

Communication from the WEU Council to NATO concerning the research, development and production of armaments (London, 24 March 1958)

Caption: The Secretary-General circulates the text of a communication to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on a decision taken by the Council of Western European Union (WEU) at its meeting in Rome on 5 March 1958. The representatives of the WEU Member States on the North Atlantic Council will invite NATO to use the expertise and services of the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC), in particular for the production of modern weapons. As members of both organisations, the main aim of these states is to further the common cause of the Atlantic Alliance.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Cooperation in the research, development and the production of armaments. London: 24.03.1958. C (58) 52. Copy No 66. 2 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Subjects dealt with by various WEU organs. Year: 1958, 01/06/1957-30/04/1958. File 442.00. Volume 1/4.

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Co-operation in the research, development and production of armaments

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the final text of a communication to N.A.T.O.

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At their meeting in Rome on 5th March 1958, the Council of Ministers of Western European Union considered ways and means of furthering multilateral co-operation in the research, development and production of armaments.

The Council decided that the member States of W.E.U. would, through their permanent representatives on the North Atlantic Council, invite N.A.T.O. to make use of the experience and services of the Standing Armaments Committee when taking the further measures to promote the co-ordination of research, development and manufacture of modern weapons referred to in paragraph 23 of the communiqué issued after the meeting of N.A.T.O. Ministers held in Paris from 16th to 19th December 1957.

This decision was taken having regard to the fact that all the member States of W.E.U. are also members of N.A.T.O., so that the main purpose of all their activities relating to armaments is to further the common cause of the Atlantic Alliance.

The Council would welcome suggestions from N.A.T.O. in this matter.

/The Council ...

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The Council also decided that the Secretary-General of W.E.U. should organise a meeting of the Chairmen of the steering committees set up under the bilateral and trilateral agreements and the members of the Standing Armaments Committee, to exchange information on the work being done and progress made under these various arrangements.

The purpose of this decision is to co-ordinate the activities of the various steering committees in the sphere of armaments so that other member States of W.E.U. and N.A.T.O. can more easily take part.

W.E.U. will not fail to keep N.A.T.O. informed of all developments in these matters.


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