

## Draft reply by the French delegation to Assembly Recommendation 241 on oil and energy problems (London, 19 February 1974)

**Caption:** On 19 February 1974, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply, prepared by the French delegation to the WEU Council, to Assembly Recommendation 241 on oil and energy problems. Most of the draft is taken up in the final reply (C(74)63). In view of the oil crisis affecting several Western countries, the Council is aware of the link between secure energy supplies for Europe and its defence policy. The document emphasises that work is already under way within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Communities on the oil question and the issues related to a common energy policy.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 241 on oil and energy problems. London: 19.02.1974. WPM (74) 8. 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: 1973, 01/11/1973-05/05/1981. File 202.424.40 Volume 1/1 .

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft\\_reply\\_by\\_the\\_french\\_delegation\\_to\\_assembly\\_recommendation\\_241\\_on\\_oil\\_and\\_energy\\_problems\\_london\\_19\\_february\\_1974-en-d39a9e74-1008-4cod-97fa-90906bac82fa.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_french_delegation_to_assembly_recommendation_241_on_oil_and_energy_problems_london_19_february_1974-en-d39a9e74-1008-4cod-97fa-90906bac82fa.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

### Recommendation 241 on oil and energy problems (C (73) 160)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 241 on oil and energy problems.

This draft will be considered by the working group at its next meeting.

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London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 241  
prepared by the French delegation

The Council of W.E.U. are fully aware of the link between secure energy supplies for Europe and its defence policy.

They note, however, that the questions raised in Assembly Recommendation 241 are already under consideration in other specialised international bodies, generally along the lines urged in the Recommendation.

For example, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has already drawn up plans for the allocation of oil supplies between its European members in the event of a crisis and is at present investigating the possibility of extending this system to all its members. Furthermore, the European Communities are currently engaged in working out a common energy policy and the Nine are considering whether discussions can be opened between Europe and the Arab countries.

The Council will keep the Assembly informed of the progress of this work.

RECOMMENDATION 241

on oil and energy problems

The Assembly,

Considering that western Europe does not have the energy resources which are essential for its economy and security;

Considering in particular that it depends for its oil supplies on large-scale imports, most of which necessarily come from the Near and Middle East countries;

Considering that supplies would be favoured by the establishment of a relatively balanced flow of industrial and commercial exchanges between Europe and the above-mentioned countries;

Considering that such a development will meet with the desired success only if all the producer countries are guided in their decisions on oil production and oil exports by economic considerations following the principles of free world trade;

Considering that the maintenance of peace in that area is of vital importance for Europe;

Deploring the fact that Europe was unable to voice its views during the October 1973 hostilities;

Considering that in all events W.E.U. is still the only truly European organisation with responsibilities in security and defence policy matters,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Consider regularly the situation in the Near and Middle East with a view to uniting the efforts of its members to ensure peace in that area;
2. Work out means of applying a joint embargo by member countries on arms supplies to the belligerents and act in concert with the Soviet Union and the United States for them to be jointly associated with this embargo;

/3. With a view ...

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (73) 160

3. With a view to ensuring Europe's security, study means of meeting any restrictions on oil supplies from this area;

4. Promote a joint energy policy based on security requirements, including

A. For oil

- (a) The constitution of large strategic reserves by each member country at a level to be defined by the Council;
- (b) A policy of assistance to member countries experiencing temporary difficulties in respect of their oil supplies;
- (c) The establishment of an inventory of world - and particularly Middle Eastern - reserves in the fullest possible detail;
- (d) The diversification of sources of oil supply including a higher priority for prospecting and drilling in western Europe and the North Sea;
- (e) The development of consultations between consumer countries with a view to avoiding disastrous competition between each other in the event of shortages;

B. For other sources of energy

- (a) The preservation of the possibility of reverting to other sources of energy not now in operation;
- (b) The development of the production of nuclear energy, inter alia by building a European isotope separation plant without delay, and its adaptation to the requirements of the European economy;

5. Organise consultations with interested European countries with a view to promoting policies for:

/(a) Increasing trade ...

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C (73) 160

- (a) Increasing trade of all kinds with the producer countries so as to allow them to diversify their activities;
  - (b) Assisting these countries so that their oil output may be operated and marketed rationally;
6. Initiate talks between interested western European countries and the OPEC countries with a view to finding a lasting and mutually profitable solution to the oil problem.

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