European Parliament Committee AFET (Foreign Affairs) and Subcommittee AFET/SEDE (Security and Defence)

Internal briefing note of the EPP (European People’s Party) on European Parliament (adopted) resolutions of 15.01.2020 on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and common security and defence policy (CSDP) – annual reports

1) Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) – Rapporteur David McAllister (EPP, Germany)  
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In this resolution, the European Parliament rolls out its position to the annual report from the Council to the EP on the common foreign and security policy. Particular attention is paid to:

a) Multilateralism at stake: urgent need for a stronger and united Europe. In the current setting, the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) needs to be reinforced in order to effectively promote EU interests and values in the neighbourhood and around the world.

b) Reinforcing the European Parliament as a pillar of the CFSP: the report calls for a more strategic approach, greater coherence, consistency and complementarity.

c) Strengthening the CFSP to counter global threats: the rapporteur welcomes the decision of the new President of the Commission to build, within five years, a genuine and operational European Defence Union.
In this resolution, the European Parliament reacts to the annual report from the Council to the EP on the common security and defence policy. It makes the following declarations:

a) Lasting uncertainty and unpredictability in the security environment: instability and unpredictability on the Union's border is a serious security threat.

b) Strategic autonomy: is based on the ability to freely assess its independent operational capacity, comprising of credible military forces, an industrial capacity and political will to take decisions where circumstances so require.

c) CSDP missions and operations: the EU currently has 16 missions and operations deployed on three continents. Training and advice for third country armies will not be effective without coordinated equipment supply programmes (the first step being Capacity Building for Security and Development).

d) Capability and industry: the new instruments are: the European Defence Fund (EDF), ongoing implementation of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), military mobility.

e) Defence cooperation and CSDP partnerships: the strategic partnership between the EU-NATO is essential for addressing the security challenges facing Europe.