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DRAFT FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

4 – 6 March, Riga

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Having regard to the decision of the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments taken in April 2012 in Warsaw regarding the establishment and mandate of this Conference;

Having regard to Title II of Protocol I (and articles 9) of the Treaty of Lisbon regarding the promotion of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation within the Union;

Cognizant of the new powers and instruments foreseen by the Treaty of Lisbon for the European Union (EU) institutions in the area of the foreign, security and defence policy; being aware that the new instruments create better opportunities for the EU to wield an international influence commensurate with its political and economic weight;

Conscious of the multi-layered decision-making process in the areas of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP); aware that effective implementation of these policies must involve numerous policy actors at both the EU and national levels; conscious of the responsibility to engage in parliamentary scrutiny at the respective levels and advance interparliamentary cooperation in the areas of CFSP and CSDP;

Aware that the evolution of the international scenario has strengthened the role of the Parliaments as central actors of global decision making, with specific reference to conflicts and crises;

Highlights of the Common Foreign and Security Policy

1. Expresses its utmost concern for the changed security landscape from Ukraine to the Middle East and Africa; welcomes the commitment of the High Representative/Vice President (HRVP), on the basis of the mandate from the European Council of December 2013, to initiate as a matter of priority a process of strategic reflection of the EU's framework for the foreign and security policy in close consultation with the Member States and the parliaments of the EU; insists that this reflection should lead, following consultation with the European Parliament and national parliaments, to a new European Security Strategy; remains convinced that the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for CFSP-CSDP should contribute to this important strategic reflection.

Fight against International Terrorism and Radicalisation

2. Strongly condemns the barbaric terrorist attacks in France and Denmark; expresses its deepest condolences to the relatives of the victims; emphasises that the freedom of speech is an essential fundamental freedom embedded in the foundation of the EU and that attacks on journalists in Paris and Copenhagen are to be regarded as attacks on the fundamental values of the EU; strongly condemns any form of anti-Semitism;

underlines the need for a unified EU stance and an effective and comprehensive preventive approach, more efficient use of the existing resources such as Europol, as well as enhancing cooperation between the Member States in the field of intelligence sharing to tackle the radicalisation and recruitment of the EU citizens as well as the early identification and containment of the foreign fighters and terrorists.

3. Calls with urgency for a coordinated international solution including regarding the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and various Al-Qaeda- affiliated terrorist organisations in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA).
4. Is concerned about the decreasing level of security in Syria, Iraq and Libya where, as a result of the civil wars and activity of the ISIL, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to a catastrophic level; emphasises that the expansion of the ISIL has turned these countries into a safe haven for Islamic radicals, thus posing a threat to the entire MENA region, as well as significantly increasing terrorism and security risks for Europe; welcomes the recent military operations conducted by the international coalition, Iraqi army and Kurdish *peshmerga* fighters in Iraq; condemns the barbaric killing of the Coptic Christians in Libya by ISIL.
5. Draws the attention of the EU and the international community to the escalation of violence by the terrorist group *Boko Haram* in Nigeria and categorically condemns the terrifying crimes against innocent civilians, as well as to the recently increased activity of this terrorist group in the neighbouring countries, namely Cameroon, Chad and Niger; welcomes the recent initiative of the African Union to create the Multinational Joint Task Force to fight *Boko Haram* militants; in this context underlines its concern about the postponement of the elections in Nigeria; calls for the elections to be held as soon as possible and with a strong democratic participation and transparency.
6. Welcomes the initiative of the Latvian Presidency to address the issue of terrorism and foreign fighters during the informal meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in Riga on 29 and 30 January 2015, where the ministers concluded on addressing the threats to EU's internal security in the European agenda on Security, e.g. strengthening efforts on prevention of radicalisation, particularly in social media, sharing information on terrorism prevention within the EU and strengthening judicial cooperation in the field of aspects in fight against the terrorism.
7. Calls on the governments and societies of EU Member States to remain united and to prevent accusation and stigmatisation of particular religious groups, thus to hinder terrorists from attaining their goal of intimidating and dividing Europeans.

Situation in Ukraine

8. Reaffirms unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; unequivocally condemns the occupation and annexation of Crimea by Russia, which has thus blatantly violated the UN Charter, international law and its own commitments, including the Helsinki Final Act of the OSCE, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to Ukraine; reaffirms the respective European Council conclusions underlining the importance of the EU in pursuing a policy of non-recognition regarding the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol; expresses great concern for the continuing persecution and intimidation of the Crimean Tatar community.
9. Strongly condemns the hybrid warfare launched by Russia in the Eastern regions of Ukraine, where it is employing a combination of unmarked armed and trained separatist groups and units of the regular army, as well as elements of information and economic warfare.
10. Calls for the full implementation of the agreement reached in Minsk on 12 February 2015 that provides in particular for a ceasefire, an exchange of prisoners, a withdrawal of heavy weapons; is concerned by the continuing violations of the ceasefire and urges an immediate stop of all military activities; calls on Russia to take real steps towards de-escalating the crisis in the Eastern Ukraine and to abide by the Minsk



Agreements, which, inter alia, provides for a complete ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons, as well as a stop the transfer of weapons and armed combatants across the border from Russia to Ukraine, to withdrawal of Russian armed forces and mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine, setting up the permanent monitoring and verification of the Ukraine-Russian border by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, restoring to Ukrainian authorities full control over its border with Russia, freeing all hostages and illegally detained persons, such as pilot Nadia Savchenko, as well as the restoration of Ukraine's control over its whole territory, including Crimea.

11. Welcomes the decision of 29 January 2015 of the extraordinary EU Foreign Affairs Council to extend sanctions targeting persons and entities for threatening or undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; indicates that the decision of the EU to ease, lift or increase sanctions imposed against Russia will directly depend on the implementation by Russia of its commitments under the Minsk Agreements; concurrently, does not exclude the possibility of imposing stricter sanctions in case Russia continues to escalate or support further escalation of the conflict.
12. Emphasises that a sustainable and peaceful solution to the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions in Ukraine can be achieved only by political means and diplomatic negotiations; notes the need to keep the channels of communication with Russia open; acknowledges in principle the necessity for the EU to engage with Russia on global and major foreign policy issues.
13. Encourages Ukraine to maintain a strong focus on the key reform areas by further stabilizing the political, economic, social, judicial and financial situation in the country, in particular by implementing constitutional reform and fighting corruption; emphasises the key role played by the EU in supporting the Ukrainian reform effort, including by financial and technical means.

European Neighbourhood

14. Underscores that both EU Neighbourhood Policy dimensions – Eastern and Southern – are equally important and should be supported without an unnecessary competition between them; recognises that, in the light of the new political and military challenges in both principal bordering regions, the EU has to substantially revise the EU's policy towards its neighbourhood by, inter alia, placing a greater emphasis on establishing closer cooperation with inhabitants and civic society as well as supporting the countries that want to draw closer to the EU.

Eastern Partnership: Towards the Riga Summit

15. Reiterates the decisive strategic role of the Eastern Partnership policy in supporting security, stability, the rule of law and democracy in the EU's neighbourhood; emphasises that, despite regional challenges, the Eastern Partnership remains a top priority in EU's foreign policy; points out that the Eastern Partnership must continue to serve as a joint political platform which offers differentiated approaches to the partnership countries according to their individual desire to deepen relations with the EU, first and foremost, in striving to modernise democratic governance, strengthen the rule of law, reform public administration and undertake economic reforms.
16. Expects the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga on 21 – 22 May 2015 to provide a good opportunity to take stock on what has been achieved since the Vilnius Summit and to look forward to the further development of the Eastern Partnership; highlights the need to assess the progress in implementing the Association Agreements during the Riga Summit; and therefore encourages national parliaments to finalise the ratification of the EU Association Agreements with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova before the Riga Summit.
17. Calls on the Riga Summit to provide strong and motivating political support for the most ambitious partner countries that have achieved the greatest progress in their reform process by offering them a new deepened cooperation opportunities with the EU based on a differentiated approach; also urges adoption of an



individualised approach to the EU's bilateral relations with partner countries that have chosen a less ambitious level of cooperation.

18. Notes that progress in the mobility area with the Eastern Partnership countries is one of the deliverables expected from the Riga Summit; hopes that the second stage of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine will be completed, and the possibility to sign the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreement and the Mobility Partnership with Belarus and achieve progress towards visa liberalisation with Armenia and Azerbaijan will be successfully used until the Summit.

Southern Neighbourhood: the situation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East

19. Highlights the utmost importance of the MENA region, which, due to its geographic and cultural proximity to the EU, has a direct impact on EU Member States in the event of any conflicts or instability; underlines the increasing spread of the illegal migration and human trafficking in the Mediterranean region, which not only poses a threat to the security of the external borders of the EU but also claims countless victims.
20. Emphasises that, in light of the increasing security threats within the region, the Neighbourhood Policy must be capable of providing an effective, united and sustainable support to its neighbours on the South of the Mediterranean by focusing on providing assistance in forming a democratic system of governance, developing a civic society and fostering people-to-people contacts.
21. Commends the Union for the Mediterranean as the most efficient and multifaceted cooperation forum in the region, aimed at promoting regional cohesion and integration between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries.
22. Concurs with the 19 January 2015 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on Tunisia welcoming the successful and peaceful democratic path Tunisia has taken, as well as congratulating Tunisia on its presidential and parliamentary elections; notes that the democratic transition in Tunisia is becoming an example for the entire region; calls for the development of a comprehensive political and economic cooperation and a support plan to consolidate Tunisia's new-born democracy.
23. Calls for an immediate ceasefire in Libya; underlines that the current multidimensional crisis must be resolved in the framework of an all-inclusive political dialogue by setting a roadmap on forming a unity government; calls on international partners – the UN, the EU, the African Union and the League of Arab States – to ensure broader mutual coordination and to work with neighbouring countries to prevent proxy wars from happening.
24. Expresses hope that parliamentary elections in Egypt scheduled for March and April 2015 will reverse the democratic short-comings of the Presidential elections, including limits on freedom of expression and assembly, and proceed in accordance with general democratic principles, and will be a significant step towards reunifying society; considers the recent decision of Egyptian president attending a Coptic Christmas service for the first time in history of the state as a positive signal for the social reconciliation which should be extended to all other faiths; calls on Egypt to refrain from executing imposed death penalties and imposing new ones.
25. Expresses concern about deteriorating security situation in Yemen resulting from the offensive of the *Houthi* rebels which has provoked the resignation of the President of Yemen, the Yemeni Prime Minister and his Cabinet; encourages and supports a peaceful transition in Yemen.
26. Draws attention to the humanitarian situation in Gaza and tensions on Israeli borders that highlight the need for urgent resumption of credible peace negotiations; underlines that there is no alternative for a two-state solution to be reached through direct peace negotiations, emphasizes that all parties, including regional actors, should work towards this aim and help to achieve a sustainable solution at the Middle East Peace Process.



Common Security and Defence Policy: Towards the June 2015 European Council

27. Stresses that the CFSP and the future revised European Security Strategy can only be fully effective if it is underpinned by a credible Common Security and Defence Policy and the timely, effective, and full implementation of the conclusions of the December 2013 European Council on Defence; in this respect welcomes the commitment of the new HRVP, in her capacity as Head of the European Defence Agency, to make this a key priority during her mandate; recalls its determination to follow closely progress in this area and calls for tangible results ahead of the next European Council dedicated to this topic in June 2015; reiterates that an annual meeting of the European Council to discuss this topic, as well as regular meetings of a Council on Defence, could further support progress in this area.

28. Supports the HRVP's ambition of reviewing the European Security Strategy (2003), which, along with the European Parliament and the National Parliaments, should broadly involve wider foreign and security policy community participation; underlines the need to redefine the role and security interests of the EU in the constantly evolving security environment, by taking into account the recent threats posed by radical Jihadism and revisions of borders, as well as the level of ambition for further development of the CSDP, inter alia, in developing the defence capabilities.

29. Recalls, after the European Council of December 2013, that the EU through CSDP and other instruments has a strong role to play through its unique comprehensive approach to preventing and managing conflicts and their causes; stresses the importance of enabling the EU to assume increased responsibilities as a security provider, at the international level and in particular in its neighbourhood, thereby also enhancing its own security and its role as a strategic global actor; emphasizes the importance of cooperation between the EU and its partners, in particular the UN, NATO, OSCE and African Union, as well as strategic partners and partner countries in its neighbourhood, with due respect to the institutional framework and decision-making autonomy of the EU.

30. Emphasises the need to continue to strengthen the EU-NATO cooperation and coordination, especially in defence capability development and synchronizing military exercises; notes that the Transatlantic cooperation has geopolitical importance with a great potential to strengthen the European security as the Member States of both organisations are facing new security challenges; in view of the fact that most Member States maintain Armed Forces that participate in both NATO and EU led crisis management operations; reiterates, however, the need to respect the security policies of those EU Member States which are not NATO members; underlines the importance of ensuring strengthened cooperation in order to ensure that the tools employed to achieve CSDP and NATO objectives are compatible and that defence capabilities should be further strengthened and developed through projects that are complementary rather than overlapping.

31. In the view of the new threats imposed by the massive and comprehensive propaganda of Russia and extremist Islamic Jihadi organisations, expresses support for developing a common EU communication strategy which would enable the EU to counter effectively dis-information campaigns carried out in such information war; welcomes the decision of the 29 January 2015 extraordinary EU Foreign Affairs Council to task the HRVP to step up efforts, in cooperation with Member States and EU institutions, to further improve strategic communication in support of the EU policies and to explore options for the establishment of a dedicated communication team to lead these actions.

32. Highlights the need to increase the number of Pooling & Sharing projects in implementing the CSDP; welcomes successful Pooling & Sharing projects launched with the support from the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EU Military Committee (incl. the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in line with international humanitarian law, government satellite communications, Air-to-air refuelling (AAR), as well as developing Cyber Defence capability); urges the Member States to use this



opportunity by focusing on systematic medium and long-term cooperation and by exploring the benefits of Pooling & Sharing initiative before developing their own capabilities.

33. Points to the role of the EU Battle Groups, which, yet to be deployed, raise levels of interoperability and readiness between the armed forces and could serve as an important tool for implementing an aspect of the CSDP; calls on the Member States to consider by default the deployment of an EU Battle Group as an initial entry force where the Member States have decided that a military rapid response is appropriate; encourages the European Council to find a constructive and permanent solution for financial arrangements of the EU Battle Groups deployment based on the ATHENA mechanism provisions and encourages the Member States to strengthen the modularity of the Battle Groups in developing further the framework nation approach and by increasing the flexibility of the six-month duty rotations.
34. Underlines the new security challenges posed by the so-called 4th generation's warfare, a hybrid war, which is manifested as a combination of a use of irregular and conventional military methods as well as elements from cyber, economic and information warfare, and political pressure; stresses the need to strengthen the EU's resilience against challenges of the hybrid warfare by creating better civil-military synergies as well as the need to increase dedicated Member States capabilities, including on strategic communication and securing EU's external borders; invites the EU to further explore possibilities to improve the strategic communication and coordinate its efforts with the Alliance (i.e. the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Riga, Latvia).
35. Stresses the need to carry out the review of the existing ATHENA financing mechanism, as foreseen by the Council Decision of 19 December 2011, notably on the scope of common funding; takes note of the on-going work within the Council in this respect.
36. Recalls the commitment of the Member States to achieve the collective target of 2 % of defence spending on research funding and calls on the Member States to live up to these ambitions; welcomes the launch of a pilot project on CSDP research and the initial work on a preparatory action seeking synergies with the national research programmes.
37. Reminds that given the increasing security challenges and threats, it is of paramount importance to ensure that the EU is capable of fully assuming its responsibilities within the international community, and underlines the need to give concrete implementation to the relevant Treaty provisions, in particular the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO); calls on the HRVP to be fully and proactively involved in such proceedings relating to the implementation of permanent structured cooperation under Article 42 (6) of the Treaty.
38. Welcomes the HRVP's commitment to work closely with the European Parliament and national Parliaments to ensure that EU Foreign Policy is focussed on delivering security, democracy, human rights, stability and the hope of a prosperous future for the citizens of Europe; welcomes the opportunity to work with the HRVP on further strengthening dialogue and cooperation between Parliamentarians and the HRVP on the important matters discussed at this Conference.

