

Executive Summary
The Opinion of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies regarding
the Reflection Paper on the Future of European Defence
COM(2017) 315

The Chamber of Deputies

Aligns with the European Parliament assessing that „it is time to define a new, more realistic strategy for the EU’s relations with Russia, based on credible deterrence, but also on dialogue in areas of common interest, such as counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and trade”.

Believes that the only viable option in order to meet the wishes of EU citizens is that EU institutions cultivate the highest level of ambition, which corresponds to the option for the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Recalls the view expressed previously, that a genuine European Defence Union offering Member States guarantees and capabilities superior to the national ones is the best way to achieve the strategic autonomy of the European Union and to enhance its capacity for action towards the new geostrategic and geopolitical circumstances.

Considers, however, that, even though the European Union, through the Treaty of Lisbon, got new tools for action for the Common Security and Defence Policy, a progressive framing of a common Union defence policy is influenced by the current limits of the decision-making system based on unanimity.

Recognises that the concerns linked to maintaining the sovereignty of some of the Member States can block the progress of the Defence Union project, but considers that a formula for systematic cooperation and gradual integration permits developments, even under the current Treaties.

Maintains that developing NATO-EU complementarity is the foundation of the collective security of Europe, the most appropriate formula for increased synergy in order to achieve rapid response and avoid duplications in the development process of military capabilities.

Agrees that a Security and Defence Union should encourage a closer alignment of the strategic cultures and a common understanding of the threats and the corresponding replies.

Draws attention to the risk that European Union of Defence gets, from its beginning, „two speeds”, because of differences of „strategic culture” and because of the different budgetary resources between Member States.