

Kirchberg Declaration made by the WEU Council of Ministers (Luxembourg, 9 May 1994)

Caption: In its Kirchberg Declaration of 9 May 1994, the Council of Ministers of Western European Union (WEU) creates and defines the status of WEU Associate Partner.

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION



KIRCHBERG DECLARATION

9 May 1994

The WEU Council of Ministers met in Luxembourg on 9 May 1994 and issued the Kirchberg Declaration consisting of the following three parts:

- I. Communiqué
- II. Document on a status of Association with WEU for the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic
- III. Declaration following on from the "Document on Associate Membership" of 20 November 1992

Part II of this Declaration was adopted at the Ministerial meeting of the Forum of Consultation held in the afternoon of 9 May 1994.

I**COMMUNIQUE**
WEU Council of Ministers
Luxembourg, 9 May 1994

Ministers devoted a substantial part of their discussions to the strengthening of relations with the nine Central European Partners and to the adoption of a status of Association with WEU, which represents the culmination of the initiative extended to them at the meeting in Luxembourg last November.

Other topics addressed at this meeting were the enhanced status offered to the future Associate Members and the strengthening of the European Security and Defence Identity and WEU's operational capabilities. Given the political and operational importance for WEU of the results of the Alliance Summit of January 1994, Ministers discussed the significant possibilities these offered for the further development of WEU. They finally addressed the development of the dialogue with the Mediterranean States and contacts with Russia and Ukraine.

1. Further to the reflection by the Permanent Council on the basis of the mandate given in Luxembourg on 22 November 1993, Ministers warmly welcomed the agreement reached on the content and modalities of a status of Association with WEU offered to the Consultation Partners. They agreed on a Document on a status of Association which figures as Part II of this Declaration.

WEU is launching this major political initiative in the context of the developing links between these States and European institutions, notably through Europe Agreements. This will constitute a concrete contribution by WEU towards preparing these States for their integration and eventual accession to the European Union, opening up in turn the perspective of membership of WEU. This initiative is fully complementary to cooperation within the Alliance framework, in particular to the Partnership for Peace programme, and to that taking place within the framework of the Stability Pact, these processes being mutually reinforcing. Ministers considered that greater participation by these States in WEU activities, together with the closer consultation on security questions that will ensue, will contribute significantly to greater stability in Europe.

In this context, Ministers welcomed the positive contribution made by the WEU Assembly to the reinforcement of European security.

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2. Recognising the highly valuable contribution that the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey are already making to WEU's activities as future Associate Members, Ministers agreed on a Declaration which figures in Part III of the present document. By enabling WEU to draw fully on these countries' expertise and resources, this package of measures will enhance WEU's role as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance.

3. On the occasion of their first meeting following the January 1994 Summit of the Atlantic Alliance, Ministers warmly welcomed the full support expressed by the Alliance for the development of a European Security and Defence Identity. They expressed satisfaction that the relevant parts of the Luxembourg Declaration of 22 November 1993, intended as a European contribution to the Alliance Summit, had been duly taken into account. In this context, they acknowledged the importance of the decision of the Alliance to examine how to further develop and adapt its structures and procedures.

They welcomed the Summit's endorsement of the principle that collective assets and capabilities of the Alliance can be made available for WEU operations in order to strengthen WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance. They underlined that the modalities for making these available should preserve WEU's own planning procedures and capabilities.

Ministers stressed the importance of work under way in WEU on the WEU-related aspects of the adaptation of the Alliance structures. In order to enhance WEU's ability to carry out the tasks defined in the Petersberg Declaration, Ministers endorsed the approach to identify the assets and capabilities required to perform the necessary military functions.

Ministers underlined the importance of coordination with the Alliance on the implementation of the CJTF concept and the definition of separable but not separate military capabilities so as to ensure their effective use where appropriate by WEU, and in that case under its command.

While recalling their commitment to strengthen the operational capabilities of WEU, they also agreed that WEU would benefit from careful management of resources as well as existing standardized procedures.

Ministers requested the Permanent Council to take discussions on these matters forward as fast as possible with a view to the timely presentation of joint positions into the process of consultation in the Alliance.

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4. Ministers recalled that WEU was fully prepared to play its role in accordance with the Treaty on European Union and the Maastricht Declaration and to respond to requests from the European Union concerning its decisions and actions having defence implications. They welcomed the fact that working relations with the European Union were now being developed. They also recalled their endorsement at their last meeting of the measures to ensure close cooperation between the European Union and WEU contained in the conclusions of the General Affairs Council of 26 October 1993 and approved by the European Council on 29 October 1993. Ministers emphasized in this context the need to improve cooperation particularly in the management of crises and looked forward to close cooperation between the two Organisations in order to respond rapidly and efficiently in the event of crises. In this context, Ministers welcomed the request by the European Union to make a contribution to a future European Union administration of Mostar and confirmed that WEU was ready to offer its support. This constituted a promising example of the close cooperation between WEU and the European Union foreseen by the Maastricht Treaty.

Ministers also welcomed the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the accession of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden to the European Union whereby those countries undertook, inter alia, to accept the Community "acquis" in the field of common foreign and security policy. They expressed the hope that their accession could become effective by 1 January 1995 and recalled that WEU was prepared, in the period leading up to that accession, to strengthen contacts.

5. Ministers recalled the longer term perspective of a common defence policy within the European Union, which might lead in time to a common defence, compatible with that of the Atlantic Alliance. In this spirit, they tasked the Permanent Council to begin work on the formulation of a common European defence policy with a view to presenting preliminary conclusions at their next Ministerial meeting in the Netherlands.

6. Ministers recalled the importance they attached to the continued operational development of WEU, as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance.

Ministers noted the work of the Planning Cell on the Forces Answerable to WEU, and requested it to develop further an inventory of force packages which will enable WEU to carry out the tasks conferred to it, particularly in the field of humanitarian missions, peacekeeping and crisis management. They also took note of the report of the role of WEU in peacekeeping.

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Ministers warmly welcomed and endorsed the adoption of the Joint Declarations setting the conditions for the use of the Belgian/German/Netherlands/UK Multinational Division (Central) and the United Kingdom/Netherlands Amphibious Force in the framework of WEU and the understandings in these regards.

Ministers noted with satisfaction Luxembourg's decision to join the European Corps.

Ministers approved a "WEU Operation Plan Combined Endeavour" for the generation of a WEU Maritime Force as presented by the Planning Cell and agreed that such an initiative should be further developed in accordance with the initial mandate.

In the same framework, Ministers looked forward to the further development of the Italian proposals currently under consideration with France and Spain, envisaging a multinational ground force answerable to WEU.

They are confident that these initiatives will significantly contribute to European capabilities for crisis management and to the development of the European security and defence identity.

Ministers confirmed the aim of further developing WEU's capability to use satellite imagery for security purposes. In this context, they envisaged establishing the WEU Satellite Centre at Torrejon as a permanent body of the Organization and would take a decision on this point in the light of the evaluation of the work undertaken by the Centre during its experimental period. They recognised the need to take appropriate decisions in November 1994 to ensure the continuity of the Centre's work until that evaluation was completed.

Ministers reaffirmed their will to set up an independent European satellite system. A decision would be taken subject to evaluation of the costs and merits of the proposed system and of other WEU alternatives and affordability. To prepare a possible decision of a launch of such a programme, Ministers tasked the Space Group to prepare, for their Spring 1995 meeting, a proposal for decision, including the preparation of a draft Memorandum of Understanding containing the detailed specifications, to be concluded between the present WEU member States.

7. Ministers also reviewed the latest developments in the situation in former Yugoslavia.

They expressed their satisfaction at the conduct, as part of the implementation of United Nations sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, of the joint WEU-NATO Operation SHARP GUARD in the Adriatic and the police and customs operations on the Danube undertaken in close cooperation with Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the initial planning so far undertaken on a WEU contribution in the police field to a future European Union administration of Mostar. They welcomed the initial results obtained by the European Union's Advance Party in which WEU representatives had taken part. They approved WEU's continued involvement, through senior police officers, in the Advance Party.

8. Ministers reviewed the developments in the Mediterranean region and welcomed in particular the recent breakthrough in the Middle-East peace process. Stressing the importance of security and stability in the Mediterranean basin for the security of Europe, they agreed further to develop the dialogue already initiated with the Maghreb countries and to expand it to Egypt and gradually to other non-WEU Mediterranean States.

9. Ministers, in the context of the growing role of WEU for promoting peace, security and stability in Europe, agreed on the importance of developing dialogue and exchanges of information on issues of common concern between WEU and Russia.

Ministers welcomed the Moscow Trilateral Statement on 14 January 1994 on the elimination of nuclear arms from Ukraine as an important contribution to security and stability in Europe. They agreed that the fulfilment of these commitments widens the basis for the development of dialogue and exchanges of information with Ukraine on issues of common concern.

Ministers instructed the Permanent Council to examine appropriate ways in order to achieve this objective.

10. Ministers agreed that the CSCE, as the only European and transatlantic forum covering all of Europe, must be strengthened to avoid the emergence of new divisions. To this end, they reaffirmed their governments' resolution to commit the necessary resources and to continue working for a reasonable division of labour with the CSCE giving effect to the concept of mutually reinforcing institutions developed in the 1992 Helsinki Declaration.

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11. Ministers welcomed the progress made in the preparation of the Stability Pact in Europe. They underlined the importance they attached to the Inaugural Conference to be held in Paris on 26 and 27 May next, which should pave the way to improving relations of good neighbourliness in Europe.

12. Underlining the political significance which the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of Baltic States represents for stability in Europe, Ministers welcomed the recent Russian-Latvian agreements and expressed their support for the early conclusion of the talks between Russia and Estonia.

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Following on from the meeting of the WEU Council, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic met the WEU Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers in Luxembourg on 9 May 1994 for the annual meeting of the WEU Forum of Consultation and associated themselves with the relevant passages of this Communiqué.

Ministers adopted solemnly the "Document on a status of Association with WEU" which constitutes Part II of the Kirchberg Declaration, and underlined the major importance of this agreement.

In the light of the creation of this new status and noting that the Forum of Consultation has fulfilled its initial mandate to the satisfaction of its participants, Ministers decided to suspend its meetings.

II**DOCUMENT ON A STATUS OF ASSOCIATION WITH WEU
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA, THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY,
THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA,
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, ROMANIA AND THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC**

The WEU Council of Ministers and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic met in Luxembourg on 9 May 1994.

RECALLING:

the Declaration of the Extraordinary Meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers with States of Central Europe in Bonn on 19 June 1992 and

the Communiqué of the Meeting of the WEU Forum of Consultation at Ministerial level in Rome on 20 May 1993;

RECALLING more particularly the Declaration of the WEU Council of Ministers in Luxembourg on 22 November 1993 which:

underlined the need, in the interest of increased stability in Europe, for closer consultation on security issues;

considered, particularly in the light of the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, that these relations should be broadened and deepened in parallel to the closer cooperation of these states with the European Union;

initiated a reflection on an enhanced status for those consultation partners who had already concluded or would conclude a Europe agreement with the European Union in order to allow those countries to participate to a larger extent in the activities of WEU and to be involved in initiatives and missions as envisaged in the Petersberg Declaration;

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RECALLING also the Declaration of the European Council in Copenhagen of 22-23 June 1993, which underlined the vocation of countries of Central and Eastern Europe to enter the European Union, and taking into account the developing links of these States with European institutions notably through the Europe Agreements and the desirability of preparing those States for their integration and eventual accession to the European Union;

BEARING IN MIND that the development of closer relations with the nine Central European nations through an enhanced status within WEU and through cooperation within the Alliance framework, in particular the Partnership for Peace programme, will be mutually reinforcing and contribute significantly to security and stability in Europe;

EMPHASIZING that such an enhanced status based on stability of institutions, guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities, should contribute to security and stability in Europe, and welcoming in this regard the forthcoming conference on Stability to be held in Paris.

RECOGNIZING that the relations among WEU countries and consultation partners are based on the following criteria:

settlement of differences by peaceful means, in accordance with the obligations from the United Nations Charter, the commitments entered into under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter and the generally recognized principles and rules of international law,

refraining from resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

The WEU Council of Ministers and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have agreed on the present status whereby the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic will become Associate Partners of WEU; this status will comprise the following elements:

This status does not entail any changes to the modified Brussels Treaty.

1 They may participate in the meetings of the Council subject to the following provisions:

they may take part in discussions but may not block a decision that is the subject of consensus among the member States.

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to enable WEU to perform to the full its role as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance and also to address any other questions in an appropriate configuration, meetings of the Council according to present arrangements will be convened on the basis of the provisions agreed in Rome on 20 November 1992 in the Document on Associate Membership of WEU and the Declaration on WEU Observers.

They will be regularly informed at the Council of the activities of its working groups and may be invited to participate in working groups on a case by case basis.

They may have a liaison arrangement with the Planning Cell.

2. They may associate themselves with decisions taken by member States concerning the following tasks envisaged in para II.4 of the Petersberg Declaration, i.e.: "humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks, tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking".

They will be able to participate in their implementation as well as in relevant exercises and planning unless a majority of the member States, or half of the member States including the Presidency, decide otherwise. They will be invited to provide information on forces. They will also be able to offer forces for specific operations.

When it is agreed that they join such WEU operations by committing forces, they will have the same obligations as other participants, as well as the right of involvement in the command structures and in the Council's subsequent decision-making process. The precise modalities of their participation, including their rights and obligations, in each such WEU operation will be agreed on a case-by-case basis.

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DECLARATION FOLLOWING ON FROM THE "DOCUMENT ON ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP" OF 20 NOVEMBER 1992

The WEU Council of Ministers met in Luxembourg on 9 May 1994.

Recalling :

the WEU Maastricht Declaration of 10 December 1991 whereby other European member States of NATO were invited to become associate members of WEU in a way which would give them the possibility to participate fully in the activities of WEU, taking into account its role as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance;

the Petersberg Declaration "On Relations between WEU and the other European member States of the European Union or the Atlantic Alliance" of 19 June 1992;

the "Document on Associate Membership" agreed at the WEU Ministerial Council in Rome on 20 November 1992.

Recognizing the significant contribution of the associate members of WEU to European security and stability;

Underlining the need to reinforce the relationship of the associate members with WEU in a way that would enable them to make an even stronger contribution to WEU as it faces new challenges and opportunities.

Ministers

reaffirmed the Council's commitment fully to take into consideration associate members' security interests;

reiterated that the security guarantees and defence commitments binding the members states within WEU and the Atlantic Alliance are mutually reinforcing and recalled that, as members of the Atlantic Alliance, the WEU associate members fully enjoy the provisions of article 5 of the Washington Treaty;

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Ministers further

recalled that under the document on associate membership, associate members may associate themselves with decisions taken by Member States;

emphasized that associate members, by committing forces to WEU military operations, will, under conditions laid down by the Rome document of 20 November 1992, participate on the same basis as full members in these operations, as well as in relevant exercises and planning;

confirmed that in all questions concerning the security of forces committed for such operations, there will be no distinction between the forces of associate members and the forces of full members.

The present Declaration does not entail any changes to the "Document on Associate Membership" adopted in Rome on 20 November 1992.

The WEU Council of Ministers agreed that :

associate members have full rights to nominate forces answerable to WEU

the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey may nominate officers to the Planning Cell in order to increase WEU's planning capabilities and to enable WEU to draw more easily on the Associate Members' expertise and resources for the tasks identified in the Petersberg Declaration;

the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey should be connected as soon as possible to the WEUCOM network for all communications concerning meetings and activities in which associate members participate.

Ministers confirmed that the arrangements contained in the present Declaration cannot be modified without the consent of the associate members.

Finally, the Council, while recognizing the autonomy of the WEU Assembly invited the Assembly through its national delegations, to examine further the present arrangements for the participation of parliamentarians from associate member countries.