

Recommendation 363 of the WEU Assembly on energy and security (Paris, 4 December 1980)

Caption: On 4 December 1980, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 363 on energy and security. It emphasises that the most important aim of any European energy policy should be to achieve maximum independence from imported oil in the shortest possible time. The document makes a series of recommendations to the Council to urge the member governments to adopt convergent energy measures in the absence of agreement to implement a stringent Western European policy, and to determine the acceptable threshold of safety and security for imports by the Western world. Studies should be carried out on the use of other energy resources such as coal, nuclear means and renewable energy resources. Finally, the Member States are called on to participate in contingency plans for keeping open all international shipping lanes, such as the Strait of Hormuz.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 363 on energy and security (Paris, fourteenth sitting, 4th December 1980)' in Proceedings: Twenty-sixth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1980, p. 59.

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RECOMMENDATION 363***on energy and security***

The Assembly,

Convinced that the most important aim of any European energy policy should be to achieve maximum independence from imported oil in the shortest possible time;

Noting that costly long-term structural changes are needed to make a considerable reduction in oil consumption and Western Europe's dependence on imported energy for 63 % of its requirements;

Seriously concerned that since 1973 neither the Western European countries nor the western world as a whole has been able to implement proposals and decisions agreed upon either by the European Council or by the leaders of the main industrialised countries;

Endorsing the statement of the Venice summit conference of June 1980 in favour of the development of new coal and nuclear energy programmes as the only medium-term solutions to the energy problem;

Aware that while oil and raw materials, sea lanes for their transport and markets are becoming increasingly important strategically, Western European economies are becoming ever more dependent on trade with the East;

Conscious of the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, particularly in the light of the war between Iraq and Iran, especially for Western European oil imports from Persian Gulf states,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Urge member governments:

1. To adopt, in the absence of agreement to implement a stringent Western European policy, convergent energy measures, and, together with the United States, Canada and Japan, formulate a co-operative global economic strategy, and also provide the necessary financial means for their implementation;
2. To establish and implement common plans for energy self-sufficiency and common guidelines for better use and conservation of energy, and to encourage lower oil consumption and the use of other energy resources such as coal, nuclear means and renewable energy resources;
3. To implement the coal objectives formulated by the International Energy Agency coal industry advisory board;
4. To agree, for Western Europe's electricity requirements, on common plans for better use of the scarce uranium resources of the western world through increasingly widespread use of fast-breeder reactors which would consequently mean recycling spent fuel elements in order to recuperate uranium and to obtain plutonium for fast-breeder reactors or, in a mixture with uranium, for light-water reactors;
5. To determine the acceptable threshold of safety and security for imports of energy or rare raw materials by the western world from the eastern bloc countries;
6. To participate in contingency plans for keeping open all international shipping lanes, such as the Strait of Hormuz.