

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

DECISION

approving the opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council ‘Elements for an EU-wide strategic framework to support security sector reform’

(JOIN (2016) 31)

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and of Rules 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

the Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this Decision:

Sole Article - Having regard to Opinion No 4c-19/1102, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 27 September 2016

1. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the Communication because:

- it is in line with the Council conclusions of May 2015 and provides the elements needed to create a framework that allows a country’s security system to be transformed so that it provides individuals and the state with more effective and accountable security, in a manner consistent with respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the principles of good governance;
- it supports partner countries in their efforts to reform their security systems to uphold the EU’s objectives of peace and stability, inclusive and sustainable development, state-building and democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;
- the EU’s diplomatic and financial, military and civilian, short-term and long-term interventions must be anchored in a single SSR support framework that takes account of the interlinkages between politics, security, justice, humanitarian response, development, conflict and fragility;
- the accompanying joint staff working document contains an assessment intended to improve the consistency, complementarity and coordination of the EU’s capacities and instruments, which takes into account the relevant decisions and guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-DAC);
- it also provides framework elements for guiding the EU’s work on capacity building in support of security and development (CBSD);
- it provides for an extension of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), which in its turn refers in particular to providing more complex assistance both to security actors in partner countries and to military participants, in exceptional circumstances and in line with the objective of sustainable development.

2. The Chamber of Deputies supports the Communication because:

- the framework allows the EU to deploy its long-term and short-term commitment in support of its partners so that they can manage crises autonomously while strengthening the legitimacy, good governance, integrity and sustainability of their security sector in order to promote human security;
- it highlights the fact that any EU intervention in the area of Security Sector Reform (SSR) requires an interinstitutional, coordinated approach, based on a full and integrated assessment of the security system to be changed;
- from this perspective, SSR in the EU’s neighbourhood is relevant to the efforts to increase state resilience and to fight terrorism, organised crime and cyber-attacks;

- as the framework is applicable to candidate countries, it helps them to meet the accession criteria;
- EU Member States are encouraged to design their bilateral SSR programmes within this framework through joint programming, in line with the Council conclusions on stepping up joint programming of 12 May 2016 (point 7);
- it is flexible, and the framework can be applied in all contexts, not just in conflict and pre-conflict situations, as it is broad enough to be adapted to the needs of each specific situation;
- it advocates a more effective and flexible use of EU assistance to help EU partners to prevent and manage crises, which will strengthen the link between security and sustainable development and will contribute to ensuring respect for the rule of law, good governance, and strengthened oversight and civilian control over military affairs in third countries.

3. The Chamber of Deputies takes the view that:

- the document will make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and of the European Agenda on Security;
- as SSR is a long-term political process at the level of power relations in a country; it must be outlined and agreed upon at national level and requires political commitment and leadership, interinstitutional cooperation and broad stakeholder participation to achieve the widest possible consensus;
- the document provides the necessary conceptual milestones and guidelines for action in relation to the SSR purpose and goals, as defined in order to promote legitimacy, good governance, integrity and sustainability, so as to provide stability for countries and safety for people;
- it recognises the interdependence between security and justice, so that the principles that it sets out can also be applied to justice actors, if their roles and functions have clear implications for the security sector;
- the EU's diplomatic and financial, military and civilian, short-term and long-term interventions should be anchored more clearly in a single EU-wide SSR support framework that takes account of the interlinkages between politics, security, justice, humanitarian response, development, conflict and fragility;
- implementation of this policy framework must be assessed regularly (annually) by inter-service teams, and the results and ensuing recommendations must be made public.

4. The Chamber of Deputies considers that:

- the document's overarching goal of helping to make states more stable and individuals more secure should be supported;
- the document's comprehensive approach to external conflict and crisis brings together common security and defence policy (CSDP) and all other relevant common foreign and security policy (CFSP) tools, external action instruments, and freedom, security and justice actors, thus merging and updating two previously separate EU policy concepts for SSR support;
- the setting up of a task force at EEAS and Commission level to provide advice and support to EU Delegations, EEAS and Commission services and CSDP missions is a step that will enhance the effectiveness of action in this area, as it will contribute to ensuring consistency and complementarity of EU SSR activities and to planning and designing SSR development cooperation projects to help develop this process;
- in terms of the security of individuals, which at the same time involves upholding their fundamental freedoms and properly assessing, in a participatory way, the security needs of different groups, including the most vulnerable, more efforts are needed to ensure that women and men have effective and equal access to judicial and security services;
- the defence dimension/component is particularly important for EU support for SSR, given that, with its defining characteristics (military typology, hierarchy, order, discipline, etc.), the defence

industry can be considered an interface that is capable of contributing to positive development and/or maximising the leverage effect in EU support for SSR in select partner countries;

- national security policies should be developed or reviewed taking into account gender-based analyses. Support for victims of violence should also be provided and should be accompanied by preventive measures (e.g. legislation, gender awareness-raising in police and military structures and tackling perpetrator impunity);
- the extension of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace will help to close systemic gaps and will allow the EU to provide more effective assistance to security actors;

5. The Chamber of Deputies points out that:

- to ensure respect for human rights, rule of law and democratic principles, consulting and involving civil society should be standard practice in the development and monitoring of security and justice policy and activities;
- to comply with the principles of good governance, national security strategies should be prepared through inclusive consultation processes, and therefore women's participation should be ensured in line with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;
- it is important to ensure that SSR is consistent, and the EU should therefore encourage partner governments and civil society to embed issues relating to the security sector in their national multiannual development strategies, and to link them as far as possible to ongoing or planned governance efforts in other sectors;
- consistent and sustained measures are needed to implement the proposals in the document more effectively, but, like any other EU SSR initiative/project, such measures must have a clearly defined security component;

6. The Chamber of Deputies believes that, from Romania's point of view:

- Romania has been and will remain a supporter of the EU's growing role in encouraging and supporting SSR efforts of partner countries;
- the EU's approach must be comprehensive, both geographically and functionally;
- support measures by the EU must be tailored to the specific needs and interests of beneficiary countries and must focus on areas that bring real added value;
- cooperation with relevant actors, and in particular the UN and NATO, should be as close as possible; increasing support for partners is a strategic priority in EU-NATO cooperation;
- the competent institutions will take the necessary steps to develop the defence component of SSR so as to bring, in line with Romania's interests, an appropriate contribution to the projects to be developed by the EU in this area; to that end, the Ministry of National Defence, which is primarily responsible for this area, will implement an active interinstitutional approach and will promote consistent and constant coordination with all the relevant ministries involved in SSR.

7. The Chamber of Deputies supports the Communication because:

- it supports partner countries in their efforts to reform their security systems to uphold the EU's objectives of peace and stability, inclusive and sustainable development, state-building and democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;
- it reflects the EU's comprehensive approach to conflict and brings together the EU's CSDP, CFSP and external action tools and all security and justice actors.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 4 October 2016 in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

President of the Chamber of Deputies,

Florin Iordache

Bucharest, 4 October 2016.

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