



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 28 October 2013**

**15426/13**

**PE 494  
ALB 2  
ELARG 145**

**NOTE**

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from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's <b>Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)</b> held in Strasbourg on 24 October 2013 - Chairs: Mr Brok (EPP, DE), Mr Paşcu (S&D, RO)

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*I Votes:*

**The implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (based on the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the Common Foreign and Security Policy)**

AFET/7/12812

2013/2105(INI)

Rapporteur: Maria Eleni Koppa (S&D)

Having been amended, adopted by 40 votes for, 11 against and 7 abstentions.

**The European Defence Technological and Industrial Base**

AFET/7/12982

2013/2125(INI) COM(2013)0542

Rapporteur: Michael Gahler (PPE)

Having been amended, adopted by 40 votes for, 12 against and 7 abstentions.

## **EU donor coordination on development aid**

AFET/7/12437

2013/2057(INI)

Rapporteur Jean-Jacob Bicep (Verts/ALE)

Responsible: DEVE – Gay Mitchell (PPE)

Having been amended, adopted by 53 votes for and 4 against.

## **Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the general principles for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in Union programmes**

AFET/7/10713

\*\*\* 2012/0247(NLE) 16469/2012 – C7-0009/2013

Rapporteur: Tomasz Piotr Poręba (ECR)

Having been amended, adopted by 56 votes for and 1 abstention.

## **The efforts of the international community in the area of development and of 'state building' in South Sudan**

AFET/7/12745

Rapporteur Charles Tannock (ECR)

Responsible: DEVE – Véronique De Keyser (S&D)

Having been amended, adopted by 53 votes for, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

*end of electronic vote*

### **II Reports**

#### **a) 2013 progress report on Serbia**

AFET/7/14141 2013/2880(RSP)

Rapporteur: Jelko Kacin (ADLE)

The rapporteur, Jelko Kacin (ALDE, SI), pointed out that the normalisation process between Serbia and Kosovo would be difficult but was irreversible. He addressed the need to change the Constitution in order to strengthen the independence of the judiciary. Moreover, the fight against

corruption needed to be more serious. Mr Kacin also stressed that it was necessary for the authorities to provide financial support to all regulatory bodies. The protection of all minorities living in Serbia had to be taken into account, as well as the safeguarding of fundamental rights. Furthermore, he stressed that the intergovernmental conference should take place in December in order to start accession negotiations and not in January 2014 as planned and as set out in the European Council conclusions of 27/28 June 2013.

#### **b) European Integration Process of Kosovo**

AFET/7/14143

2013/2881(RSP)

Rapporteur: Ulrike Lunacek (Verts/ALE)

Ms Lunacek (Greens/ EFA, AT) said that Kosovo having its own phone code would help the people in Kosovo to identify better with their country. She stressed the importance of the upcoming local elections and hoped that these would take place peacefully. She urged the government in Kosovo to reach out to the local community. Furthermore, Ms Lunacek underlined the importance of the EULEX mission because Kosovo needed assistance from the outside. Therefore, she advocated extending the mission and not terminating it next year as envisaged. She addressed the need for electoral reform before the next presidential elections. Moreover, she said that no progress had been made on visa liberalisation and more needed to be done in order to ensure and strengthen the independence of the media. She urged the five remaining Member States to recognise Kosovo's independence.

#### **c) 2013 progress report on Albania**

AFET/7/14148

2013/2879(RSP)

Rapporteur: Nikola Vuljanić (GUE/NGL)

Mr Vuljanić (GUE/NGL, CR) underlined the significant progress Albania had made. He pointed to the country's important role in maintaining good neighbourly relations in the region. With regards to public administration reform, he said that much still needed to be done, especially in the area of corruption and organised crime. It was essential to eliminate corruption among judges. He also called for better protection for minorities, in particular Roma minorities.

All three reports were discussed jointly.

Mr Kukan (EPP, SK) pointed out that the dialogue with the Serbian people needed to be brought forward. The economic situation in Serbia was very difficult and if no dialogue took place the EU could lose support among the Serbian people. On Kosovo he stressed that minorities other than the Roma should also be taken into account. As regards Albania he stressed the need to foster a democratic culture.

Mr Schöpflin (EPP, HU) said that the market economy in Serbia was in a poor state and needed to be improved. He also was concerned about the high number of people migrating from the country.

Ms Koppa (S&D, EL) stated that the EU needed to keep its promises to those countries. She stated that it was necessary to send a clear message to the Council on enlargement policy.

Mr Panzeri (S&D, IT) asked why there was a weakness of the rule of law in all three countries. He also stressed that it was necessary to look at the electoral law in all states because the current law easily allowed electoral fraud. He said that all three reports had a proactive approach which he supported.

Mr Posselt (EPP, DE) said with regards to Serbia that the poorest and most sensitive minorities were always forgotten. This posed a threat to Serbia's stability. He was disappointed that there was no EU unity with regards to the recognition of Kosovo.

The Commission drew particular attention to future reform on the rule of law, corruption and good governance. With regards to Serbia, the screening process was successful and more chapters could be opened. On Kosovo the Commission stated that the local election would be a critical milestone. On Albania the Commission said that candidate status was strongly recommended, although difficult negotiations were to be expected in the Council.

In their closing remarks all three rapporteurs hoped for progress and fruitful work in the upcoming months. They highlighted that all three countries were interlinked, with more similarities than differences.