

Recommendation 216 of the WEU Assembly on the political implications of the European security conference (Brussels, 1 December 1971)

Caption: On 1 December 1971, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 216 on the political implications of the European security conference. It particularly asks the WEU Council to harmonise the policies of Western European countries and to take into consideration the interdependence of a policy of disarmament and the successful conclusion of negotiations on security and cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 216 on the political implications of the European security conference (Brussels, twelfth sitting, 1st December 1971)' in Proceedings: Seventeenth Ordinary Session, Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1971, p. 44.

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RECOMMENDATION 216
***on the political implications of the European
security conference***

The Assembly,

Noting that considerable changes are now occurring in relationships between the western powers and the Eastern European countries ;

Noting that the successful outcome of a European security conference might be expected to have a favourable effect on negotiations for disarmament ;

Recalling that any precipitate reduction in the West's means of defence may call in question the very foundations of peace ;

Considering that the western powers must insist on equal guarantees for all in any treaty concerning the sovereignty and frontiers of the European countries ;

Recalling that the North Atlantic Council, on the one hand, and the six EEC member countries, on the other, have undertaken detailed consultations with a view to preparing the European security conference,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Take the opportunity offered by the enlargement of the EEC to harmonise the policies of Western European countries with a view to finding a solution to the problems of Central Europe, the normalisation of East-West relations in Europe and European security ;
2. Ensure that any withdrawal of United States forces from Europe does not result in a unilateral reduction in the level of forces in Western Europe ;
3. Consider the implications of a conference on European security in regard to full and detailed preparation and also the date and place of such conference ;
4. Promote a policy of economic and cultural co-operation between Eastern and Western Europe ;
5. Take into consideration the interdependence of a policy of general, simultaneous, progressive and controlled disarmament and the successful conclusion of negotiations on security and co-operation between Eastern and Western Europe.