

Reply by the French and British delegations to the WEU Council to written question 93 (London, 25 June 1965)

Caption: In a note dated 25 June 1965, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the text of question 93 put by Georg Kliesing, a German member of the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments, as well as a draft reply drawn up jointly by the British and French delegations. The draft summarises and supersedes the drafts in documents WPM(479) and WPM(481), and also confirms that the two states are keen to consider the participation of third countries in the construction of light strike and trainer aircraft.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Written question 93 put to the council by a member of the Assembly. London: 25.06.1965. C(65)126. Copy No 57. 3 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Organs of the Western European Union. Year: 1965, 01/05/1965-30/04/1971. File 202.411.08. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_french_and_british_delegations_to_the_weu_council_to_written_question_93_london_25_june_1965-en-dbbocdbo-e3de-4efb-9cea-fb60858b2383.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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25th June 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written question 93 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to written question 93, put to the Council by Mr. Kliesing, a member of the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments (cf. C (65) 113).

This draft, established by the British and French delegations, supersedes the drafts in documents WPM (479) and WPM (481).

It will be submitted to the Council for approval at their meeting on 7th July 1965.

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C (65) 126

Text of written question 93 put to the
Council by Mr. Kliesing
(cf. C (65) 113)

Further to written question 80* of 14th February 1965 concerning Franco-British collaboration on the development of a light strike and trainer aircraft, will the Council, now the agreement has been concluded on 17th May 1965, inform the Assembly whether adherence of other member States to the agreement would be possible and, if so, under what conditions?

If it is true that some 1,000 light strike and trainer aircraft will be needed in the whole of Western Europe, will not common development and production be advisable?

Will the Council promote this co-operation?

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Draft reply

The Council understand that the two Governments concerned, recognising the advantages to be gained from extending the proposed collaboration to other allied countries, are ready to consider the communication to third countries of information about the joint programme, the possibility of inviting third countries to participate, and the action to be taken on applications by third countries to participate.

These questions will be considered by the Management Committee responsible for the project.

* Cf. Annex.

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Text of written question 80 put to the
Council by Mr. Kliesing

Mr. Roy Jenkins, British Minister of Aviation, announced the following programme regarding the manufacture of aircraft, on 9th February 1965 in the House of Commons:

1. a joint project with the United States to develop an advance lift engine for vertical and short take-off aircraft;
2. development, also with the United States, of anti-submarine warfare, tactical missiles and communications equipment;
3. the study - already announced - of a light strike trainer aircraft in collaboration with France;
4. a project for an airborne early warning system in collaboration with the French, and a seaborne guided missile in collaboration with the Dutch.

Is the Council not of the opinion that the bilateral projects, as announced by the Minister, should be started in the framework of existing competent bodies?

Would the Council recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the projects mentioned under points 3 and 4 be discussed in the W.E.U. framework in order to initiate European common production of air weapons systems?

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Reply by the Council

The Council understand that the parties to the projects mentioned in points 3 and 4 of the written question are ready to examine at the appropriate stage under what conditions member Governments, who so desire, can be associated with them.