



PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
OF THE PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS



What does the Europe Union do in this domain?

The Treaty spells out five fundamental objectives for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP):

- To safeguard the common values, fundamental interests, independence and integrity of the Union in conformity with the UN Charter.
- To strengthen the security of the Union.
- To preserve peace and strengthen international security.
- To promote international co-operation.
- To develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

What are the European Parliament's powers in this area?

Article 21 provides for a consultative role for the European Parliament (EP) on all main aspects of the CFSP. Additionally, with its competence over the EU's budget the EP also has significant influence over the implementation and setting of priorities for the CFSP. When the negotiations of any international agreement are completed, but before signature, the draft agreement has to be submitted to the EP, which uses its assent procedure for all treaties signed by the EU.

What is the Socialist Group's position in this area?

The PES Group is committed to an ever stronger CFSP and ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy), two policies which would allow the EU to speak with one voice and to have more weight in international affairs. The run up to the war with Iraq and the ensuing CFSP crisis is an illustration of the challenges the EU will have to face in the years to come.

How does the PES Group see the future?

In March 2001, the PES Group adopted a comprehensive position paper on the Common Foreign Security Policy of the European Union, titled 'New dimensions of Security', which outlined that the EU's initiatives in this area must be based on a broad security concept. As such, the PES believes that security must be a common objective based on co-operation, sustainable in the long-run in order to alleviate the deep causes of insecurity, which are often beyond the traditional military dimension, and democratic, taking democracy, respect of human rights and the rule of law as the best guarantors of security.



The EU also deals with civilian crisis management and is active in areas such as: policing, promoting the rule of law, and strengthening civilian administration and civil protection. For example, on 1 January 2003, the European Union undertook its first operation on the ground by replacing the NATO forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina with an EU police force. On 1 March 2003, the Union took over NATO's 'Allied Harmony' military operation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) after NATO and the EU agreed on the use of NATO resources and capabilities for military operations within the framework of ESDP. The PES Group has made a clear commitment to ensure a parliamentary dimension to the CFSP and the ESDP. The Group believes that transparency and democratic accountability are a must and that it is essential to give sufficient means to this policy, notably in the field of transport and intelligence.

Concrete examples of Socialist successes in this field ...

- The current **enlargement** process of the EU is an outstanding example of the PES Group's active involvement and commitment towards shaping the EU's landscape.
- The PES Group has been actively working for the creation of the **Stability Pact** for the Balkans and the Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the **Balkan** countries. These should bring stability to the region and promote EU values. As a result of the successful implementation of these agreements Croatia has become the first Balkan country to apply for EU membership.
- The PES Group is highly involved in strengthening the EU's relations with other **Mediterranean countries** by promoting the Barcelona process and in so doing bringing people of the region closer together and helping to diminish social, political and economic differences.
- The PES Group is deeply involved in the EU's current work on a new strategy for a **Wider Europe**. This initiative will involve all countries neighbouring an enlarged EU (Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries) so as to avoid new economic, social and political dividing lines.
- The PES Group is playing an active role in **promoting Human Rights** in the world. This can be seen from the numerous resolutions adopted at the initiative of the PES Group, but also in its commitment to secure the necessary funding for the promotion of human rights in the European Union's budget.
- The PES Group has for many years been active in the shaping of a **European Security and Defence Policy**. Thanks to this commitment the EU is now actively implementing the Petersberg tasks and is building up the necessary means for a successful ESDP; our involvement in the Balkans is a concrete example of this policy.



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