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DRAFT AS AGREED ON 8 JUNE 2010, SUBJECT TO OVERALL AGREEMENT ON THE PACKAGE

DRAFT DECLARATION BY THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE[1] ON POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

In her relationship with the European Parliament, the High Representative (HR) will build on the consultation, information and reporting engagements undertaken during the last legislature by the former Commissioner for external relations, the former High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as by the rotating Council Presidency. Where necessary, these engagements will be adjusted in light of Parliament's role of political control and the redefinition of the role of the High Representative as set out by the Treaties and in accordance with Article 36 TEU.

In this regard:

1. On CFSP, the HR will seek the views of the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of this policy in conformity with Article 36 TEU. Any exchanges of views prior to the adoption of mandates and strategies in the area of CFSP will take place in the appropriate format, corresponding to the sensitivity and confidentiality of the topics discussed. In this context, also the practice of Joint Consultation Meetings with the Bureaux of AFET and COBU will be enhanced. Briefings given at these meetings will relate in particular to CFSP missions financed out of the EU budget, both to those being implemented and those under preparation. If necessary, additional Joint Consultation Meetings may be arranged, on top of regular meetings. The EEAS presence (at all the meetings) will include in addition to the permanent Chair of the Political and Security Committee, senior officials responsible for the policy.

2. The results of the ongoing negotiations on the Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and the Commission on negotiations of international agreements will be applied mutatis mutandis by the HR for agreements falling under her area of responsibility, where the consent of the Parliament is required. The European Parliament will be, in accordance with Article 218 (10) TFEU, immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure, including for agreements concluded in the area of CFSP.

[1] Footnote: The term HR in this declaration covers all functions of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is also a Vice-President of the European Commission, and the President of the Foreign Affairs Council without prejudice to the specific responsibilities under the specific functions she exercises.

3. The HR will continue the practice of holding in-depth dialogue on and of communicating all documents for the strategic planning phases of the financial instruments (except European Development Fund). The same will apply to all consultative documents submitted to Member States during the preparatory phase. This practice is without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations on the scope and application of Article 290 of the TFEU on delegated acts.

4. The present system of providing confidential information on CSDP missions and operations (through the IIA 2002 ESDP EP Special Committee) will be continued. The HR can also provide access to other documents in the CFSP area on a need to know basis to other MEPs, who, for classified documents, are duly security cleared in accordance with applicable rules, where such access is required for the exercise of their institutional function on the request of the AFET Chair, and, if needed, the EP President. The HR will, in this context, review and where necessary propose to adjust the existing provisions on access for Members of European Parliament to classified documents and information in the field of security and defence policy (2002 IIA ESDP). Pending this adjustment, the HR will decide on transitional measures that she deems necessary to grant duly designated and notified MEPs exercising an institutional function easier access to the above information.

5. The HR will respond positively to requests from the European Parliament for newly appointed Heads of Delegations to countries and organisations which the Parliament considers as strategically important to appear before AFET for an informal exchange of views before taking up their posts. The same will apply to EUSRs. These exchanges of views will take place in a format agreed with the HR, corresponding to the sensitivity and confidentiality of the topics discussed.

6. In cases where the High Representative cannot participate in a debate in the plenary of the European Parliament, she will decide on her replacement by a Member of an EU institution, that is either by a Commissioner for issues falling exclusively or prevailingly into Commission competence or a Member of the Foreign Affairs Council for issues falling exclusively or principally into the area of CFSP. In the latter case, that replacement will either come from the rotating Presidency or from the trio Presidencies, in conformity with Article 26 if the Council's Rules of Procedure. The European Parliament will be informed of the High Representative's decision on replacement.

7. The HR will facilitate the appearance of Heads of Delegations, EUSRs, Heads of CSDP missions and senior EEAS officials in relevant parliamentary committees and subcommittees in order to provide regular briefings.

8. For military CSDP operations, financed by the Member States, information will continue to be provided through the IIA 2002 ESDP EP Special Committee subject to any revision of the IIA, in accordance with point 4 above.

9. The European Parliament will be consulted on the identification and planning of Election Observation Missions and their follow-up - in keeping with Parliament's budgetary scrutiny rights over the relevant funding instrument, i.e. the EIDHR. The appointment of EU Chief Observers will be done in consultation with the Election Coordination Group, in due time before the start of the Election Observation Mission.

10. The HR will play an active role in the upcoming deliberations on the updating of existing arrangements regarding the financing of CFSP contained in the 2006 IIA on budgetary discipline and sound financial management, based on the engagement with regard to the issues set out in point 1. The new budgetary procedure introduced by the Lisbon Treaty will apply fully to the CFSP budget. The High Representative will also work for greater transparency on the CFSP budget, including, inter alia, the possibility to identify major CSDP-missions in the budget (like the present missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Georgia), while preserving flexibility in the budget and the need to ensure continuity of action for missions already engaged.