust upon her;

Again in article 4, it would be preferable to specify the functions of the two deputy secretaries-general;

In article 5, the establishment of a strategic policy planning service appears to be particularly convincing in relation to the paramount need to guarantee consistency to the Union's external Action;

In article 6, a reference to providing adequate joint training to the staff of the EEAS, in clause 12, should be supplemented by mentioning European University Institute at Fiesole;

In article 9, the wording of the respective competences of the Commission and the EEAS relating to the instruments of the Union's external action is uncertain and ambiguous, despite the distinction drawn between planning and management;

The blanket transfer to the EEAS also of the supporting staff directly allocated to the Commission executives and the Heads of Delegation appears to be excessive and not consistent with a declared aim of achieving bureaucratic streamlining;

Trusting that:

Italian diplomacy will play an active part in the EEAS from the outset, both by seconding the most highly qualified staff and, in all the fora possible, establishing exchanges and synergies in order, *inter alia*, to ensure that Italian foreign policy is worthily and adequately represented within Europe;

The High Representative will act more decisively to address ESDP and CSDP priorities once the EEAS is in place;

The pooling of the foreign policies of the Member States will involve towards establishing common representation in international organisations, including a European seat on the United Nations Security Council;

The establishment of the EEAS will provide the opportunity for instituting more effective integrated parliamentary control over ESDP and CSDP to be exercised jointly by the European Parliament and the national Parliaments developing the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, directly involving the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees;

Noting, furthermore, the need for this final document to be forwarded to the European Parliament and the European Commission as part of the political dialogue, and to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy;

*Expresses a favourable opinion*

And commits the government to request the prompt establishment of the EEAS on the basis of the inter-institutional agreement, to provide the EEAS with its best diplomatic staff and to support the relative candidacies with determination, working to ensure that they are given adequate positions of responsibility, reporting back regularly to Parliament, to reduce to within the limits of actual need the recruitment of any EEAS staff, fostering joint training for them at the European University Institute, requesting the start-up of programme to study the possible transfer to the Union's Delegations out of the competences currently being managed by national representatives, to encourage Europe-wide linkage within the multilateral organisations.