

Recommendation 358 of the WEU Assembly on the future of European security (Paris, 2 December 1980)

Caption: On 2 December 1980, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 358 on the future of European security. Considering that Europe is currently facing a threat because of the Soviet Union's superiority in many fields, the Assembly recommends that the WEU Council set up a working group to examine measures to be taken to adapt WEU to the present requirements of European defence. The Assembly also calls for the convening of meetings of the WEU Council before those of the North Atlantic Council.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 358 on the future of European security (Paris, tenth sitting, 2nd December 1980)' in Proceedings: Twenty-sixth ordinary session, Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1980, p. 33.

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RECOMMENDATION 358***on the future of European security***

The Assembly,

Considering that the joint interest of all its members is to promote collective security so as to consolidate peace and promote détente and disarmament;

Considering that Europe has to face a threat that is now formidable because of the Soviet Union's superiority in many fields;

Considering that the Soviet Union's operations beyond the European continent extend this threat to the economic and political fields;

Considering that Europe's security can be guaranteed only by the cohesion and strength of the Atlantic Alliance and the resolve of its members;

Considering that the fulfilment of this requirement calls for close agreement between the European and American members of the Atlantic Alliance on their joint defence policy;

Considering that the situation requires the European element of the Alliance to make a greater effort to take part in joint defence and disarmament initiatives, particularly with regard to conventional weapons;

Considering that, to be effective, this effort implies close co-operation in the production of armaments;

Considering that the European Community has established solidarity between most European members of the Atlantic Alliance so that on many matters they are in a position to express joint views on questions which are outside the Community's purview;

Considering that the modified Brussels Treaty, with the North Atlantic Treaty, constitutes the basis of European security;

Considering that the European Community is not in a position to replace WEU in exercising that organisation's defence and armaments responsibilities but that steps should be taken here and now to face up to the requirements of European security,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Set up a working group to examine measures to be taken by all member countries to adapt WEU to the present requirements of European defence and instruct it to study in particular:

- (a) the co-ordination of member countries' policies in its areas of responsibility, namely defence, armaments and disarmament;
- (b) the participation of Ministers of Defence or their representatives in its meetings when matters which concern them are discussed;
- (c) the convening of meetings before those of the North Atlantic Council with a view to identifying the joint views of its members on matters relating to Europe's security;
- (d) the question of inviting all countries which are members of the EEC, have applied for membership or are European members of NATO to take all steps and measures likely to promote the closest possible participation of their activities in the achievement of the aims of the modified Brussels Treaty ;
- (e) the action to be taken on the study being conducted by the Standing Armaments Committee so that the outcome may be a true European armaments policy.