

European Union Security Strategy Report Providing Security in a Changing World
12-18-2008

The European Security Strategy, secure Europe in a better world was approved by the European Council held in Brussels on 12 December 2003 and drafted under the responsibilities of the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy. This document identifies the key threats facing the Union and defines its strategic objectives.

Most recently on 11 December 2008, a complementary document entitled Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy Providing Security in a Changing World was approved by the Council specifying additional threats and objectives for Europe's security agenda. This time, direct references to the **Responsibility to Protect** were included in the European policy statement:

Lasting solutions to conflict must bind together all regional players with a common stake in peace. Sovereign governments must take responsibility for the consequences of their actions and hold a shared **responsibility to protect** populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

It is important that countries abide by the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and OSCE principles and commitments. We must be clear that respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states and the peaceful settlement of disputes are not negotiable. Threat or use of military force cannot be allowed to solve territorial issues - anywhere. (page 2)

Furthermore, the document identifies priority areas such as climate change and trade policies, and reminds that the EU should also continue the reform of the UN system, begun in 2005, and maintain the crucial role of the Security Council and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It prescribes that:

The International Criminal Court should grow further in effectiveness, alongside broader EU efforts to strengthen international justice and human rights. We need to mould the IMF and other financial institutions to reflect modern realities. The G8 should be transformed. And we must continue our collective efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

These issues cross boundaries, touching as much on domestic as foreign policy. Indeed, they demonstrate how in the twenty-first century, more than ever, sovereignty entails responsibility. With respect to core human rights, the EU should continue to advance the agreement reached at the UN World Summit in 2005 that we hold a shared **responsibility to protect**. (p.12)

Providing Security in a Changing World Report: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/reports/104630.pdf

Secure Europe in a Better World Report: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>

Press Release: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/028-45216-350-12-51-903-20081217IPR45215-15-12-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm