

Final Declaration of the WEU Council of Ministers (Luxembourg, 22 November 1993)

Caption: On 22 November 1993, following the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty on 1 November 1993, the Council of Ministers of Western European Union (WEU) agrees to pursue the implementation of measures seeking to ensure close cooperation between the European Union and WEU, to strengthen Europe's contribution to the Atlantic Alliance and to develop WEU's operational capabilities.

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Declaration WEU Council of Ministers Luxembourg, 22 November 1993

The WEU Council of Ministers met in Luxembourg on 22 November following on from the European Council of 29 October and the entry into force on 1 November 1993 of the Treaty on European Union.

Given the importance for WEU of the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty, Ministers focussed their discussions on WEU's relations with the European Union and, with a view to the next Alliance Summit, on WEU's relations with the Atlantic Alliance. Ministers agreed that relevant statements in Part I of this document were intended as a European contribution to the Alliance Summit.

I

1. WEU Foreign and Defence Ministers warmly welcomed the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, a decisive new stage in the process of European construction and in the establishment of a European security and defence identity. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen WEU's contribution in this connection. Implementing the Maastricht and Petersberg Declarations contributes to this objective.

In this context and in accordance with Title V of the Maastricht Treaty, Ministers took note with satisfaction of the qualitative step forward which had been taken by the European Union in developing a common foreign and security policy and endowing the European Union with the means it needs to face the challenges and opportunities of the post-Cold War period.

Ministers welcomed the fact that the links now established between the European Union and WEU were such that concrete form could now be given to the definition of a global concept of security in accordance with the aims and conditions of the Maastricht Treaty and recalled that European security included political, economic and military aspects. In parallel, WEU would continue to develop its activities on the basis of the guidelines established in the Maastricht and Petersberg Declarations. In so doing, WEU would also contribute to the framing of common European defence policy. This might, in time, lead to a common defence. Thus WEU would reinforce the dynamic process of European Union.

Ministers acknowledged the importance for WEU of the conclusions reached by the Heads of State and Government at the European Council in Brussels on 29 October on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.

In this context, Ministers

reaffirmed that WEU was fully prepared to play its role in accordance with the Treaty on European Union and the Maastricht Declaration of WEU member States and to respond to requests from the Union concerning its decisions and actions having defence implications.

recalled the effort already initiated to develop WEU's operational capabilities and stressed the importance of actively pursuing this objective. This would enable European partners and allies more effectively to shoulder their defence responsibilities.

endorsed the measures to ensure close cooperation between the European Union and WEU set out in Annex IV of Chapter IV of the conclusions of the General Affairs Council of 26 October on the implementation of the Treaty on European Union, which had been approved by the European Council on 29 October.

reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing and completing the implementation of these measures.

Ministers agreed to reduce the period of the WEU Presidency to six months from 1 July 1994 as suggested by the European Council. They requested the Permanent Council to consider further the question of harmonizing the Presidencies of the European Union and WEU and to report back.

2. Ministers reaffirmed the fundamental importance to European security and stability of a strong transatlantic partnership. Welcoming the continued engagement of North American Allies in Europe, through their full and active participation in the Atlantic Alliance, including the presence of substantial military forces, Ministers stressed their resolve to develop WEU as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance. They reaffirmed their belief that:

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the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty would bring greater cohesion to the European pillar and a more effective European contribution to the Alliance;

the development of the European security and defence identity would be an essential component of a renewed and strengthened transatlantic partnership;

this would thereby contribute to the adaptation of the Alliance to the new challenges.

They welcomed the further development of close working links in Brussels between WEU and the Alliance. They recalled that the relations between the two Organizations continued to be based on transparency and complementarity. They reaffirmed their decision to intensify their coordination on Alliance issues representing an important common interest with the aim of introducing joint positions agreed in WEU into the process of consultation in the Alliance. They underlined that the Alliance remained the essential forum for consultation among its members and the venue for agreement on policies bearing on the security and defence commitments of Allies under the North Atlantic Treaty.

In future crises, WEU and NATO should hold consultations, including as necessary through joint Council meetings, on whether and how they might cooperate.

Ministers welcomed the progress being made in adapting the structures of the Alliance to the new challenges in the field of European security. They looked forward to the NATO Summit which would provide an important opportunity for the Alliance to continue the adaptation of its military structures and procedures in a way that reflected the increasing European role.

3. Ministers stressed the urgent need for WEU to develop further its operational capabilities and reaffirmed their countries' resolve to organize themselves in such a way that the contribution by Europeans to the Alliance was strengthened and made more identifiable.

As the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance, WEU would require the military capabilities necessary to enable WEU member States to shoulder their responsibilities, in particular for the tasks specified in the Petersberg Declaration. Ministers recalled that the multinational European structures answerable to WEU would also contribute towards reinforcing the Allies' capability to work together for their common defence.

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Aware of the need to allow for specific European military options outside the cases of collective defence specified under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, Ministers looked to the NATO Summit to endorse the principle that WEU should be able to use not only European allies' forces and resources but also collective assets of the Atlantic Alliance such as communication systems, command facilities and headquarters. The circumstances and modalities of the application of this principle should be further explored, including, as WEU's own operational capabilities are developed, the possibilities of a corresponding use of these.

Ministers asked the Permanent Council, in consultation with the North Atlantic Council leading up to the NATO Summit, to give full consideration to the ways in which the aforementioned objectives can be achieved and report back to their next meeting.

4. Ministers approved the report on the relations between WEU and forces answerable to WEU (FAWEU). They welcomed the designation by member States of multinational and national forces which could be put under the authority of WEU after sovereign decisions of the member States in accordance with their national constitutions. The European Corps, the Multinational Division (Central) and the UK/Netherlands Amphibious Force had already been declared as multinational forces answerable to WEU.

Ministers warmly welcomed and endorsed the adoption of the Joint Declaration setting the conditions for the use of the European Corps in the framework of the WEU and the understandings in this regard.

They noted also the intentions of the nations contributing to the other multinational forces to propose arrangements for those forces.

Ministers welcomed and agreed to study the Italian initiative envisaging a multinational ground force aimed at enhancing the operational significance of the air-maritime initiative.

5. Ministers reaffirmed the importance they attached to WEU's relations with its Central European Consultation Partners. They recognized the need, in the interest of increased stability in Europe, for closer consultation on security issues. Particularly in the light of the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, these relations should be broadened and deepened in parallel to the closer cooperation of these States with the European Union.

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Ministers welcomed the Europe Agreements recently concluded which provided the basis for increased cooperation geared to the objective of membership of the European Union opening, in turn, the perspective of membership of WEU. In this context, Ministers requested the Permanent Council to reflect on an enhanced status and its content, including the Franco-German proposal of 12 November, for those Consultation Partners who had already concluded or would conclude a Europe Agreement with the European Union. The Permanent Council should thus identify ways and modalities to allow those countries to participate to a larger extent in the activities of WEU and to be involved in initiatives and missions as envisaged in the Petersberg Declaration.

II

1. Ministers welcomed the increasing role of the United Nations and of the CSCE and recalled the readiness of WEU to support, on a case by case basis and in accordance with WEU procedures, the effective implementation of conflict prevention and crisis management measures - including peacekeeping activities - under UN authority or CSCE responsibility. Ministers invited the Permanent Council to consider how to enhance WEU's relations with the UN and the CSCE.

2. Ministers agreed that the CSCE, as the European and transatlantic organization covering all of Europe would have a particular role in the future security structure. To this end, they would continue to work for cooperative and common approaches to security in the relevant CSCE fora. They welcomed the progress which the CSCE had made to strengthen its operational capacities and they reiterated their support for its further development as an instrument of preventive diplomacy.

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to early substantial progress in the work of the CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation. They welcomed the initiative by the EC and its member States introducing a common proposal on the CSCE code of conduct in the field of security and on principles on the transfer of conventional arms in the CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation.

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3. Ministers welcomed the increasing interest by other countries in the role and activities of WEU. The WEU Presidency and Secretariat would continue to inform representatives of those countries. Following the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the information contacts offered by Ministers in May to the countries negotiating to become members of the European Union were now of particular relevance.

Ministers welcomed progress towards the consolidation of democracy in the countries of the former Soviet Union, which they believed was essential for European security. In this context, they noted the importance of parliamentary elections to be held in Russia in December 1993, which represented an important step forward in Russia's democratisation process, a freely elected parliament being a necessary condition for the solution of Russia's economic and political problems. Ministers also noted the importance of the elections to be held in Ukraine in March 1994.

Ministers took note with satisfaction of the recent contacts made by the Presidency and Secretariat with Maghreb countries in accordance with the mandate given at their meeting last May to enhance the dialogue with those countries. They agreed that these contacts should be pursued.

4. Ministers welcomed the conclusions of the extraordinary meeting of the Council of the European Union this morning on the situation in the former republic of Yugoslavia.

Ministers noted with satisfaction a report on the ongoing WEU police and customs operation on the Danube, which has contributed successfully to the full implementation of the sanctions regime of the United Nations against Serbia/Montenegro. They emphasized the excellent cooperation with Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania which are also Consultation Partners of WEU. Through this operation as well as through the combined operation "SHARP GUARD" of WEU and NATO in the Adriatic, WEU actively participates in the efforts of the international community to put an end to the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Ministers reaffirmed that WEU is prepared to contribute where it can to the humanitarian efforts, to the implementation of a peace agreement for Bosnia-Herzegovina and in support of a possible role of the European Union in Mostar.

1. Ministers welcomed the progress made in developing WEU's operational role in accordance with the Maastricht and Petersberg Declarations. In particular they took note of a Presidency report on WEU's general role in peacekeeping and of a study on humanitarian missions. They invited the Permanent Council to examine how the conceptual work already done might be taken forward.

Ministers requested that work on planning for the tasks defined in the Petersberg Declaration be continued especially on peacekeeping and crisis management including peacemaking.

The Planning Cell was tasked, in completing the list of FAWEU incorporating national inputs, to identify forces especially suited for humanitarian tasks.

They welcomed the seminar on practical experiences in the field of peacekeeping operations to be held by the Luxembourg Presidency in February 1994.

2. Ministers welcomed the progress made in developing a WEU exercise policy by the WEU Chiefs of Defence Staff and stressed the importance of implementing an effective WEU exercise programme in order to develop WEU's capability to conduct operations in the fields defined in the Petersberg Declaration. WEU's exercise programme should be implemented in harmony with that elaborated within NATO.

3. Ministers took note of a progress report of the work under way in the field of strategic mobility. Furthermore, they tasked the Planning Cell to finalise work on a force generation plan for European maritime forces taking into account the advice of CHODs.

4. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of WEU's space activities. They welcomed the progress made by the Satellite Centre since its official inauguration on 28 April 1993. They will discuss a progress report on the possibility of establishing a WEU Earth Observation Programme at their next regular meeting in Spring 1994.

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5. Ministers noted that most WEU nations will have ratified the Open Skies Treaty before the end of the year and looked forward to its early entry into force. They underlined the important confidence and security building activities of WEU in this regard and encouraged work to be continued in this area. They welcomed the generally favourable responses to the approach to third parties with a view to their participation in a WEU pool of observation systems, in accordance with the preliminary set of rules.

6. Ministers took note of the transfer, with effect from 1 August 1993, of EUROCOM activities, which were now being carried out in the WEU framework. The same would apply to public relations activities and to EUROLOG and EUROLONGTERM, with effect from 1 January 1994.

IV

The Defence Ministers of the thirteen nations of the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG) met before the WEU Council to review the armaments cooperation activities carried out by the Group. Further to their meeting in Rome on 19 May, Ministers reviewed practical arrangements to guide the work of the Group and agreed to close the present Secretariat in Lisbon in Spring 1994 and to establish in parallel an Armaments Secretariat within WEU. Ministers also noted with satisfaction the signature in October 1993 of a Memorandum of Understanding on the feasibility study for the Future Large Aircraft and welcomed the potential for cooperation on this project. Ministers took note of the increasing number of EUCLID Research and Technology Projects and endorsed steps to improve arrangements for implementing that programme. Ministers welcomed continuing work to develop the open European Defence Equipment Market and endorsed guidelines and measures to support Developing Defence Industry Countries which are intended to enable such countries to participate more fully in that market. Ministers welcomed a first report on the possible role of a European Armament Agency and agreed that work would continue on this subject under the direction of the National Armaments Directors. The agreements by Defence Ministers were subsequently adopted by the Council at Thirteen.