Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 2226 (2022)[1]

Beyond the Lisbon Treaty: strengthening the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its Resolution 2430 (2022), the Parliamentary Assembly acknowledges that, since the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, the Council of Europe and the European Union have developed a strategic partnership based on their common values. In 2009, the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon ushered the European Union into a new phase of European integration, placing democracy and respect for the rule of law and human rights at the forefront of the European Union's policies. This emphasis on issues which are at the core of the mandate of the Council of Europe has created greater opportunities for co-operation between the two organisations, underpinned by enhanced political dialogue, stronger legal co-operation and a broad range of joint co-operation programmes.

2. In 2022, the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and the ensuing exclusion of the Russian Federation from membership of the Council of Europe have created the grounds for reframing the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union from a geopolitical perspective.

3. In the light of the epochal changes that Europe is experiencing, the Assembly calls on the Committee of Ministers to strengthen the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union, on the basis of their shared values and common commitment to promoting peace and stability on the European continent and supporting multilateralism worldwide.

4. Against this backdrop, the Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to:

4.1. strengthen the capacity of the Council of Europe Office in Brussels to act as a liaison with the European Union institutions, and ensure it has adequate resources to this end;

4.2. further strengthen concertation, co-ordination, political dialogue and technical co-operation with the European Union, putting an emphasis on issues relating to democratic security and the rule of law;

4.3. join Council of Europe forces with those of the European Union in support of global governance and rules-based multilateralism, along the lines set out in the European Commission's "Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism";

4.4. further widen the range of joint co-operation programmes with the European Union by including new areas and addressing, as beneficiaries, European Union member and non-member States;

4.5. explore the possibility of the European Union making non-earmarked contributions to the Council of Europe budget;

4.6. consider organising a 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, involving representatives of the European Union, with a view to reaffirming the relevance of the Council of Europe as the reference organisation for promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law and thus laying the very foundations for democratic security in Europe.

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1. *Assembly debate* on 26 April 2022 (11th sitting) (see Doc. 15495, report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 26 April 2022 (11th sitting).