

Topic: Question of the Future of the EU

The Special Conference,

Recognizing that the European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states located primarily in Europe that was founded in 1958 as the European Economic Community (EEC),

Bearing in mind that the seven main institutions of the European Union are the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the European Court of Auditors,

Recalling the distinction between the European Council, the Council of the European Union, and the Council of Europe,

Reaffirming the differences between multiple EU organs and EU-related organisms such as the Schengen Area, EFTA, the Eurozone, the EEA and the European Customs Union,

Fully aware that the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union is currently in a process of negotiation, meaning the United Kingdom will remain a member of the EU and that UK representatives will remain in all EU organs until the negotiation period ends in 2019, thus meaning we will refer to EU member states as the EU28,

Noting that only the European Parliament, a part of the bicameral legislative process that cannot propose legislation or amend legislation to change the EU's institutional operation, is democratically elected by the European Electorate,

Further recalling that while the European Union's common market is the largest market in the world, the European Union only has formal trade deals with two G20 members,

Further noting that over 62% of the EU member states' total trade is done with other EU countries, and while it consists of only 6.9% of the world's population, the EU's trade with the rest of the world constitutes approximately 20% of the global exports and imports,

Understanding that there is still support for the EU, and over two thirds of Europeans see the EU as a place of stability in a troubled world,

Keeping in mind that roughly 81% of the EU citizens support the four founding freedoms of the EU, and about 70% of the denizens in the euro area support the common currency,

Deeply disturbed that about 55% of EU citizens tend not to trust the EU, approximately 54% of EU residents disagree that their voice counts in the EU, and many Europeans distrust European Institutions and consider the Union as either too distant or too interfering in their daily lives,

Further recognizing that the euro is used by about 340 million Europeans in 19 member states, and has grown to become the second most used currency around the world,

Alarmed by the fact that Europe's share of the global GDP is shrinking, and is predicted to account for much less than 20% of the world's GDP in the year of 2030 from about 22% today,

Realizing that the global financial and economic crisis that originated in the United States of America in 2008 greatly increased the unemployment rates; however, the EU economy is back on a more stable position with unemployment rates falling to its lowest level since this crisis took place,

Taking into consideration that the European population is aging fast, and it is predicted to be the "oldest" region of the world in 2030 with a median age of 45,

1. Encourages all member states to vote for creating a European mindset through:
 - a. education incorporating European citizenship values and creating a European day,
 - b. a campaign of posters to incite Europeans to vote for European elections,
 - c. informing the European population about what the European Union is
 - d. exposing european flags in public institutions and schools alongside national flags;
2. Encourages member states on creating a Digital Single Market (DSM) across Europe, which will be monitored by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), to allow:
 - a. Improved online access for consumers and businesses, permitting:
 - i. Trust in cross-border e-commerce rules for consumers and businesses,
 - ii. Avoidance of unjustifiable geo-blocking,
 - iii. Reduction of value-added taxes (VAT) when selling across borders,
 - b. The growth potential of the digital economy, granting increase of competitiveness, interoperability and standardisation;
 - c. The redistribution of the EU defence budget in order to strengthen the European Union Agency for Network and Information security (ENISA), to ensure protection of the DSM from possible cyber attacks;
3. Calls upon the importance of reforming existing EU agencies and other EU sponsored organizations regarding matters of defence and security such as, but not limited to:
 - a. The proposal for the full integration of the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL) into the EU, becoming an EU agency in order to benefit from further financial support in patrolling air borders, provided that EUROCONTROL consents to this proposal,
 - b. The gradual introduction of executive power to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL), so that it is given enough independence to fully combat security threats at EU level,
 - c. The reevaluation of the European Atomic Energy Community's (EURATOM) guidelines through the review of the EURATOM Treaty, taking into account the UK's intention to withdraw from EURATOM and enabling the possibility of further negotiation regarding nuclear safety regardless of other Brexit discussions;
4. Urges the creation of the ETO (European Treaty Organization), mirroring NATO, which would work in accordance to national forces, to render the EU more independent in military affairs:
 - a. countries will meet on a monthly basis and whenever deemed necessary to make a point on military affairs,
 - b. goals include reinforcing EU external borders, and help resolve the crisis in the middle-east,

- c. ETO includes the creation of a European Task Force,
 - d. the funding of the ETO will be endorsed through a comprehensive redistribution of the EU defence budget, in values to be determined by the European system of financial supervision (ESFS);
5. Strongly encourages the following:
- a. In lieu of the present rule that provides that the European country where an asylum seeker first enters the European Space shall process the person's application for asylum, the creation of a central European Asylum office, which would:
 - i. Speed up and harmonize multiple different procedures by reducing them to a single, more efficient one,
 - ii. Redirect asylum seekers to an adopted country where they may be more adequately integrated,
 - iii. Improve cooperation by accessing information in files used to combat terrorism and to analyse the evolution of immigration,
 - b. The creation of a European Foreign Student Program with willing African countries in order to help educate and train people in order to develop the economies of the countries where immigration comes from if these conditions are met:
 - i. the guaranteed return of students to their country of origin after the end of their studies,
 - ii. total respect of the final decision by the host country to accept the student in their educational facilities,
 - c. The European Commission to pursue its efforts to maintain or develop migration deals with African countries such as, but not limited to, Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Ethiopia in order to assist them in taking care of, and retaining citizens and develop a long-term strategy to reduce migration,
 - d. Provide funding to countries that people are migrating from, following the example of the 2-billion-euro EU-Africa trust fund put in place in November 2015, provided that:
 - i. the political, social and economic situation of this country is stable,
 - ii. the funds provided are tracked and used in a way deemed appropriate to promote the economic development of the countries concerned,
 - e. The gradual elaboration of a common police force on borders in charge of ensuring the safe return to their country;
6. Calls upon member states to recognize the importance of cooperation between EU nations in the area of security and defense and suggests accordingly that efforts be made to ameliorate EU Battlegroups capabilities by, but not limited to;
- a. careful evaluation by European Military Staff of EU Battlegroup, capabilities in the context of contemporary security threats, particularly with regard to deployability of rapid response units,
 - b. urges a more efficient chain of command for EU Military forces among member states,
 - c. encourage collective funding by EU28 member states through Athena for EU military operations as the forces are representative of the entire Union,
 - d. in accordance with article 44 of the Treaty of the European Union, establish an "information sharing" organization, specifically on Eastern border activities, to ensure cooperation and strengthening of existing cooperation of EU nations in the area of defense and security,
 - e. the increase of the EU's defence budget, in values to be determined by the European System of Financial Supervision (ESFS), taking into consideration each Member State's' GDP and financial situation,
 - f. the comprehensive redistribution of said budget to further increase:
 - i. the number of troops and the investment per soldier mainly in terms of equipment under EU Battlegroups, EuroCorps and European Marine Force,
 - ii. the budget and personnel of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) to further monitor EU's land and sea borders,

- iii. the reforms regarding outdated EU agencies,
 - g. the creation of a common doctrine to outline the EU's response to various scenarios, e.g. the invasion of a member states territory,
 - h. Member states which cannot, to whichever degree, fully support initiatives mentioned are free to do so however, the access to EU defence systems e.g. military training/shared military bases will be limited based on points such as but not limited to:
 - i. the financial support the country has provided to military efforts,
 - ii. the number of personnel that has been provided;
7. Recommends that the European Union should focus and upgrade its agenda, by:
- a. supporting and bolstering schemes to Euro regions in particular to bridge eastern Europe through means such as but not limited to:
 - i. supporting large scale awareness events such as the bridging Europe Festival
 - ii. increasing investment in education and tourist schemes especially in eastern europe
 - iii. hosting more regular bilateral and multilateral conferences,
 - b. continuing to enhance jobs, economy growth, market and investment by:
 - i. strengthening the single market, in order to help Europe economically,
 - ii. focusing on energy infrastructure, which can be done through building more pipelines, railroads, highways, waterways and ports, which will make sure this energy is available when they need it,
 - iii. focusing on technology, by discovering new ways that will make jobs much easier and faster;
8. Calls for international cooperation within the EU alongside the European Medicines Agency (EMA) with the aim of:
- a. Relieving member nation's growing need for access to the latest treatments and medicines by:
 - i. Redistributing medical equipment in EU member nations who lack supplies,
 - ii. Further creating common health programmes, with the possibility of interexchange of medical staff,
 - iii. Cooperation between member nations by the EMA to redistribute equipment,
 - b. Reducing excessive waiting times for treatments by affecting if possible patients in urgency to alternate health facilities in the EU who can take them in charge,
 - c. Increasing the EMA's budget as to ensure the adequate funding for the means to act and implementing further EMA facilities in EU member nations as to increase its effectiveness,
 - d. Insuring long-term cooperation between the EMA and EU member nations as well as private health facilities to insure the health of EU citizens,
 - e. establishing a subsection of the EMA focused on the improvement of medical education in less medically stable countries through means such as but not limited to:
 - i. hosting exchange workshops between universities as well as medical companies financed by the EU,
 - ii. supporting medical ERASMUS exchange programmes between medical students as well as lecturers,
 - iii. alerting bilateral partnership programmes between heads of universities in more developed and less developed countries for long term,
 - iv. supporting medical scholarship programs, publically or privately funded, for students from less developed nations;
9. Encourages member states to follow, regarding the pressing issue of climate change and the need to find innovative solutions, which will be monitored by the European Atomic Energy Agency:

- a. raise awareness of fusion energy through educational programs and the teaching of fusion physics in high school,
- b. redirect national lab efforts to pursue research in fusion energy,
- c. participate directly if possible, or through economic aid, in the development of infrastructure to support fusion energy,
- d. should ITER, a fusion reactor being built in France, be successful, the EU can follow up this achievement with the building of another reactor;

10. Urges all member states:

- a. to raise price of a pack of cigarettes to 10 euros to fight against cancer and traffic, and to finance a more ambitious health budget in each country,
- b. to fight against dangerous pesticides and agribusiness lobbies by reinforcing the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development's budget so that it may finance the agricultural transition Europe needs and impose several norms to numerous imports which threaten EU citizens' health,
- c. that countries, which do not respect their COP21 communities may be helped, financial or not;