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No Veto Right for New Members, says Committee
Reform of UN Security Council only without new Veto Powers

The all-party Committee for a Democratic UN (CDUN) from Germany warns against conceding a veto right to new permanent members in an enlarged UN Security Council. "During important situations in the past the veto right has substantially contributed to the incompetence of the Security Council to fulfill its main responsibility, namely the maintenance of world peace and international security. It is an anachronistic heritage from the years after the second World War. It is unacceptable to vest additional permanent members with a veto when reforming the Security Council", said the chairman of the Committee, Andreas Bummel, in a statement on Thursday. Additional veto powers would further undermine the Security Council's capacity to act. Instead, existing veto rights should rather be restricted, for example by an obligation to account to the General Assembly for applying a veto.

The Committee claims that governments striving for a permanent seat for their country should expressly renounce a veto right. "Anyhow, the admission of new permanent members will only prevail if the candidates don't insist on a veto right. Ambitious governments should be aware of that", says Bummel. Earlier this week the foreign ministers of Italy and Pakistan agreed to prevent the creation of new veto-holders.

"The veto right in the Security Council is an expression of a power-oriented doctrine of international law", added the member of the Advisory Council, Hans Köchler, Professor of Philosophy at University of Innsbruck. In terms of morals such a doctrine could not be justified. The privilege of the veto furthermore directly contradicts the principle of equality of the UN charter. "Nothing can obscure the fact that the veto right is an alien element in the norms system of the United Nations. Furthermore, its practical use is characterized by an abuse of law which contradicts the spirit of the United Nations", says Köchler. In the long run efforts should be made to abolish the veto right completely.

CDUN was founded in February this year. The Committee is under the auspices of the Club of Budapest. The Advisory Council is composed of parliamentarians of all Groups in the German Bundestag as well as of other personalities from public life.

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