

Extract from minutes of the 78th meeting of the WEU Council (6 March 1957)

Caption: This extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Council of Western European Union (WEU) on 6 March 1957 depicts the debates on further steps to stimulate and extend cooperation in the field of research, development and production within the framework of the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC). The Chairman asks the delegations if this matter is ready for examination. The British representative Lord Samuel Hood does not think so, arguing that it would be better to await the outcome of technical consultations before launching a political debate. French representative Jean Chauvel also wonders whether it is a good idea for the Council to take fresh steps at the moment and whether it would not be preferable for the International Secretariat of the SAC to provide the Council with information on progress made so that it can consider any action that should be taken.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of the 78 meeting of WEU Council held on 6 March 1958. II. Council of Ministers. CR (57)9. 1 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: 1967, 16/03/1956-30/04/1967. File 250.10. Volume 1/2.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/extract_from_minutes_of_the_78th_meeting_of_the_weu_council_6_march_1957-en-2783ec0e-a1dd-47b8-aa29-6680c3bc5aff.html



Last updated: 13/10/2016

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF 78 MEETING
 OF W.E.U. COUNCIL, HELD ON 6 March '57
 CR(57)9

DECLASSIFIED
 W.E.U. 1st MARCH 1989

II. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

2. Study of further steps to stimulate and extend co-operation in the field of research, development and production within the framework of the Standing Armaments Committee

(CR(57)8, V, 3)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the importance of this problem, but wondered whether it was ready for examination by the Council.

Lord HOOD did not think so. He recalled that the United Kingdom representative to the Standing Armaments Committee had made a series of suggestions over the past six months, which had started the work of the Committee in a new direction in the field of research and development; this had stimulated other delegations to make further suggestions but the whole question was still in the exploratory stage. In addition, bilateral discussions had been taking place at Ministerial level, but the agreements reached had not yet produced anything sufficiently concrete to allow discussion of policy. He thought, therefore, that it would be better to await the outcome of technical consultations now in progress before resuming discussion in the Council.

Mr. STIKKER thought the question had two aspects - that of principle and that of method. As to the first, his Government fully agreed that the work of the Committee should be intensified; as to the second, he very much hoped that other Governments would be kept informed of the outcome of the bilateral discussions to which reference had been made.

Mr. Stikker then referred to the discussion in FINABEL of methods of standardisation from the military point of view. He understood that the question of co-operation between that body and the Standing Armaments Committee was under consideration. If the work of the Committee was to be intensified, he hoped that some means would be found of co-ordinating the work of the two organisations; this might be considered by the Council.

: M. CHAUVEL wondered whether there was any call for
 : the Council to take fresh steps at the moment concerning the
 : work of the Standing Armaments Committee. Would it not be
 : better to ask the Head of the International Secretariat to
 : keep the Council informed of progress, with a view to later
 : consideration by the Council of any action they should take?

Lord HOOD understood that M. Cristofini would, in fact, be keeping the Council informed in quarterly reports, which would deal not only with the actual activities of the Committee, but also with the political problems involved. This would seem to meet the wishes of the Council.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that M. Cristofini be invited to indicate whether the whole problem was ripe for discussion by the Council at political level.

The COUNCIL:
 AGREED to this suggestion.