



RESOLUTION

Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) on Foreign and Security Policy at the European Council

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Prague, 23.02.2019

Recognising that:

- The end of the Cold War, combined with geopolitical shifts in favour of newly industrialising countries, and the declining transatlantic alliance, has led to a greater divergence in interests between the EU and the United States.
- That currently nearly all foreign policy decisions taken at the European Council, including crucially the decision to deploy a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) overseas mission or an EU Battlegroup (EUBG), requires unanimous approval by all member states.
- That since the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty, QMV has been introduced in many other policy areas and has proved largely successful with limited objections to it.
- The 'Passerelle Clause' in the Treaty of the European Union (TEU) allows the European Council to alter a legislative procedure without treaty change provided; the decision to do so receives unanimous backing at the Council; a majority of the European Parliament votes in favour of the alteration; and no national parliament raises objections to the proposed alteration within a six month period of notification.
- The 'Passerelle Clause' allows the European Council to (acting unanimously) change a voting procedure from unanimous to QMV in the Council of the European Union.
- That the Treaty on European Union defines "a qualified majority as at least 55 % of the members of the Council [government ministers], comprising at least fifteen of them and representing Member States comprising at least 65% of the population of the Union." A blocking minority, which would need to account for at least 35% of the population, must include at least four Council members.

Acknowledging that:

- That the EU needs to develop a fully independent foreign and security policy, which is effective and can act quickly.
- That it is among the Christian Democratic ideals of YEPP and the EPP for the EU to be a major independent global power, and to be a global leader in promoting the European ideals of liberal democracy, equality, human rights, security and the rule of law throughout the world.
- That EU leaders such as Angela Merkel, Sebastian Kurz and Emmanuel Macron have already called for QMV to be introduced for foreign policy decisions.
- That the EU faces major global economic and political competition from rising powers such as

China and India and needs to be able to respond and adapt to these challenges in a coherent, unified way.

- That the EU faces major security challenges including the decline of the transatlantic alliance, aggression from rogue states such as Russia and Iran, terrorism and cyber-attacks, and this requires a coherent collective EU response, including deploying more speedily and effectively CSDP military missions outside Europe, as well as deployment of the EUBGs inside or outside Europe.
- The migration crisis and political destabilization of countries on the EU's external border requires a united European response and a long-term EU strategy to help stabilize the countries on our external border.
- The ambitious EU Africa plan requires stronger collective EU action if it is to be successful in improving EU relations, trade and security partnerships with our African neighbours, and challenge the rising Chinese influence in the African continent.
- That the current requirement of unanimity at the European Council in key foreign policy decisions prevents the EU from being a bigger, more effective global power.
- The requirement for unanimity slows down and limits the EU's response to pressing, rapidly developing international events. It makes the EU's long-term policies in foreign affairs less ambitious because all long-term EU foreign policies must have the backing of every member state who frequently have different interests outside Europe.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Council to use the 'Passerelle Clause' to alter the voting procedure on foreign policy and CSDP decisions at the European Council and Council of the European Union from unanimity to Qualified Majority Voting (QMV).
- QMV decisions to require a two-thirds majority in order to pass.
- All Member States who voted against the decision or abstained, be allowed opt-out from implementing the proposal.