GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR A RESILIENT AND INFLUENTIAL EUROPE

Today, the European Union is facing numerous challenges and threats with increased complexity and unpredictability of its security environment. The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, the fight against terrorism, irregular migration flows, the crises in the Middle East, relations with Russia, the United States of America, China and Turkey, all represent challenges that require common solutions and collective action by the Member States.

External crises have increased manifold, they are closer to Europe, both at the eastern and southern borders, and are more likely to have direct consequences for the European Union and its citizens. In the highly dynamic and competitive environment of the globalized world, challenges of major economic disparities and development prospects, both between and within Member States, also arise.

The international environment is characterized by the urgent need to find solutions to the climate change challenge and the consequences of global warming. With terrorist threats on the rise, challenges and conflicts in the countries of the Union's immediate neighbourhood have caused a refugee and migration crisis. Technological progress, despite its benefits, also confronts us with an increase in the spread of fake news, disinformation, intolerance and hate speech, all of which pose a direct threat to the democratic order and deteriorates citizens' confidence in institutions.

The security of Member States is deeply interlinked, as are the threats affecting the continent as a whole. The European Union, its citizens and the European security order should be protected in all circumstances. The European Union, as the key to peace and stability, should make a significant contribution in addressing global challenges and supporting an international order based on international law. The role of the European Union as a credible force for peace is more important than ever.

Interdependence between the EU's internal and external security, from the most pressing and destabilizing risks arising, to the interaction between external threats and the internal weaknesses of the Union, is one of the main features of Union's current security environment. . To counter these threats, the European Union must strive for a closer and more coherent community among its Member States, structured and coordinated partnership with other actors, such as OSCE and NATO, with the aim of further strengthening security and defence mechanisms, as well as for the establishment of tools of detection, prevention and defence against various threats to the security of citizens and the Union. The European Union must therefore work strategically and team up with like-minded partners in order to protect its interests and values abroad, using all of the tools at its disposal, including Parliamentary Diplomacy.

(Possible) Points of Discussion:

- How to improve the effectiveness of the Common Foreign and Security Policy for the EU to be able to face the multiple challenges that directly or indirectly affect the security of its Member States and their citizens? What role for parliaments?
- How to improve EU's capacities for anticipating and responding to the effects of globalisation, and the new priorities and alliances being set by emerging powers?