

Draft reply by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 85 (London, 14 May 1963)

Caption: In a note dated 14 May 1963, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the draft reply by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 85 on standardisation and interdependence in the production of armaments. The Council notes that joint armaments production raises many difficulties that can only be overcome by political will both at bilateral level and also at multilateral level, particularly within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendation 85 . London: 14.05.1963. C(63)60. Copy N° 67. 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, 01/01/1962-28/02/1965. File 202.411.06. Volume 1/1.

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 85

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 85 on standardisation and interdependence in the production of armaments.

This draft was prepared by the French delegation and amended by the Working Party at its meeting on 14th May.

It will be submitted to the Council for approval at their next meeting on 22nd May.

M. T. J. L.

9, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 85

The concern which motivated the adoption of Recommendation 85 is shared by the Council, as has been shown by the replies they have frequently made on this subject.

It was this same concern which, in May 1955, led the Council to set up the Standing Armaments Committee, whose activities in connection with armaments research, development and production are well known to the Assembly.

The Council further wish to recall that joint armaments production raises numerous difficulties of all kinds, which can only be resolved by virtue of a common political will. This may be exercised, as appropriate, through bilateral or multilateral co-operation, for example within the wider framework of NATO, independently of any rigid structure. The Council do not therefore consider that restrictive measures on the lines of those suggested in paragraph 2 of the Recommendation would produce any positive result.

Recommendation 85 has been communicated to NATO.