

Decision 23 of the WEU Assembly (21 March 2000)

Caption: On 21 March 2000, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) decides to become an interim European Security and Defence Assembly responsible for monitoring the development of the Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP) within the European Union.

Source: WEU Assembly, Decision 23 on European security and defence: the parliamentary dimension. [ON-LINE]. [s.l.]: WEU Assembly, [09.02.2004]. Disponible sur http://www.assembly-weu.org/en/documents/sessions_ordinaires/txt/2000/dec23.html.

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DECISION 23*on European security and defence: the parliamentary dimension*

The Assembly,

- (i) Welcoming the progress being made to develop a Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP) in the European Union and to deploy by the year 2003 a European force up to corps level capable of carrying out the full range of Petersberg tasks;
- (ii) Taking note of the establishment in the European Union as of 1 March 2000 of a number of interim bodies with responsibility for preparing decisions on how the CESDP is to function;
- (iii) Emphasising how important it is for the 15 EU governments to conclude with non-EU European NATO member countries and candidates for accession to the European Union an appropriate multilateral agreement granting those countries the necessary collective participation rights in a wider “European Security and Defence Framework”;
- (iv) Pointing out that, notwithstanding the forthcoming transfer of WEU’s Petersberg functions to the European Union, the WEU Council retains full responsibility for meeting its obligations arising out of the modified Brussels Treaty and making an annual report to the Assembly on its corresponding activities;
- (v) Stressing therefore that the Assembly must continue to exercise its treaty-based rights and responsibilities for as long as the modified Brussels Treaty remains in force;
- (vi) Underlining, on the other hand, the need to ensure appropriate democratic scrutiny of all activities and decisions emanating from the EU interim bodies in the areas hitherto covered by WEU,

DECIDES

1. To take without delay such steps as are necessary to transform the WEU Assembly into an interim European Security and Defence Assembly with responsibility for monitoring the development of the Common European Security and Defence Policy in a wider European Security and Defence Framework;
2. To take measures to ensure that in the interim European Security and Defence Assembly:
 - the delegations of the 15 EU member states have equal rights and responsibilities;
 - the delegations of non-EU European NATO members and candidates for accession to the EU have at least the same participation rights as those they have acquired in the WEU Assembly as associate members and associate partners;
3. To inform the EU and WEU Councils and especially the countries holding the present and forthcoming EU/WEU Presidency of the Assembly’s initiative as set out in the paragraphs above, with a view to formal endorsement of the interim assembly by the EU;
4. To ensure that all 28 national parliaments involved in the European Security and Defence Framework are fully conversant with these proposals and give them their support;
5. To send the relevant proposals to the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly as well as to other interested international parliamentary bodies.