


Key dates of Western European Union

Source: CVCE.

Copyright: (c) CVCE.EU by UNI.LU
All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.
Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/key_dates_of_western_european_union-en-40af1213-292e-4299-a07a-13df31c8e798.html

Last updated: 02/08/2016



Key dates of Western European Union

4 March 1947

The Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance between France and the United Kingdom is signed in Dunkirk.

8 September 1947

The Treaty of Dunkirk enters into force.

17 March 1948

Signing in Brussels of the Treaty on Economic, Social and Cultural Collaboration and Collective Self-Defence by Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. This Treaty establishes the Brussels Treaty Organisation, or Western Union.

25 August 1948

The Brussels Treaty enters into force.

4 April 1949

Signing in Washington of the North Atlantic Treaty by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

27 May 1952

Signing in Paris of the European Defence Community Treaty (which the French National Assembly refuses to ratify on 30 August 1954).

3 October 1954

The Final Act of the Nine-Power Conference is signed in London. It brings together the representatives of Canada, the United States, the five Brussels Treaty States, and the two States invited to join the Treaty: the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy.

23 October 1954

In connection with the Paris Agreements, protocols modifying and completing the 1948 Brussels Treaty are signed in the French capital by the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the five Member States of Western Union. The organisation established by the Treaty, which now counts seven members, is renamed 'Western European Union' (WEU).

6 May 1955

The Modified Brussels Treaty enters into force.

The headquarters of the WEU Secretariat-General is established in London.

The Agency for the Control of Armaments (ACA) is established in Paris.

The WEU Council meets for the first time on 7 May 1955 in Paris.

The WEU Assembly holds its first meetings (the first one is held on 5 July 1955) in Strasbourg, before moving to Paris in 1959.

7 May 1955

The WEU Council of Ministers meets and approves the establishment of the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC), to be based in Paris.

11 May 1955

The Agreement on the Status of WEU, National Representatives and International Staff is signed in Paris.

14 May 1955

The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union (the Warsaw Pact) is signed in Warsaw.

26 and 27 October 1984

The Rome meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers marks the reactivation of the organisation.

27 October 1987

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in The Hague, adopts the 'Platform on European Security Interests' with the aim of strengthening the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance and developing a European identity in the field of defence.

1987–1988

The first concerted WEU action, 'Operation Cleansweep', involves clearing the Persian Gulf of mines following the Iran–Iraq War.

14 November 1988

The Protocols of Accession of Spain and Portugal to WEU are signed in London.

13 November 1989

The WEU Council of Ministers meets in Brussels to approve the establishment of the Institute for Security Studies, inaugurated in 1990 in Paris, as well as the dissolution of the SAC.

27 March 1990

The Protocols of Accession of Spain and Portugal to WEU enter into force.

1990–1991

WEU naval operations take place in the Persian Gulf to monitor the United Nations embargo declared during the Gulf War. The WEU minesweeping mission continues.

1991

WEU contributes to 'Safe Haven', the humanitarian operation for Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq.

27 June 1991

The WEU Council of Ministers meets in Vianden to approve the creation of the Satellite Centre, inaugurated on 28 April 1993 in Torrejón de Ardoz.

10 December 1991

Statements by the Member States of WEU are attached to the Final Act of the Maastricht Treaty of 1992, the first regarding the role of WEU as well as its relationship with the European Union and the Atlantic Alliance — including the decision to create a Planning Cell, to become operational in 1993 within the Secretariat-General — and the second inviting new States to join WEU.

1992–1996

WEU naval operations take place in the Adriatic with the aim of monitoring the United Nations embargo on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

19 June 1992

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Bonn, adopts the Petersberg Declaration defining the Petersberg tasks, and designates forces answerable to WEU.

20 November 1992

The WEU Council of Ministers meets in Rome to sign the Protocol of Accession of Greece to WEU and the document on Associate Membership of WEU of Iceland, Norway and Turkey; agreement is also reached on the Declaration on WEU Observers, regarding Denmark and Ireland.

1993–1996

A WEU police and customs operation is carried out on the Danube, in coordination with the OSCE, in order

to provide assistance to Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in their efforts to enforce United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

1 January 1993

The WEU Secretariat-General is transferred from London to Brussels.

19 May 1993

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Rome, approves the establishment of the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG), operational from 27 October 1993 within the Secretariat-General.

1994–1996

A WEU police contingent is sent to Mostar, the Bosnian town administered by the European Union.

9 May 1994

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, adopts the Kirchberg Declaration on WEU Associate Partner status (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia).

1 January 1995

Austria, Finland and Sweden become WEU Observers.

6 March 1995

Entry into force of the Protocol of Accession of Greece to WEU as well as WEU Associate Member status for Iceland, Norway and Turkey and WEU Associate Partner status for Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

15 May 1995

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Lisbon, approves the creation of the Situation Centre, operational from June 1996 within the Secretariat-General.

25 June 1996

Slovenia becomes a WEU Associate Partner.

19 November 1996

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Ostend, approves the creation, and adopts the Charter, of the Western European Armaments Organisation (WEAO), operational from 7 March 1997 within the Secretariat-General.

1997–2001

WEU sets up a Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) in Albania.

13 May 1997

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Paris, approves the creation of a Military Committee, a temporary structure within the Secretariat-General.

22 July 1997

Declaration of WEU Member States on the role of WEU and its relations with the European Union and with the Atlantic Alliance, attached to the Final Act of the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam.

11 November 1997

The WEU Permanent Council meets and approves the dissolution of the ACA.

18 November 1997

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Erfurt, approves the setting up of the Military Committee and decides to create the Military Staff, to be established on a permanent footing in May 1998 within the

Secretariat-General as a result of the grouping together of the Planning Cell and the Situation Centre.

1998–1999

Mission to monitor security in Kosovo, to be effected by the WEU Satellite Centre in response to a request by the European Union.

1999–2001

WEU Demining Assistance Mission to Croatia (WEUDAM).

23 March 1999

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland become WEU Associate Members.

3 and 4 June 1999

The European Council, meeting in Cologne, approves the transfer from WEU to the European Union of responsibility for decision-making and operational capabilities, for the ‘Petersberg tasks’.

22 and 23 November 1999

The meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers in Luxembourg marks the beginning of the transfer of some WEU powers and bodies to the European Union.

15 and 16 May 2000

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Porto, recognises the profound impact that the transfer of the ‘Petersberg tasks’ to the European Union will have on WEU.

13 November 2000

The WEU Council of Ministers, meeting in Marseille, approves the functions and residual structures of WEU (Articles V and IX of the Modified Brussels Treaty), a consequence of the cessation of WEU operations and the transfer of its operational structures to the European Union (the Military Staff, Institute of Security Studies and Satellite Centre).

28 June 2001

Meeting in Brussels of the WEU Permanent Council, at which the ‘residual tasks’ of WEU are laid down.

23 May 2005

Cessation of WEAG activities.

31 August 2006

Cessation of WEAO activities.

31 March 2010

Meeting in Brussels of the WEU Permanent Council, which decides to put an end to the Modified Brussels Treaty and close down WEU (planned for June 2011) following the entry into force, on 1 December 2009, of the 2007 Treaty of Lisbon and its clause on mutual assistance between the Member States of the European Union (Article 42(7) of the EU Treaty).