

Note from the Secretary-General of Western Union on the setting up of a Committee of Financial and Economic Experts (London, 1 November 1948)

Caption: In a note dated 1 November 1948, the Secretary-General of the Brussels Treaty Organisation (Western Union) notifies of the decision taken by the Consultative Council to set up a Committee on Economic and Financial Matters. As a result, each Member State of Western Union is asked to appoint experts in this area.

Source: National Archives of the United Kingdom, Kew. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>, Records of international organizations, DG. Copies of records of the Brussels Treaty Organisation and Western European Union. Brussels Treaty Organisations and Western European Union: Microfilm copies of files, DG 1.

Secretary-general's note concerning the setting up of and terms of reference of the Committee of Financial and Economic experts, Document No.158. London: Brussels Treaty Permanent Commission, 01.11.1948. 2 p.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_secretary_general_of_western_union_on_the_setting_up_of_a_committee_of_financial_and_economic_experts_london_1_november_1948-en-24ea308f-5c87-4786-8f7e-4753101b3aaf.html

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BRUSSELS TREATY PERMANENT COMMISSION

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE CONCERNING THE SETTING UP
OF AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE OF
FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC
EXPERTS.

At its recent meeting in Paris the Consultative Council approved the recommendation of the Finance Ministers to set up a Committee on Economic and Financial matters to work alongside the Chiefs-of-Staff Committee and the Military Supply Board. (See Metric Document No: 157, Minutes of 35th Meeting of the Permanent Commission, and Metric Document No: 148, Secretary-General's report on the meeting of the Finance Ministers).

This decision should now be brought formally to the notice of the Ministers concerned, with the request that each country appoints as soon as possible one or two experts on financial and economic questions to sit on this Committee, which will have its seat in London.

The Chiefs-of-Staff have expressed the wish that the first meeting should take place about the 15th November, 1948.

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

It is proposed that the terms of reference of this Committee should be as follows:

1. To consider the financial and economic implications of proposals for defence put forward by the Chiefs-of-Staff and the Military Supply Board, as they affect each country and the Five countries as a whole.
2. To provide for the solution of financial questions, in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Finance Ministers and approved by the Consultative Council, namely:

"The Finance Ministers recommend that, for the matters mentioned in para.7 of the report of the Chiefs of Staff, the countries concerned should make ad hoc financial arrangements designed to permit the necessary supplies to flow until such time as an inclusive agreement is arrived at.

The Five Ministers take note of the particular arrangements made for the solution of certain of the problems mentioned in para.7. They suggest that any other similar problems, which may arise in the immediate future, including those dealt with in paragraph 8, shall be the subject of ad hoc financial arrangements conceived in the same spirit and designed to permit the exchange of necessary supplies and services until such time as a general arrangement is reached." (See Metric Document No: 148 ad 1) b) and c)).

(a list of these questions is attached in an Annex to this document).

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3. To prepare the ground for the conclusion of a broad financial agreement to permit smooth interchange of equipment and services between the Forces of the 5 Powers.

NOTE:

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS MEMBERS:

The Committee has to work alongside the Chiefs-of-Staff Committee and the Military Supply Board.

The members of the Committee are individually responsible to their Ministers of Finance and Economic affairs. The Committee as a whole will report to the Permanent Commission (vide Metric Document No: 27, Item V. (Relationships)).

SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Pending the settling of the Finances of the Permanent Commission Secretariat-General, it is suggested that the United Kingdom Government provides a Secretary for this Committee with the necessary secretarial staff who will come under the authority of the Secretary-General of the Permanent Commission.

MEETING PLACE.

For the time being the Committee will meet in conference room number 2 with adjacent office, at 2, Eaton Place.



Eaton Place,
S.W.1.

1st November, 1948.