

## Recommendation 475 of the WEU Assembly on European security and events in the Near and Middle East (5 December 1989)

**Caption:** On 5 December 1989, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 475 on European security and events in the Near and Middle East.

**Source:** Proceedings. Thirty-fifth ordinary session. Second part, IV. Minutes. Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of Western European Union, December 1989. 204 p.

**Copyright:** (c) WEU Assembly - Assemblée de l'UEO

**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/recommendation\\_475\\_of\\_the\\_weu\\_assembly\\_on\\_european\\_security\\_and\\_events\\_in\\_the\\_near\\_and\\_middle\\_east\\_5\\_december\\_1989-en-e9e98fc5-1ffd-4f28-92e0-bf8517612fad.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/recommendation_475_of_the_weu_assembly_on_european_security_and_events_in_the_near_and_middle_east_5_december_1989-en-e9e98fc5-1ffd-4f28-92e0-bf8517612fad.html)

**Publication date:** 10/09/2012

## RECOMMENDATION 475

*on European security and events in the Near and Middle East*

The Assembly,

- (i) Recalling its Recommendations 349 and 403;
- (ii) Considering that Article VIII, paragraph 3, of the modified Brussels Treaty gives the WEU Council competence to examine threats to international peace in the Near and Middle East;
- (iii) Welcoming the Council's reply to Recommendation 472 which reaffirms its intention to report on the application of the modified Brussels Treaty, even when this is carried out in a framework other than WEU, in accordance with Article II of the treaty;
- (iv) Recalling the action taken by WEU in 1988 to restore freedom of navigation in the Gulf;
- (v) Expressing its satisfaction at:
  - (a) the continuation of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq;
  - (b) the suspension of fighting in Beirut;
- (vi) Aware of the important consequences of the meeting of sixty-two members of the Lebanese Parliament on the initiative of the committee formed by Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia to:
  - (a) work out a political and institutional solution allowing the various communities to cohabit peacefully;
  - (b) assert the integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Lebanese state, freed of interference and foreign military presence;
- (vii) Condemning unreservedly the assassination of President René Moawad of Lebanon;
- (viii) Condemning the taking of hostages, their detention and terrorism in all its forms;
- (ix) Expressing the strongest concern that no general peace process has yet been started in the Middle East in spite of the action that the international community has been taking for a long time through:
  - (a) United Nations resolutions;
  - (b) recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
  - (c) European Community declarations;
  - (d) diplomatic action by the superpowers;
  - (e) the good will shown by the Arab countries at their recent summit meeting in Casablanca;
- (x) Strongly disapproving the new impetus given to the arms race by states in the region, particularly in regard to long-range aircraft, medium-range missiles and chemical and nuclear weapons:
  - (a) by firms, banks and experts from European Community countries;
  - (b) by agreements with and arms deliveries and military assistance from certain Western European countries, the Soviet Union, the United States and China,

which are obviously contrary to the search for peaceful solutions to the conflicts causing bloodshed in the region;

- (xi) Gratiified that the European Council has taken a major step to prevent its members contributing to the production of chemical weapons by countries in the region but regretting that the Western European countries have taken no collective steps to avoid the proliferation of other types of armaments such as medium- and long-range surface-to-surface missiles and nuclear weapons;
- (xii) Endorsing unreservedly the United Nations' decision to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East;
- (xiii) Considering that, to ensure peace and stability in the region, it is essential to seek a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that guarantees the security of the state of Israel and the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland and to self-determination in the Gaza Strip and West Bank;
- (xiv) Recognising the will of the Palestinian people who for two years have been demonstrating, with the intifada movement, their refusal to accept the prolongation of the Israeli military occupation that started in 1967,

and condemning repression, attacks and any action that violates human rights and international conventions;

(xv) Considering that the start of a general peace process, and hence the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East under the aegis of the United Nations, calls for a dialogue between the parties involved as a first step,

and assessing positively:

(a) the decisions taken by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers;

(b) the rejection of terrorism by the PLO;

(c) the PLO's explicit recognition of the state of Israel;

(d) the decisions taken at the Arab summit meeting in Casablanca;

(xvi) Considering further that the Israeli Government's plan for elections in the occupied territories, if accompanied by the necessary international guarantees and negotiated between all the parties involved, might provide an opportunity to start a dialogue which cannot be held without the PLO, which manifestly has the sympathy and support of the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip,

and expressing its disappointment at the Israeli Government's rejection of the ten points completing the Shamir plan presented by Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt;

(xvii) Wishing constructive negotiations to be started without delay between a representative and credible Palestinian delegation and the Israeli Government,

#### RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

#### I

1. Confirm that it is fully prepared:

(a) to respond to any request aimed at encouraging the consolidation of the military truce, the resumption of civilian life and normal air and sea traffic in Lebanon;

(b) to support the action taken by Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia;

(c) to support current efforts in Lebanon to:

- restore peaceful cohabitation among the communities;
- reform the institutions;
- re-establish state authority;
- enable all foreign troops to be withdrawn;
- guarantee the integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon;

2. Take immediate steps to halt the arms race in the Middle East, particularly in regard to chemical and nuclear weapons, missiles and long-range aircraft and to this end:

(a) stop the implementation of contracts for supplies of arms and take various measures, co-ordinated between governments, to prevent firms, banks and research centres from evading control, as has already been the case;

(b) propose that all states, in particular the Soviet Union, China, the United States, South Africa and Brazil, adopt a similar approach;

(c) exert pressure on the Arab states and Israel to accept a freeze on and verification of their military potential and the progressive elimination of chemical and nuclear weapons with a view to the international conference on peace in the Middle East which will have to consider special negotiations on the reduction of armaments following the political agreements reached and as an essential guarantee of the security of all states in the region;

3. Draw up a list of products and technologies which member countries would undertake not to deliver to any Near or Middle East country and seek the endorsement of the other arms exporting countries for such a decision;

4. Ensure in particular that member states do not authorise the export to any country in the region of:

(a) chemical products on the list given in the European Council regulation of 20th February 1989;

- (b)* technology necessary for the development of medium- and long-range surface-to-surface missiles;
- 5. Reaffirm its resolve to preserve freedom of navigation on all seas;
- 6. Announce here and now that member countries are prepared to co-ordinate the action of their armed forces:
  - (a)* for humanitarian operations and international police duties at the request of the United Nations;
  - (b)* with the agreement of the parties directly concerned, for guaranteeing the implementation of bi- or multilateral agreements concluded by the international conference on peace in the Middle East, or even earlier through direct negotiations between the parties to the conflict;

## II

Urge member states to take action in the European Council to ensure acceptance of United Nations resolutions on Palestine and Lebanon and:

- (a)* Intensify diplomatic action to promote peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq based on the full acceptance of United Nations Resolution 598;
- (b)* Follow up the Assembly's earlier recommendation to give substantial assistance to Kurdish refugees and insist on respect for human rights and recognition of the cultural and administrative independence of the Kurdish people in the various states in which they live;
- (c)* Recommend that member states increase, directly or in the framework of the European Community, their humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people of the Gaza Strip and West Bank whose living conditions are deteriorating from day to day;
- (d)* Persevere with approaches to each state capable of exercising influence to bring about the release of all the hostages taken on Lebanese territory and the international fight against all forms of terrorism;
- (e)* In any event, promote the meeting of the international conference on peace in the Middle East which only Israel and Iran are now refusing and, to this end:
  - (i)* ask the Soviet Union to renew normal diplomatic relations with Israel;
  - (ii)* ask the United States to raise the level of their contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation;
  - (iii)* ask the United Nations General Assembly to stop equating Zionism with racism as approved in one of its resolutions;
  - (iv)* ask the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution in favour of the Palestinians' right to self-determination;
- (f)* Ask the Israeli Government:
  - (i)* to stop its repressive action in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which has already caused several hundred deaths;
  - (ii)* to abandon all practices that are prejudicial to human rights;
  - (iii)* to respect the property of the population of the occupied territories;
  - (iv)* to allow Palestinian universities to be reopened;
- (g)* Ask the Israeli Government to agree to a dialogue with the PLO and negotiations with a credible and representative Palestinian delegation with a view to holding free elections in the occupied territories;
- (h)* Ask Israel's neighbouring Arab states and the PLO to exercise their influence and vigilance in halting infiltrations of armed groups into Israeli territory;
- (i)* Together with the Council of Europe and the European Community – which can place at the service of peace in the Middle East its great economic potential and vast wealth of supranational experience – take the necessary steps to define a truly Western European peace initiative with a view to:
  - (i)* backing up the diplomatic effort by the United States and the Soviet Union;
  - (ii)* helping to terminate the present dangerous status quo;
  - (iii)* fostering an international conference on peace in the Middle East under the aegis of the United Nations.