

RECOMMENDATION 735¹

on a European initiative to strengthen the role of the United Nations in promoting peace and security

The Assembly,

- (i) Recognising the essential role the United Nations plays in promoting peace and security, in particular in the fields of conflict prevention, crisis management, post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction;
- (ii) Recalling that the UN Security Council has the prime responsibility for maintaining international peace and security;
- (iii) Noting the importance of perfecting a multidimensional approach to international action in promoting peace and security;
- (iv) Welcoming the cooperation on peace and security that is already under way between the European Union and the United Nations, and desirous to strengthen it further;
- (v) Taking the view that it would be useful to support the model of cooperation that was developed in Kosovo among the various international organisations;
- (vi) Taking as a basis the European Union's capacity for entering into multilateral commitments and for helping other countries to strengthen their own capabilities with a view to implementing such commitments;
- (vii) Taking the view that in future the EU countries should adopt a greater number of common positions within United Nations bodies;
- (viii) Noting that it is particularly necessary for the EU member states to improve their ability to meet their commitment to concert, in pursuance of Article 19 of the Treaty on European Union, and also to defend the interests of the Union in the UN Security Council;
- (ix) Observing that the European Union's role in promoting peace and security in the world will to a large extent depend on the influence the Union can exert within the United Nations;
- (x) Noting the significance of the proposal made by the Convention on the Future of Europe to create the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs of the European Union;
- (xi) Recalling the Assembly's proposals for improving relations between the EU and the United Nations, in particular those contained in Resolution 115 on security policy in an enlarged Europe – a contribution to the Convention, adopted on 3 June 2003;
- (xii) Staunchly supporting the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for there to be radical reform with a view to strengthening the United Nations;
- (xiii) Aware of the urgent need for an in-depth reform of the United Nations' modus operandi and the arrangements under which it may take action, and that these should take account of the major changes that have taken place in the world since the UN was created and of the emergence of new forms of crises;
- (xiv) Desirous that the European countries should draw up common proposals on the measures needed to reform the United Nations and enhance its role in the area of peace and security;
- (xv) Considering that members of national parliaments can make a positive contribution to the work of the United Nations, and being aware of the ongoing work of the IPU, supported by the Council of Europe, in this regard,

¹ Adopted unanimously by the Assembly on 1 December 2003 (6th sitting) on the basis of the amended draft recommendation.

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL URGE THE WEU NATIONS TO

1. Reaffirm the principle stated in Article 24 of the UN Charter that the United Nations Security Council has the prime responsibility for maintaining international peace and security;
2. Support the reform efforts being made by the United Nations in the field of peacekeeping in accordance with the findings of the UN working group on peacekeeping operations;
3. Increase the human and material resources made available to the United Nations for peacekeeping purposes and insist that each UN member state pays its financial contribution on time and without reservation;
4. Ensure that in cases where a common EU position has been agreed, there is convergence among the positions and votes of the EU member states within the various UN bodies;
5. Request the EU to help establish, within the multilateral framework of the United Nations, step-by-step rules for cases in which preventive action might be taken to counter specific threats to peace and stability;
6. Encourage the EU to establish clearer and stronger relations with the United Nations, and for that purpose to:
 - take a decision as soon as possible on the Action Plan contained in the Commission Communication to the European Parliament of 10 September 2003 entitled, “The European Union and the United Nations: the choice of multilateralism”;
 - provide a European contribution to United Nations reform which should contain *inter alia* a common position on how to reform the Security Council;
 - adopt common operational standards and increase working contacts between the EU and the UN, in particular as regards military exercises and lessons learned from previous operations;
 - enhance the roles of the EU Situation Centre and Satellite Centre with a view to EU-UN coordination on the analysis of geographic areas which are of the greatest concern for peace and security;
 - ensure that general agreement is reached in an institutional framework and at a very early stage on issues on which decisions are liable to be taken in due course at major UN conferences or meetings, and particularly by the Security Council;
7. Contribute to the work of the new High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change set up by the UN Secretary-General for the purpose of studying the major threats to peace and security, identifying the conditions for effective collective action and recommending the changes that are necessary to strengthen the United Nations by reforming its institutions and procedures;
8. Encourage the European Union to accept the concept of the introduction of a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations, and to support the proposals of the IPU in this regard;
9. Insert in the draft Constitutional Treaty to be approved by the governments participating in the Intergovernmental Conference a provision to the effect that:

“the Union is prepared to make available to the United Nations military or other capabilities with a view to the UN taking effective measures in the event of a threat to peace, in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN Charter, where such action is specifically and explicitly requested by the Security Council”.