

Securing the Peace in Europe, strengthening Europe's Foreign and Security Policy

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Lisbon, Portugal on 20-22 November 2014:

Notes that

- 100 years after the start of the First World War, 75 years after the outbreak of World War II and 25 years after the end of the Cold War, Europe faces new security challenges;
- the events in Ukraine have raised questions about the assumptions underlying the relations between the EU and Russia after the end of the Cold War.
- agreements flowing from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) process were based on the principle that borders in Europe should never again be changed by force. Differences between states should always be settled by dialogue and agreement, based on the rule of law.
- this order has been cast into doubt by a series of developments over the past decade - by Putin's growing authoritarianism, by the war in Georgia in 2008, and now by war in Ukraine, and more fundamentally by the apparent Russian view that they have the right to intervene in the former Soviet sphere of influence to protect their own interests;
- the Russian annexation of Crimea, as well as the ongoing destabilisation of Eastern Ukraine with military means and the occupation of parts of Georgia, has shown that the EU's capacity to coordinate its foreign policy remains crucial for its own integrity.
- that the European Union's response to the different crises in its Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood has too often been inadequate and has not allowed the European Union to play the role in international affairs that corresponds to its political importance;
- the world expects the European Union to accept its responsibility as a major actor in geopolitics;

Considering that

- the EU is a project of freedom, peace and security that ought to be defended within and beyond its borders;
- the Member States must fulfil their contractual duty towards the Common Foreign and Security Policy in both action and spirit, which is enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon;
- the Russian military intervention in and the following annexation of Crimea constitutes a clear breach of international law, the OSCE Charter and the Charter of Paris;
- that the EU has only asked Russia to respect the rules it has committed to and therefore sanctions were inevitable and necessary;

Believes that

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- the current situation presents a particular challenge to Europe, the EU and her Member States to finally take the required steps for developing a strong role in international affairs;
- the effectiveness of the EU's external action also depends on the full support of its citizens and on the legitimacy it acquires by being anchored in the EU's fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights;
- the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy needs the full support of Member States so that she is in a position to represent the political will of all Member States;
- close, regular and timely consultation of the European Parliament by the HRVP and the European External Action Service in setting clear priorities and objectives for EU foreign policy will be conducive to ensuring citizens' support;
- enhanced defence cooperation in Europe should be a priority, especially taking into consideration the national budgetary constraints and mounting international geopolitical threats;
- treaties such as the Lancaster House Treaty between Great Britain and France can serve as a role model for future enhanced defence cooperation in order to overcome institutional constraints within NATO and the EU;
- the Ukrainian people have a fundamental right to freely determine their country's economic and political future, reaffirms the right of Ukraine to self-defence in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, reiterates that the international community should support the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and underlines the need for a political solution to the crisis.
- lasting stability on the continent cannot be achieved without the constructive cooperation of Russia;

Calls for

- the EU to develop a coherent and consistent external policy and to clearly define and implement its strategic objectives, making full use of the opportunities provided by the Lisbon Treaty;
- the EU to reconsider the options for third countries in Eastern and Southern Europe to strengthen their ties with the EU. The current situation shows that closer co-operation between the EU and its eastern European partners – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – is of high importance for the EU's external relations; the same applies to the Southern Neighbourhood in the Mediterranean;
- the EU to enhance co-operation, step up co-ordination and develop synergies with programmes and projects of EU Member States in third countries in order to improve the effectiveness of EU external action and cope with current budgetary restraints;
- the European Parliament and the Council to strengthen the External Action Service, giving it more political backing and strengthening the ties and interaction with the other EU institutions, EU delegations and Member States' foreign ministries;
- the High Representative to draw up a new European Security Strategy. The Commission and its President must be the driving force behind this revision. This should include traditional EU "soft

power” but also policies such as increased defence co-operation, an assessment of EU-NATO relations, an effective sanctions policy and improved anti-terrorism co-operation;

- more European coordination and synergy of military capabilities at European level, whether inside EU structures or not, including the crossborder sharing of critical military assets based on the principle of burden and risk-sharing between the member states;
- in the light of the events of 2014, financial plan and volumes for Foreign and Security Policy for 2014-2020 need to be reviewed to put them into accordance with the needs of a more coherent EU foreign policy;
- Member States to improve their rapid reaction forces so that they are well-equipped, highly trained, and rapidly mobile, the first ones within 24 hours;
- Russia to support and fully implement the Minsk Agreement, to accept the sovereignty of Ukraine, to adopt measures to control its own border with Ukraine effectively and stop the continued incursion of illegal armed men and of arms and equipment, hostile action and infiltration, to immediately pull back its troops from its border with Ukraine;
- the EU and its Member States to keep up sanctions against Russia until a lasting and acceptable solution to the conflict in Ukraine is found;
- Russia to stop the occupation of parts of Georgia and fulfil the conditions of the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement of 12 September 2008; • France, although not required by the sanctions, to cancel the sale of the Mistral helicopter carriers to Russia, because they are a direct threat to the security of Europe and do not serve the long-term interests of any of the EU Member States;
- all Governments to keep the memories of Europe's belligerent past alive, along with a remembrance of the concomitant loss of life, limb, and fortune experienced by millions on our continent throughout the 20th century;
- all national and European leaders to combat nationalism, protectionism, ethnic and racial hatred so as to ensure that Europe's nations live together in mutual friendship and respect.