

Draft reply by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 296 on western Europe's policy towards Mediterranean problems (8 February 1977)

Caption: On 8 February 1977, the Secretariat-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 296 on western Europe's policy towards Mediterranean problems. The draft reply sets out the WEU Council's position on the situation in the eastern Mediterranean and emphasises that the defence of that region is currently the responsibility of the Atlantic Alliance. The establishment of a programme to strengthen Europe's role in the joint defence of the eastern Mediterranean is scarcely within the realm of the WEU Council's tasks.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretariat-General note. Recommendation 296 on western Europe's policy towards Mediterranean problems. London: 08.02.1977. WPM (77) 8. pp.1-4. 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: 1977, 01/11/1977-30/10/1978. File 202.413.999.04. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_french_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_296_on_western_europe_s_policy_towards_mediterranean_problems_8_february_1977-en-70e16810-ceed-4625-b0dc-da4036316e5e.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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8th February, 1977

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL NOTE

Recommendation 296
on western Europe's policy towards
Mediterranean problems
(C (76) 164)

The Secretariat-General circulates herewith a draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 296 on western Europe's policy towards Mediterranean problems.

This draft will be considered by the working group at a forthcoming meeting.

pat

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Draft reply to Recommendation 296
prepared by the French delegation

1. The Council share the Assembly's concern regarding the situation in the eastern Mediterranean and its possible consequences for European security.

However, they feel that it is scarcely within their province to "draw up a programme to strengthen Europe's share in the joint defence of the eastern Mediterranean", since the defence of that region is at present ensured by the Atlantic Alliance.

2. Like the Assembly, the Council welcome the fact that Greece and Turkey wish to be more closely associated with the construction of Europe. In this connection, the Council would like to remind the Assembly that their reply to its Recommendation 256 included a passage stating that the member countries of W.E.U. intended to encourage the increasing development of relations between the E.E.C. on the one hand and Greece and Turkey on the other. They would recall, however, that this is a matter for the Council of the Communities.

/The Council have ...

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The Council have noted with interest the desire expressed by the Greek and Turkish authorities for closer links with Western European Union and in particular with its Assembly. They feel, however, that it is too soon to consider the possibility of associating the Greek and Turkish Governments with the work of the Standing Armaments Committee. At the same time, they wish to point out that paragraph 10 of the decision of 7th May, 1955, setting up the S.A.C., agreements or arrangements concluded within the framework of the S.A.C. remain open to participation by other allied countries.

3. The Council, who are concerned at the dispute between Greece and Turkey, remind the Assembly of the action taken by the W.E.U. member states both individually and within the Community to encourage the two countries to resolve the issues between them peacefully, by direct negotiation.

4. The Council are convinced that a continuation of the Lebanese conflict would have had serious consequences for security in the eastern Mediterranean and welcome the fact that the fighting has been stopped and that a settlement is being worked out.

/In this context, ...

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In this context, they would draw attention to the efforts made by the W.E.U. member states both individually and within the Community to further the settlement of a conflict which must be resolved primarily by the parties involved. They wish to recall that the member countries of the Community are ready to help in re-building the country.

6. Finally, the Council, who are anxious that machinery for settling the Middle East conflict in accordance with United Nations recommendations, should be rapidly set in motion, note with satisfaction a number of favourable signs suggesting that the peace Conference may be convened in the near future. They are however aware that the obstacles preventing the parties concerned from ending the conflict in such a way that the legitimate rights of each of them are respected have not yet all been removed.

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