

## Reply by the WEU Council to written question 128 put by a member of the Assembly (London, 5 July 1972)

**Caption:** On 5 July 1972, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a note with the Council's reply to question 128 put by Mr Schloesing concerning the United Kingdom's participation in FINABEL meetings. The member asks whether it would be logical for the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC) to provide the secretariat for the meetings in which the United Kingdom is taking part and whether the chiefs of staff of the naval and air forces of the FINABEL countries should also meet in the same framework. The Council replies that the SAC is studying how the United Kingdom's admission to FINABEL will affect its own operation and that it will express an opinion only when it is in possession of the full facts related to the issue. The Council also refers to the problems raised by the establishment of similar forums which will have to be considered by member governments.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Written question 128 put to the council by a member of the Assembly. London: 05.07.1972. C(72) 82. 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: 1956, 19/12/1955-07/07/1972. File 202.411.16. Volume 1/1.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_to\\_written\\_question\\_128\\_put\\_by\\_a\\_member\\_of\\_the\\_assembly\\_london\\_5\\_july\\_1972-en-da1c145a-a912-4a56-80b9-4f8264c460a0.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_written_question_128_put_by_a_member_of_the_assembly_london_5_july_1972-en-da1c145a-a912-4a56-80b9-4f8264c460a0.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (72) 82

Original: English/French

5th July, 1972

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written question 123 put to the Council  
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to written question 123 put to the Council by Mr. Schloesing (C (72) 54).

This reply, which was approved by the Council at their meeting of 5th July, 1972, has now been transmitted to the Assembly (CR (72) 11, III, 1).

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

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Text of written question 123

In the context of the United Kingdom's accession to the European Communities, can the Council inform the Assembly of the measures taken with a view to the British Army Chief-of-Staff taking part in the meetings of the Army Chiefs-of-Staff of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg in the framework of FINABEL?

Should Britain take part in FINABEL, would it not be logical for the Standing Armaments Committee to provide the secretariat for these meetings?

Do the Council not consider that the Chiefs-of-Staff of the navies and air forces of the FINABEL countries should also meet in the same framework?

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Reply by the Council

On 15th March, 1972, the Army Chiefs-of-Staff of the six countries represented in the FINABEL Co-ordinating Committee accepted a request to join FINABEL, made by the British Army Chief-of-Staff, on 31st January, 1972. They instructed the principal military experts of FINABEL to work out arrangements with their British colleague for putting this decision into effect.

The Standing Armaments Committee, for its part, is studying how its own operations will be affected by the enlargement of FINABEL, with which the United Kingdom has hitherto been associated through an ad hoc group. The Council will have to express an opinion on relations between the enlarged FINABEL and the S.A.C. when they are in possession of the full facts of the problem.

/FINABEL is currently ...

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FINABEL is currently concerned with purely Army matters and its activities do not come under the aegis of the Council or the S.A.C. The idea of establishing similar fora for Navy and Air Force exchanges raises complex problems which will have to be considered by governments in the light of current and future needs and the various means which already exist for military staff contacts.

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