

Speech by Mr Józef Oleksy, Representative of the Sejm of the Republic of
Poland at the plenary session of the Convention
Brussels, 16th of May, 2003

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The priorities of the Common Foreign Security Policy - as perceived by Poland – should be the attempt to achieve the principle of “the community of democracy” and enhanced security with the European Union as a “co-operative security provider”. It is also important to support actions leading to democratic and free-market stability of the eastern region. It is in our interest to establish and promote the Eastern Dimension of the enlarged Union.

The enlargement of the European Union will have an impact on the evolution of the Common Foreign Security Policy and the political cohesion and decision-making ability of the EU. At the same time the external influence of the EU will be strengthened. We all know that our ability to develop the European foreign policy is weak. And it is time to put it clearly now: as long as the Union will not be able to speak with one voice, it will not gain the status of a world power.

The proposals of the Presidium certainly ensure more efficiency and operational capabilities of the Union institutions in the foreign policy. The creation of the

EU Foreign Minister (or EU Foreign Representative) is therefore a good solution.

Article 30 of the proposed draft introduces some new elements. The creation of a European Armaments and Strategic Research Agency as well as a possibility of a closer cooperation for the implementation of a particular mission are both worth supporting. However a precision as to the open and inclusive character of such a closer cooperation would be welcomed.

I have serious doubts as to the concept of a “structured cooperation” among some of the Member States that fulfill higher criteria for military capabilities. In the present situation of the European defense policy, it is too early to create some “exclusive” forms of cooperation in the military matters. There should not be a different form of enhanced cooperation in the military affairs than that which already exists for all other areas of the Union action.

Furthermore, I am not fully convinced as to the mutual assistance clause in the wording of art 30 paragraph 7.

As for the forms of cooperation with the international organizations mentioned in article 35, there is a clear need to include also NATO on that list.

We should do our best in order to strengthen the efficiency of the international security mechanisms. In my view a close and lasting cooperation between Europe and the United States is of special importance for world peace and European security.

Thank you for your attention