

Document on associate membership of WEU (Rome, 20 November 1992)

Caption: On 20 November 1992, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of Western European Union (WEU) and the representatives of Iceland, Norway and Turkey sign a document by which these countries become associate members of WEU.

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Document 1351

25th November 1992

***Document on associate membership of WEU
of the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey***

1. The ministers of foreign affairs of the member states of WEU and the ministers of foreign affairs of the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey met in Rome on 20th November 1992. They reaffirmed the commitments which bind their countries aimed at ensuring peace and security in Europe. In this connection, they welcomed the development of the European security and defence identity. Determined, taking into account the rôle of WEU as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance, to put the relationship between WEU and the other European states of the Atlantic Alliance on a new basis in order to promote stability and security in Europe, they recalled the declaration in which the WEU Council of Ministers invited these states on 10th December 1991 in Maastricht to become associate members of WEU.

2. In this context, they recalled the invitation issued on 30th June 1992 by the German Minister of Foreign Affairs and the then Chairman-in-Office of the WEU Council to the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey to open discussions with a view to their possible association to WEU. During these exchanges of views, it has been confirmed that the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey accept the determination of the WEU member states to strengthen the rôle of WEU in the longer-term perspective of a common European defence policy compatible with that of the Atlantic Alliance, and that they accept in full Section A of Part III of the Petersberg Declaration.

Following these discussions, the ministers of foreign affairs of WEU confirmed their wish to see the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey become associate members of WEU.

Ministers considered, moreover, that the association of these three countries represents a significant step in the strengthening of the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance, and thus of the transatlantic link itself, in the spirit of the Declaration of Rome on Peace and Co-operation of 8th November 1991.

3. Accordingly, and without the following elements entailing any changes to the modified Brussels Treaty, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey become associate members of WEU. They may, although not being parties to the modified Brussels Treaty, participate fully in the meetings of the WEU Council – without prejudice to the provisions laid down in Article VIII – of its working groups and of the subsidiary bodies, subject to the following provisions:

- at the request of a majority of the member states, or of half of the member states including the presidency, participation may be restricted to full members;
- they will have the right to speak but may not block a decision that is the subject of consensus among the member states;
- they may associate themselves with the decisions taken by member states; they will be able to participate in their implementation unless a majority of the member states, or half of the member states including the presidency, decide otherwise;
- the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey will be able to be associated to the planning cell through a permanent liaison arrangement;
- they will take part on the same basis as full members in WEU military operations to which they commit forces;
- they will be connected to the member states' telecommunications system (WEUCOM) for messages concerning meetings and activities in which they participate;
- they will be asked to make a financial contribution to the organisation's budgets.

For practical reasons, space activities will be restricted to the present members until the end of the experimental phase of the satellite centre in 1995. During this phase the new member and associate members will be kept informed of WEU's space activities. Appropriate arrangements will be made for associate members to participate in subsequent space activities at the same time as decisions are taken on the continuation of such activities.

4. The Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey will have the same rights and responsibilities as the full members for functions transferred to WEU from other fora and institutions to which they already belong.

5. The Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey will become associate members of WEU on the day the Hellenic Republic becomes a member of WEU. In the meantime, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Turkey will be considered as active observers to WEU.

For the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium:

For the Government of the French Republic:

For the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany:

For the Government of the Republic of Iceland:

For the Government of the Italian Republic:

For the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

For the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

For the Government of the Kingdom of Norway:

For the Government of the Portuguese Republic:

For the Government of the Kingdom of Spain:

For the Government of the Republic of Turkey:

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Document 1351 Addendum

27th November 1992

*Council of Ministers, Rome, 20th November 1992**Presidency declarations extracted from summaries of discussions between WEU and the three other European member states of the Atlantic Alliance*1. *Planning cell*

“ Replying to the Turkish representative, the presidency recalled that the Petersberg Declaration stated that future associate members would be able to be associated to the planning cell through a permanent liaison arrangement.

It follows that an arrangement will be worked out with Turkey and with any other of the associate members who so wish.”

2. *Information to associate members*

“ The presidency, in reply to the representatives of the candidates for associate membership, confirmed that there will be full transparency among the full member states and the associate member states and that timely information on restricted sessions will be given to that effect.”

3. *Statement on “ existing treaties or agreements ”*

“ The presidency, in reply to a question by the Icelandic representative, confirmed that the reference to “ existing treaties or agreements ” in the minutes agreed in connection with the document on associate membership includes the Washington Treaty.”

Minutes agreed in connection with the document associate membership at the WEU Ministerial Council, on 20th November, in Rome

– As associate members are not parties to the modified Brussels Treaty, it follows that the reference to the acceptance in full of Section A of Part III of the Petersberg Declaration by the associate members is not related to the provisions of Article X of the Treaty.

– The fifth indent of paragraph 3 of the document on associate membership states that associate members will take part on the same basis as full members in WEU military operations to which they commit forces. The reference to commitment of forces may cover the provision of logistical and other facilities of a significant nature. If associate members participate in WEU military operations deriving from decisions taken by member states, the arrangements for the conduct of these operations will be established on a case-by-case basis by the participating states.

– The right to speak brings with it the possibility to present proposals.

– Full participation will include participation in caucuses subject to the same rules as for participation in the meetings of the WEU Council and other bodies.

– It is understood that the provisions of this document on associate membership are without prejudice to the rights and obligations deriving from existing treaties or agreements.

– The Council will take fully into consideration associate members’ security interests.

– The document on associate membership cannot be modified without the assent of the associate members.