

Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Chair

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Jerzy BUZEK
Chair
Conference of Committee Chairs

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Dear Mr Buzek,

The Committee on Foreign Affairs held a public hearing on Monday 6 October 2014, in accordance with Rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure, with Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security Policy / Vice-President-designate of the Commission, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure.

Prior to the hearing, Ms Mogherini answered the written questionnaire, and made several commitments of an important nature, notably as regards the pragmatic solutions for the improvement of the existing Declaration on Political Accountability, her cooperation with the Parliament and its relevant bodies, and the ways to ensure genuine parliamentary scrutiny.

In her statements and during the debate, Ms Mogherini committed herself to the following:

- full implementation of the agreement reached in the context of inter-institutional negotiations on legislation establishing the External Action Service (Madrid, June 2010), and the declarations deriving from it.
- with a view to ensuring genuine parliamentary diplomacy, she undertook to provide the Parliament with all necessary assistance from her service, especially as regards delegations on the ground. She repeatedly stressed that working methods have to be defined in that regard to enhance the cooperation between the EEAS and the Parliament.
- the Committee on Foreign Affairs should be more closely involved in the adoption of EU strategies, and therefore provided with *ex ante* consultation on new strategic documents, policy papers and mandates.
- she confirmed her readiness to be present as much as possible in the Parliament and exchange with the Members, in public debates or in closer set-ups. Most specifically, she

committed to meet with the Committee on Foreign Affairs ahead of Foreign Affairs Council meetings to ensure joint reflection and foster a common vision on EU external action. She also called for more regular meetings of the Special Committee.

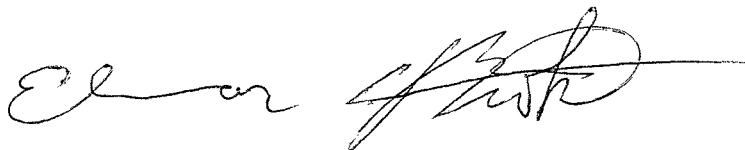
- access to political reporting should be made possible to the Parliament, and she also committed to work in a pragmatic and structured way on enabling access to classified information. In particular, in her written statement, Ms Mogherini had expressed a clear commitment to re-launch the stalled negotiations on the 2002 IIA on access to classified information in the field of CFSP.
- deputies will be appointed by her, in any of her capacities, bearing in mind that such deputising would be content-based, rather than calendar-based, with a real authority to speak and act on her behalf, in relation to the work of the Commission, the EEAS and the Foreign Affairs Council
- as regards the External Action Service itself, prior to proposing any streamlining exercise to its structure, Ms Mogherini undertook to firstly assess from inside the strengths and weaknesses of the Service, with a view to improving its functioning and its accountability.

Besides these commitments, the Vice-President-designate had the opportunity to debate on a very wide scope of issues with the Members of the Committee, while underlining the synergy effect offered by her triple-hatted position which will allow her to take a real and proactive lead in foreign affairs. She also dedicated a large part of the debate to the coordination of policies and tools, specifically emphasising her leading role in the Commissioners' group on external action, as well as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Council. She, furthermore, committed to mainstream human rights in all areas of her work.

Certain members of the Enlarged Bureau would have expected clearer and more concrete answers on some specific issues. Bearing in mind the framework and the time constraints of the hearing, the Enlarged Bureau considered that Ms Mogherini was well-prepared, dedicated and competent.

Based on all these elements, I am pleased to inform you that the general outcome of this hearing is that the Vice-President-designate gave a positive impression as regards her aptitude to be a member of the College and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to her.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elmar Brok', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elmar Brok