

Communiqué issued by the WEU Council of Ministers (Rome, 20 November 1992)

Caption: This communiqué, issued at the end of the meeting of the Western European Union (WEU) Council of Ministers, held in Rome on 20 November 1992, particularly focuses on the enlargement of WEU.

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<http://www.weu.int/documents/921120en.pdf>.

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FINAL

WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,
ROME, 20 NOVEMBER 1992

Communiqué

Foreign and Defence Ministers of WEU member States met in Rome on 20 November 1992.

They reaffirmed their determination to implement the Maastricht and Petersberg Declarations which were landmarks in WEU's reactivation, a process begun in 1984 with the Rome Declaration. They stressed that the enlargement of the Organization, the strengthening of its operational role and the transfer of the WEU Council and Secretariat to Brussels, opened a new chapter in WEU's development as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance.

Ministers also issued a declaration on the situation in former Yugoslavia.

For the first time, the Presidency of the Twelve and the Secretary-General of NATO had been invited to attend.

Enlargement of WEU

1. Ministers expressed their profound satisfaction that an important step in the process of strengthening WEU had been taken today with the successful conclusion of the discussions on enlargement held with the countries concerned in line with the objectives set out in the WEU declarations of Maastricht and Petersberg.

Ministers from WEU member States together with their colleagues from the States invited have today agreed the necessary documents so that Greece will become a full member of WEU, Denmark and Ireland will become observers and Iceland, Norway and Turkey will become associate members of WEU.

Development of WEU's operational role

2. Ministers stressed the importance of the development of WEU's operational capabilities, in accordance with the Maastricht and Petersberg Declarations, in order to allow a more effective contribution to humanitarian tasks, peacekeeping and peacemaking in coordination with NATO and other organizations and in accordance with the UN Charter and national constitutions. Thus WEU member States would increase their contribution to international peace and stability.

3. Ministers took note of the progress made since their June meeting in strengthening WEU's operational role. They were given an account of the recent meeting of WEU Chiefs of Defence Staff. They welcomed the establishment of the WEU Planning Cell in Brussels on 1 October and looked forward to it becoming operational by April 1993. Ministers asked the Council and its working groups to guide and encourage the Planning Cell in implementing its tasks and responsibilities including developing planning options and designating military units for missions under WEU auspices. Ministers tasked the Defence Representatives Group to finalize the guidelines for selecting headquarters for these missions.

4. Ministers noted that the Planning Cell will take forward work on the proposal for European air-maritime cooperation in connection with its role of drawing up contingency plans for the employment of a range of national and multinational forces.

5. Ministers agreed that a transfer of IEPG functions to WEU would represent an important step towards enhanced cooperation in the field of armaments with the aim of creating a WEU European armaments agency. The WEU Permanent Council has been mandated to take all necessary steps in the light of the results of the next meeting of the IEPG Ministers.

6. WEU Ministers also took note of an interim report on the possible transfer of certain Eurogroup activities to WEU. They agreed that a final report should be prepared for decision by WEU Ministers in Spring 1993 on the basis of positions prepared within WEU and the subsequent views of a joint WEU/Eurogroup working group.

7. Ministers agreed to the progress report on space activities. They welcomed the fact that the WEU Satellite Centre would rapidly become operational, as the refurbishment of the building in Torrejon had now been completed and the choice of consortium to equip the Centre had been made.

Transfer to Brussels

8. The transfer of the WEU Council and Secretariat-General to Brussels in January 1993 will contribute to the development of WEU's specific relations with the European Union on the one hand and with NATO on the other as they have been defined by the Maastricht Declaration, and to the enhancement of WEU's operational role. In this respect, Ministers stressed the importance of implementing the necessary practical measures.

WEU cooperation in the field of arms control and disarmament

9. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives on disarmament and arms control, security cooperation and conflict prevention set out in the CSCE's Helsinki Document of 1992. They will promote the achievement of significant results in the CSCE Forum of Security Cooperation in Vienna.

10. Ministers reiterated their commitment to the early entry into force of the Open Skies Treaty. They took note of the progress report prepared by experts and tasked them to continue the search for cost-effective solutions for implementing the Open Skies Treaty, including the possibilities for establishing a WEU pool. Ministers stressed the readiness of WEU to cooperate with third parties and welcomed the intention of the Presidency to inform them of the state of play of WEU's work.

11. Ministers welcomed the cooperation between WEU member States on the opening of national inspection teams for the baseline validation phase of the CFE Treaty and looked forward to similar arrangements for the next phase of inspections.

Dialogue with other countries

12. Following the Extraordinary Ministerial meeting in Bonn on 19 June 1992 between the WEU Foreign and Defence Ministers and their colleagues from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, the first meeting of the Forum of Consultation at Ambassadorial level was held in London on 14 October. WEU Ministers welcomed this step in the development of relations with the partner countries of Central Europe and looked forward to meeting their colleagues in the Spring of 1993. Ministers also took note of a report on relations with third countries.

13. In accordance with the decision adopted at Petersberg on 19 June 1992 gradually to establish a dialogue with the Maghreb countries, Ministers welcomed the first contacts which had been made by the Presidency and Secretariat with the London Embassies of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

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Ministers expressed their gratitude to the United Kingdom Government, as representative of the host country where the Permanent Council and Secretariat-General had resided since 1956.