

Towards a real Common Security and Defence Policy, European Armed Forces and a stronger global position of the European Union

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland, on 2-4 June 2022:

Recognises that:

- the pivotal pledge of the European unification for more than 70 years now – peace, reconciliation, democracy, freedom, prosperity and economic growth – were so powerful and attractive to the European people that the European Union grew steadily;
- the recent synchronisation of Ukrainian and Moldovan electricity grids with the EU's grids is a remarkable achievement.

Believes that:

- Europe can act as an equal with other great powers only if it has a common voice;
- multilateralism and alliances, especially our transatlantic relations, are essential and remain the cornerstone of our continent's security;
- unified, joint, and strong EU external responses are possible if there is a common threat perception among the members and if the states have developed resilience against illiberal influences;
- Europe is at a crossroads and the liberal world order is under attack. Europe must realise that it has to take responsibility for its own security and develop into a militant and self-confident democratic superpower of values. This can be done through establishing the necessary frameworks on rule of law, freedom of speech and human right.

Notes that:

- for a number of years global multipolarity and a looming systemic competition between authoritarian states and liberal western-style democracies can be witnessed whilst the global challenges are becoming increasingly interwoven and are expanding;
- several states such as Russia and China as well as non-state actors are trying to undermine our European liberal way of life;
- many European countries are highly dependent on imports of commodities and imported energy from the Russian Federation.

Resolution:

Towards a real Common Security and Defence Policy, European Armed Forces and a stronger global position of the European Union

Year and Congress:

Dublin, June 2022

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

1

And considers:

- the illiberal and undemocratic regimes established in Russia by the dictator Vladimir Putin and in Belarus by the dictator Alexander Lukashenko;
- that the European country Ukraine has been invaded by Russian armed forces unleashing a catastrophe and causing an unspeakable human suffering;
- that in this war Russian armed forces have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- that, the Vladimir Putin's nationalist vision is a very concrete and imminent threat to European security and to freedom, human and civil rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe;
- that, Vladimir Putin and his political entourage will not stop pursuing their geopolitical design unless the West contains them successfully;
- that, this shift in the EU's security environment accentuates the need of the improving of the EU foreign, security and defence policy;
- that, the fragmentation of the current decision-making processes and the inadequacy of the intergovernmental institutional framework through the unanimity rule hinder efficient decision-making in the field of foreign and security policy so that EU Member States are often unable to agree on a common position in the face of external and internal threats to our values and security;
- the EU has been trying to build common defence capabilities for years but structural deficiencies remain;
- the EU must work towards the goal of a defence union;
- that, a European common defence policy project must be sufficiently ambitious, including in budgetary terms;
- that, the European Common Security and Defence Policy is compatible with the existence of NATO.

So, having regard to:

- the launch, by the Council in June 2020, of the Strategic Compass with the task of defining policy orientations and specific goals and objectives about crisis management, capability development, and partnerships;
- the conclusions on Europe Defence adopted by the European Council on 22 June 2017, on 11 December 2017, on 25 June 2018, on 19 November 2018, on 11 November 2019, on 5 November 2020, and on 16 November 2021.

Resolution:

Towards a real Common Security and Defence Policy, European Armed Forces and a stronger global position of the European Union

Year and Congress:

Dublin, June 2022

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

2

the ALDE Party Congress calls on:

- the European Union and Member States to develop an internal resilience against fake news, propaganda and foreign influence;
- the EU Member States to stop their dependence on Russian gas, oil, and coal imports immediately. Member States to aim to become more independent of energy production from third countries, by defining a short and medium term plan sharing resources, knowledge and experience. Where possible and appropriate, Europeans should pursue a common approach to energy partnerships, negotiations of contracts and cooperation with third countries;
- To reach independency and carbon emission reduction, in medium term all energy sources able to provide the needed power quantity, should be considered;
- the EU Member State to move towards establishing the qualified majority voting in the European Council on foreign and defence policy, ending the unanimity rule in the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as requested by the Meseberg declaration, but implementing a mechanism to adequately and systematically involve the smaller member states in this way;
- the European Common Security and Defence Policy to develop its own military capabilities and to increase focus on interoperability and complementarity with NATO strategies;
- the European Union to enhance their collaborative defence research and industrial projects, the development of common military equipment and technology and the interoperability among national armed forces;
- all Member States to invest annually in military spending at least 2% of their Gross Domestic Product;
- the European heads of state and government to demonstrate a political will and leadership from to achieve a true defence union;
- the European Union to strengthen the cooperation with the United Kingdom in terms of foreign and security policy and to strengthen the cooperation with democracies like Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, and explore and strengthen cooperation with interested European non-EU countries, including neutral states;
- to European Union to strengthen the European External Action Service in terms of personnel and funding and to strengthen the presence of European Union representatives in international organisations through systematic staff development and recruitment.

Resolution:

Towards a real Common Security and Defence Policy, European Armed Forces and a stronger global position of the European Union

Year and Congress:

Dublin, June 2022

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

3

and calls for:

- granting EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy equal speaking rights in the United Nations General Assembly;
- working towards a permanent European seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Resolution:

Towards a real Common Security and Defence Policy, European Armed Forces and a stronger global position of the European Union

Year and Congress:

Dublin, June 2022

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

4