

## Paris Declaration made by the WEU Council of Ministers (13 May 1997)

**Caption:** On 13 May 1997, in Paris, the Council of Ministers of Western European Union (WEU) reaffirms the essential role of WEU in the European security architecture.

**Source:** WEU Council of Ministers-Paris Declaration (13 May 1997). Paris: Western European Union, [s.d.]. 12 p.

**Copyright:** (c) WEU Secretariat General - Secrétariat Général UEO

**URL:** [http://www.cvce.eu/obj/paris\\_declaration\\_made\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_of\\_ministers\\_13\\_may\\_1997-en-0322378d-b507-4eab-8b05-4a4ed782dcc4.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/paris_declaration_made_by_the_weu_council_of_ministers_13_may_1997-en-0322378d-b507-4eab-8b05-4a4ed782dcc4.html)

**Publication date:** 04/09/2012

# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION



## Paris Declaration

**WEU Council of Ministers**

**Paris, 13 May 1997**

**WEU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
PARIS DECLARATION, 13 May 1997**

**I. Introduction**

- 1 Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the WEU Nations met in Paris on 13 May 1997.

This Ministerial meeting is taking place during a significant year for WEU. 1997 is witnessing events which will influence the shape of the European security architecture and which are of particular importance for the development of WEU:

the negotiations taking place in the context of the IGC of the European Union, which should be concluded at the European Council in Amsterdam;

the process of NATO adaptation and enlargement, to be addressed at the Madrid Summit by Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Atlantic Alliance.

**II. WEU is prepared to play its role in the European security architecture**

- 2 WEU has a pivotal role to play in accordance with the agreements reached at Maastricht which are being reviewed in the IGC and the decisions taken in Berlin in order to enable Europeans to shoulder their responsibilities in the field of security and defence in Europe and beyond whilst reinforcing the transatlantic link.
- 3 It can play an increasingly effective role in crisis management including by mounting military and other operations. In carrying out this role, it is able, under the full politico-military authority of the Council, to use assets and capabilities which may be made available within WEU on a national or multinational basis, and/or by NATO under arrangements now being drawn up. In doing so, it will draw on the work of a range of WEU bodies.
- 4 In Noordwijk in 1994, Ministers endorsed the "Preliminary conclusions on the formulation of a common European defence policy" and expressed their determination to elaborate to the full the recommendations and considerations contained therein so that an effective Common European Defence Policy could be established in the years to come.

2 -

WEU deals in particular with issues related to

the definition of principles for the use of the armed forces of the WEU States for WEU operations in pursuit of common European security interests.

the organization of operational means for Petersberg tasks, in particular through participation in the NATO defence planning process;

enhancing European armaments cooperation in WEAG

5. WEU constitutes a genuine framework for dialogue and cooperation among Europeans on wider European security and defence issues.

all WEU nations are further developing their common analysis of European security;

all WEU nations are increasingly involved in operational activities for the purpose of preparing and carrying out Petersberg tasks;

WEU is intensifying its relations with third countries in the interest of European and international security.

### **III. WEU is continuing to enhance its cooperation with the European Union**

6. Ministers recalled their commitment to continue to develop WEU's relations with the European Union in order to build up WEU in stages as the defence component of the Union.

Ministers looked forward to a successful conclusion of the IGC at the European Council in Amsterdam. They restated their willingness fully to contribute, as required, to the finalization of the security and defence aspects of the IGC. They tasked the Permanent Council to take fully into account the progress of work in the IGC and to stand ready to produce a WEU Declaration which could be annexed to the revised Treaty on the European Union.

7. Ministers noted with satisfaction that, without prejudice to the ongoing work of the IGC, a real impetus has been given to operational cooperation between WEU and the European Union. It had, in particular, contributed to further clarification of the existing mechanism for institutional cooperation and the strengthening of the working relations between the Organizations. They noted the intensification of work between the two Organizations, in particular the meetings of a WEU/European Union ad hoc Group and the holding of a seminar which had brought together representatives of States belonging to both Organizations.

- 8 The work that has been done on the “modus operandi” for the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article J.4 of the Maastricht Treaty and on identifying the possible content of the common defence policy mentioned in that Article marks a deepening of cooperation between WEU and the European Union.

Ministers took note of the document suggesting how the two Organizations would cooperate when the European Union requests WEU to take action under Article J.4.2 of the Treaty on European Union. This document is a valuable contribution, which will help facilitate cooperation between WEU and the EU on J.4.2 operations. Ministers expressed the wish that this work should continue.

Ministers took note of the Presidency report on the joint WEU/EU discussion on common European defence policy. They tasked the Permanent Council to pursue this reflection further.

9. WEU and the European Union are also cooperating on a number of other initiatives in the security field.

Work has continued on African peacekeeping taking forward the complementary approach of the two Organizations, following the EU request of December 1995 and WEU's own activities in this area. Ministers noted the invitation sent to the Secretary-General of the OAU to visit WEU Headquarters.

WEU has continued work on assistance in humanitarian landmine clearance operations. The Planning Cell has begun to establish a database.

Ministers noted with interest the consolidated report on the lessons to be learned from the Mostar operation in particular with regard to the relations between WEU and the EU. Ministers welcomed its transmission to the EU so that the two Organizations might enter into a dialogue on the lessons to be learned from joint operations.

Ministers took note of WEU's response to the request made by the European Union on the Great Lakes region in application of Article J.4.2 of the Treaty on European Union. They expressed their deep concern at the worsening of the situation and the continuing humanitarian crisis. They requested the Permanent Council to continue to keep the situation under close review.

10. Ministers congratulated the French and Netherlands Presidencies on the work they had done, building on the achievements made under previous Presidencies, and tasked the Permanent Council actively to pursue the efforts to reinforce the institutional and operational links and cooperation with the European Union.

#### **IV. WEU is reinforcing its cooperation with the Atlantic Alliance**

- 1** Ministers reiterated their conviction that the new NATO, which is taking shape through a process of adaptation and reform in the Alliance, and a strong transatlantic partnership continue to be central to stability and security in Europe. They welcomed the process of adaptation of the Alliance, an important aim of which is to build the ESDI within the Alliance which will enable all European Allies to take greater responsibility for their security and defence and to make a more coherent and effective contribution to the missions and activities of the Alliance. This process will permit the creation of militarily coherent and effective forces capable of operating under the political control and strategic direction of WEU and of European command arrangements within NATO.
- 12** Ministers approved the document on political control and strategic direction for subsequent use in the process of consultation within the Alliance. The implementation of these guidelines will be a significant step towards enabling WEU to make the most effective use of assets and capabilities, including headquarters, which the Alliance makes available. They welcomed the transmission of this document to NATO.
- 3** The availability of NATO assets and capabilities for WEU-led operations is an important contribution to the development of WEU's operational capabilities and the emergence of a ESDI within the Alliance. Ministers confirmed the importance of a framework agreement between NATO and WEU to govern the transfer, monitoring and return of NATO assets and capabilities. They took note of the document on the principles and parameters which should be taken into account in drawing up such an agreement and welcomed its transmission to NATO.
- 14** In Ostend, Ministers had expressed the wish that WEU should become actively involved in the Alliance's defence planning process. Ministers approved WEU's contribution to the 1997 NATO Ministerial Guidance, which will set the parameters for the next defence planning cycle. They emphasized the importance of this first concrete input into the process and of the developing cooperation which will enable WEU's requirements related to Petersberg tasks to be taken fully into account. They also took note of the "Principles document on WEU involvement in the NATO defence planning process" and of the document "WEU and the Alliance Defence Planning Process - Modalities". They welcomed the transmission of all these documents to NATO.
- 5** Ministers welcomed the interest expressed by the non-allied Observer States to participate in defence planning through WEU for non-Article 5 missions. They agreed that those states should be invited to make available assets and capabilities for these purposes and to participate in WEU work related to defence planning in accordance with detailed procedures to be defined.

- 5 -

16. Ministers noted with satisfaction that the results of NATO's initial work on military planning for illustrative WEU missions identified by WEU had now been received by WEU. They welcomed this concrete demonstration of the value of enhanced cooperation between WEU and NATO.
  
7. Ministers welcomed the agreement on the participation of European Allies in WEU operations using NATO assets and capabilities, as well as in the planning and preparation of such operations. They also welcomed the agreement on the involvement, to the fullest extent possible and in accordance with their status, of Observers in the follow-up, within WEU, of the NATO Ministerial meetings of Berlin and Brussels. Ministers therefore noted with satisfaction that the basis had now been established for the implementation of the decisions of Birmingham, Berlin and Brussels, for the strengthening of WEU-NATO working relations and, in this framework, for the development of the ESDI with the full participation of all European allies.
  
18. Ministers tasked the Permanent Council to pursue, as a matter of priority and in cooperation with NATO, its work on:
  - the framework Agreement on modalities for the transfer of NATO assets and capabilities;
  - in the perspective of possible operations and in addition to existing arrangements, a consultation mechanism between the two Permanent Councils and between their appropriate subordinate bodies;
  - an Agreement on the modalities for cooperation between WEU and NATO, for the latter to conduct at the request of, and in coordination with WEU, military planning for illustrative WEU missions identified by WEU;
  - the modalities for cooperation between WEU and NATO on exercises for WEU-led operations;
  - WEU's contribution to the Alliance's defence planning process;and to address in consultation with NATO further relevant subjects to be dealt with in implementing the NATO Ministerial decisions of Berlin and Brussels.

- 6 -

19. Ministers called on the Permanent Council actively to continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional cooperation between the two Organizations. They welcomed the progress achieved so far, including the procedures agreed in WEU and NATO to make Joint Councils more focussed and effective, as well as the arrangements for closer cooperation between the WEU Planning Cell and the NATO Military Authorities. Ministers welcomed the decisions made in each Organization to speed up the release of information to each other under the provisions of the WEU/NATO Security Agreement, looked forward to seeing the Agreement exploited to the fullest extent, tasked the Permanent Council to monitor closely its implementation, and to address in close cooperation with NATO where appropriate any remaining problems.

20. Ministers noted with interest the report on lessons learned from Operation Sharp Guard and welcomed its transmission to NATO.

**V. WEU is better prepared to take on operational responsibilities**

21. Over the past six months, WEU has completed significant work, which means that it is now better equipped to take on operational responsibilities.

22. Implementation of the Petersberg tasks requires flexible modes of action that are geared to the diversity of crisis situations and make optimum use of existing capabilities.

In order to increase the options available to WEU, Ministers approved the document describing the organization of operations supported by a framework nation. This framework concept comes within the context of autonomous WEU operations, of which it is a special case, and is designed to enable a European headquarters to be established, using existing national or multinational assets, within timeframes compatible with the operational requirements, especially in situations of extreme urgency.

Ministers tasked the Permanent Council to study the modalities for mounting WEU operations having recourse to a multinational FAWEU as the Operation Commander's Headquarters.

23. Ministers approved the document harmonizing WEU crisis management mechanisms and procedures. This document is destined to evolve as WEU gains experience of crisis management and as the links in this field between WEU and NATO, on the one hand, and between WEU and the European Union, on the other, develop. Ministers therefore tasked the Permanent Council to continue its work.



24. Ministers approved the Concept Paper for the WEU Satellite Centre. The implementation of this Concept Paper should contribute significantly to full use being made of the Centre for the benefit of WEU. In particular, the paper further defines and fixes the priorities for the missions of the Centre in the supply of information resulting from the interpretation of space imagery. Ministers welcomed the significant development of the technical capacities of the Satellite Centre and the operational level it has reached.
25. Significant progress has been made over the last six months in the implementation of WEU's exercise policy.

Ministers welcomed the successful completion of Phase III of Exercise "CRISEX" (December 1996) in which the Eurocorps was directly involved as a multinational FAWEU. The seminar on 18 and 19 March 1997 provided an opportunity to draw conclusions and to identify ways in which WEU's crisis management capabilities could be improved.

The first meeting of the WEU Exercise Planning Conference was marked by the participation of all the WEU nations and led to the adoption of an exercise programme for 1997-1998 and a draft programme up to the year 2001. Ministers tasked the Permanent Council to monitor the implementation of the programme and to update WEU's exercise objectives and policy as appropriate in line with changing requirements.

Ministers welcomed the continuing work on a wider use of their countries' training facilities. They took note of the document on "Joint use of training facilities", which should enable optimum use to be made of the database set up by the Planning Cell and approved in Ostend. The concept of "training installations available to WEU for national or collective use by WEU nations" will supplement the FAWEU arrangement.

27. Ministers noted the progress achieved with regard to the joint use of elements of multinational FAWEUs.

Ministers reviewed the work in progress on the revised mandate and future role of the Planning Cell. They reaffirmed the importance they attach to an effective Planning Cell as a military component within WEU Headquarters. They invited the Permanent Council actively to pursue this work.

Ministers noted with interest the consolidated report on the lessons learned from the WEU operation on the Danube.

30. Ministers welcomed Canada's interest in taking part in WEU operations carried out with the use of Alliance assets and capabilities where there is a common interest.
  
3. Ministers noted with interest the Presidency report on the CHODs meeting held in Paris on 9 and 10 April. They approved the proposal by the Chiefs of Defence Staff to clarify and strengthen the role of the CHODs within WEU, and improve the functioning of the MDG as a group. Along these lines, they decided to establish, under the Council's authority, a military committee consisting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff represented, in permanent session, by the Military Delegates Group under a permanent Chairman. They tasked the Permanent Council to work out the detailed implementation of this decision. They asked for the progress report commissioned by the CHODs at their meeting in Paris to be presented to the Permanent Council by the end of June. They asked the Council to study all the ensuing institutional implications and to present proposals to the next Ministerial Council for any further adaptations that might prove necessary, within the current political-military crisis management arrangements.

Ministers noted the contribution made by military study activities (Eurolongterm, Eurocom, Western European Logistics Group) to strengthening the military expertise within WEU. They emphasized, in particular, that it was essential for the Eurolongterm Group to pursue and extend its work on the harmonization of longer-term conceptual requirements. They also emphasized the need to consider the possibility of interested WEU Observer States participating in the above-mentioned activities.

#### **Armaments cooperation**

33. Following up the decisions at Ostend, Ministers welcomed the constitution on 7 March 1997 of the Board of Directors of the Western European Armaments Organization and the implementation of its initial executive body (the Research Cell) on 1 April 1997.
  
34. Ministers were appreciative of the interest in armaments cooperation activities shown by a number of non-allied Observers and Associate Partners, whose views would be taken into consideration. They looked forward to the results of the request made by the WEAG Defence Ministers to their National Armaments Directors to study in detail the issues raised at Ostend, including a possible European armaments partnership, and to report at the next WEAG Defence Ministers meeting with a view to possible decisions.

**VII. WEU is pursuing its reflection on European security interests**

35. Ministers took note of the summary document on "Reflection on European security interests on the eve of the 21st century" and held an in-depth exchange of views on this topic based on the work carried out over the past six months. They welcomed the active participation of all WEU countries throughout this exercise.
36. This process of reflection, building on and updating the analysis in the "Common Concept" (Madrid, November 1995), has taken place at a defining moment for the future of Europe's security and defence and has confirmed WEU's role as a genuine framework for dialogue and cooperation between Europeans on wider European security and defence issues.

**VIII. Relations with third countries**

37. Ministers recalled the importance of the development of relations with Russia corresponding to its size, capabilities and strategic importance. They welcomed the work done by the Permanent Council on identifying possible areas of further cooperation with Russia.
38. Ministers reiterated their attachment to the development of relations with Ukraine in recognition of Ukraine's significance as an important European partner of WEU. They endorsed the Permanent Council's decision concerning relations with Ukraine and the possible areas of cooperation identified therein.
39. Russia and Ukraine play an essential role in Europe's security and stability. WEU has demonstrated its concern to consolidate and develop harmonious relations with these two countries. In this spirit:

Ministers welcomed the beginning of discussions with Russia and Ukraine on making strategic air transport assets available and looked forward to their early conclusion. This initiative testifies to WEU's developing relations with these countries.

Ministers invited the Council to pursue the development of relations with Russia and Ukraine within the framework of the Permanent Council's decision of March 1995, building on the progress achieved and consultations held since then.

40. Ministers reiterated the hope that the ratification processes in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus on the Open Skies Treaty would soon be concluded.

- 4 Relations with non-WEU Mediterranean countries are developing in a climate of dialogue, transparency and cooperation. Ministers took note of the report submitted by the Mediterranean Group and decided to continue the information meetings with non-WEU Mediterranean countries that are Dialogue Partners. With a view to giving more substance to this dialogue, they tasked the Permanent Council also to examine the subjects in which the non-WEU Mediterranean countries had expressed interest. They decided that this question would be kept under close review, taking due account of the Barcelona Process and other initiatives with related objectives, including the NATO Mediterranean dialogue. Lastly they confirmed that, with regard to WEU's contribution to the Barcelona Process, the WEU Mediterranean Group will contribute its expertise within the framework of its general mandate in response to requests from the European Union.

Ministers welcomed the readiness of the member nations of Eurofor and Euromarfor to develop cooperative actions with those countries.

42. Ministers noted with satisfaction that the ongoing dialogue with Cyprus(\*) evolves in line with the development of the links between Cyprus(\*) and the European Union.
43. Ministers requested the Council to pursue the exchanges with the OAU and the work on peacekeeping in Africa. They noted in this context the dispatching of observers from WEU to African peacekeeping Exercise Nangbeto.

#### **IX. Situation in Albania**

44. Ministers expressed their concern at the crisis situation in Albania and its possible regional implications. They reiterated their call for a political settlement and the holding of early, free and fair parliamentary elections by the end of June.
45. They reaffirmed their belief that Europeans have to shoulder their responsibilities for settling crises in Europe. In this context, they welcomed the fact that the Albanian crisis has confirmed that Europeans are capable of deploying a full range of instruments for crisis management.

(\*) Turkey dissociates itself from this reference by reserving its position on this issue.

46. They welcomed the efforts made by the international community in Albania, in particular by the United Nations, the OSCE and the EU. They expressed appreciation for the continuing efforts of the EU and of the OSCE as the coordinating framework for civilian assistance activities in the country. They also expressed their warm appreciation for the active and decisive contributions of a number of European States to the creation and deployment, authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1101, of the Multinational Protection Force (MPF) under Italian leadership.

They endorsed the decision of the WEU Permanent Council to deploy rapidly a Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) which will complement the action of the MPF and of the international community more generally. The MAPE will give the Albanian police authorities the necessary information and advice on appropriate aspects of policing and restoring order, as well as on their responsibilities in the electoral process. WEU will continue to monitor the situation closely and to contribute fully to international efforts in Albania.

## **X. OSCE**

48. Ministers took note of the decisions of the OSCE Lisbon Summit on the Security Model for the 21st Century and reaffirmed their commitment to creating a common security space free of dividing lines in which all States are equal partners.

### **Transatlantic Forum**

49. Ministers stressed the importance of reinforcing the transatlantic dialogue and, in this context, they welcomed the Transatlantic Forum Activities undertaken during the Greek Chairmanship. They looked forward to the Group's in-depth assessment of Transatlantic Forum Activities aiming at further enhancing its effectiveness.

### **Other questions**

Ministers noted with satisfaction the work of the Institute for Security Studies, appreciating the Institute's role in conceptual research, its contribution to the process of reflection within the Organization and its assistance in bringing the European security and defence issues to the notice of academic circles and stimulating public debate. Ministers reiterated their commitment gradually to develop the WEU Institute for Security Studies into a European Security and Defence Academy. It would be desirable for all WEU countries to be more closely involved in the work of the Institute.

- 12 -

51. Ministers acknowledged the valuable contribution of the WEU Parliamentary Assembly to the work of the Organization and welcomed its contribution to the debate on security and defence in Europe. They paid tribute to the work of the outgoing President, Sir Dudley Smith, and welcomed the election of Mr. Lluís Maria de Puig as President.

52. Ministers welcomed the statement by Germany on its programme for the next six months during the German Presidency of WEU which includes:

the strengthening of WEU's institutional and practical links with the EU building on the results of the Intergovernmental Conference;

the intensification of the relationship between WEU and NATO with a priority to the implementation of the relevant decisions of Summits and Ministerial meetings;

a further deepening of the involvement of the Associate Partners particularly in WEU's military cooperation;

and strengthening of WEU's operational capabilities including the role and functioning of the military bodies of WEU.

o  
o o

Ministers paid tribute to the Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador Horst Holthoff, and thanked him for his invaluable contribution to WEU's development over the past eight years. They expressed their appreciation of his work, which had contributed in a decisive manner to the development of the Organization.

Ministers endorsed the Permanent Council's decision to appoint Ambassador Roland Wegener to the post of Deputy Secretary-General.