

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 77 (London, 15 November 1962)

Caption: On 15 November 1962, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the final reply by the Council to Recommendation 77 by the WEU Parliamentary Assembly on the future organisation of Western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels. The Council shares the Assembly's opinion that any future European defence body would contribute to the strengthening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), but it believes that it would be unwise at present to make any predictions about a future political union. The Council has also communicated the Recommendation to the North Atlantic Council.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendation 77. London: 15.11.1962. C (62) 151. 2 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Organs of the Western European Union. Year: 1962, 01/05/1962-30/05/1970. File 202.413.70. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_77_london_15_november_1962-en-2f6fd1bd-23f8-4bed-bb38-29bf978fb668.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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C (62) 151

Original : French

15th November 1962

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 77
(C (62) 138)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Recommendation 77 on the future organisation of Western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels (CR (62) 18, II, 1).

This reply has now been transmitted to the Assembly.

The Recommendation and the Council's reply have also been communicated to NATO.

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Reply to Recommendation 77

I.

The Council have noted with particular interest Recommendation 77 on the future organisation of Western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels.

They consider, with the Assembly, that any future European defence body would contribute to the strengthening of NATO.

The Council have communicated the Recommendation to the North Atlantic Council as well as to member Governments who can, if they consider it appropriate, transmit it to the Committee set up following the Conference of 10th February 1961.

II.

The Assembly also ask the Council to give their opinion on the suggestions in Recommendation 77.

In this connection, the Council wish to observe that, as the Recommendation itself points out, most of the Assembly's suggestions could fit into the framework of such political union "as may be agreed".

As the Chairman of the Council recalled at the joint meeting in Brussels on 27th September, the whole question forms the subject of discussions, the outcome of which is difficult to foresee. The Council consider that it would be unwise at the present stage of negotiations to anticipate future events by expressing an opinion on the value of the suggestions in the Recommendation. The Council share the view expressed in the following terms by General Cadorna: "Until we see clearly how these developments take shape it is important not to abandon or weaken what already exists for what we hope will exist, but which at the present time consists of proposals. We also have to be careful not to change from present reality until we see that the alternative is clearly a preferable one" (Document 231, paragraph 8).