

Draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to the WEU Council to written question 93 (London, 15 June 1965)

Caption: In a note dated 15 June 1965, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates question 93 put by German Assembly member Georg Kliesing and the draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to the WEU Council to this question. The question deals with the possibility of other WEU member states being able to participate in the Franco-British cooperation agreement signed on 17 May 1965 and on the need for common development and production of light strike and trainer aircraft. The reply notes that France and the United Kingdom are willing to extend their cooperation to third countries and are currently considering the arrangements to put in place. The Council welcomes this information and hopes that it will be possible to invite third countries before any decision is taken on production.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Written question 93 put to the council by a member of the Assembly. London: 15.06.1965. WPM (479). Copy No 54. 3 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: 1965, 01/05/1965-30/04/1971. File 202.411.08. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_united_kingdom_delegation_to_the_we_u_council_to_written_question_93_london_15_june_1965-en-06c73126-3161-4fdd-888b-6b8b9b478db2.html



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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written question 93 put to the Council
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to written question 93 put to the Council by Mr. Kliesing, a member of the Assembly, and circulated as C (65) 113.

This draft will be examined by a working group at a future meeting.

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London, S.W.1.

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Text of written question 93 put to the
Council by Mr. Kliesing
(cf. C (65) 113)

Further to written question 80* of 14th February 1965 concerning Franco-British collaboration on the development of a light strike and trainer aircraft, will the Council, now the agreement has been concluded on 17th May 1965, inform the Assembly whether adherence of other member States to the agreement would be possible and, if so, under what conditions?

If it is true that some 1,000 light strike and trainer aircraft will be needed in the whole of Western Europe, will not common development and production be advisable?

Will the Council promote this co-operation?

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Draft reply

The Council and the Standing Armaments Committee have been informed that the Governments concerned, recognising the advantages to be gained from extending the proposed collaboration to other allied countries, are considering the communication to third countries of information about the joint programmes, the possibility of inviting third countries to participate in them, and the action to be taken on applications by third countries to participate.

The Council welcome this information and hope that it will be possible to invite co-operation by third countries as envisaged when a work programme is drawn up and before any decision is taken on production.

* Cf. Annex.

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ANNEX

Text of written question 80 put to the
Council by Mr. Kliesing

Mr. Roy Jenkins, British Minister of Aviation, announced the following programme regarding the manufacture of aircraft, on 9th February 1965 in the House of Commons:

1. a joint project with the United States to develop an advance lift engine for vertical and short take-off aircraft;
2. development, also with the United States, of anti-submarine warfare, tactical missiles and communications equipment;
3. the study - already announced - of a light strike trainer aircraft in collaboration with France;
4. a project for an airborne early warning system in collaboration with the French, and a seaborne guided missile in collaboration with the Dutch.

Is the Council not of the opinion that the bilateral projects, as announced by the Minister, should be started in the framework of existing competent bodies?

Would the Council recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the projects mentioned under points 3 and 4 be discussed in the W.E.U. framework in order to initiate European common production of air weapons systems?

Reply by the Council

The Council understand that the parties to the projects mentioned in points 3 and 4 of the written question are ready to examine at the appropriate stage under what conditions member Governments, who so desire, can be associated with them.

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