



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 120

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.64/Rev.1)]

### 65/276. Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the role and authority of the General Assembly as a principal organ of the United Nations and the importance of its effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its functions under the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* that the current interdependent international environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

*Recognizing also* the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the benefits to the United Nations of such cooperation,

*Acknowledging* that it is for each regional organization to define the modalities of its external representation,

*Recalling* its resolution 3208 (XXIX) of 11 October 1974, by which it granted observer status to the European Economic Community,

*Recalling also* that, consistent with the relevant legal provisions, the European Union has replaced the European Community and is a party to many instruments concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and an observer or participant in the work of several specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations,

*Noting* that the States members of the European Union have entrusted the external representation of the European Union, previously performed by the representatives of the member State holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to the following institutional representatives: the President of the European Council, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission, and European Union delegations, which have assumed the role of acting on behalf of the European Union in the exercise of the competences conferred by its member States,

*Mindful* of the modalities for the participation of observer States and entities, and other observers in the work of the United Nations, as set out in the respective resolutions,



1. *Reaffirms* that the General Assembly is an intergovernmental body whose membership is limited to States that are Members of the United Nations;

2. *Decides* to adopt the modalities set out in the annex to the present resolution for the participation of the representatives of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and its committees and working groups, in international meetings and conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly and in United Nations conferences;

3. *Recognizes* that, following a request on behalf of a regional organization that has observer status in the General Assembly and whose member States have agreed arrangements that allow that organization's representatives to speak on behalf of the organization and its member States, the Assembly may adopt modalities for the participation of that regional organization's representatives, such as those set out in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly during its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the modalities set out in the annex to the present resolution.

*88th plenary meeting  
3 May 2011*

## **Annex**

### **Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations**

1. In accordance with the present resolution, the representatives of the European Union, in order to present positions of the European Union and its member States as agreed by them, shall be:

(a) Allowed to be inscribed on the list of speakers among representatives of major groups, in order to make interventions;

(b) Invited to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly, in accordance with the order of precedence as established in the practice for participating observers and the level of participation;

(c) Permitted to have its communications relating to the sessions and work of the General Assembly and to the sessions and work of all international meetings and conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly and of United Nations conferences, circulated directly, and without intermediary, as documents of the Assembly, meeting or conference;

(d) Also permitted to present proposals and amendments orally as agreed by the States members of the European Union; such proposals and amendments shall be put to a vote only at the request of a Member State;

(e) Allowed to exercise the right of reply regarding positions of the European Union as decided by the presiding officer; such right of reply shall be restricted to one intervention per item.

2. The representatives of the European Union shall be ensured seating among the observers.

3. The representatives of the European Union shall not have the right to vote, to co-sponsor draft resolutions or decisions, or to put forward candidates.
4. A precursory explanation or recall of the present resolution shall be made only once by the President of the General Assembly at the start of each session.