

Recommendation 77 of the WEU Assembly on the future organisation of western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels (Paris, 6 June 1962)


Caption: On 6 June 1962, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 77 on the future organisation of western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels. The Assembly considers that any defence bodies that may be created as part of a European political union must be within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). It also suggests the establishment of a Ministerial Defence Committee.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. ‘Recommendation 77 on the future organisation of western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels (Paris, fifth sitting, 6th June 1962)’ in Proceedings: Eighth ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1962, p. 38.

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/recommendation_77_of_the_weu_assembly_on_the_future_organisation_of_western_defence_on_the_executive_and_parliamentary_levels_paris_6_june_1962-en-03be6c5d-18a2-468c-91fd-3ca539741a44.html

Last updated: 25/10/2016



RECOMMENDATION 77***on the future organisation of western defence on the executive and parliamentary levels***

The Assembly,

Convinced that the defence of Europe is only possible within the framework of NATO ;

Considering therefore that such defence organs as may be created within the framework of a European political union must be within the NATO framework ;

Considering the need for fully informed parliamentary debate and supervision of defence arrangements affecting the lives and vital interests of our peoples,

RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL**I**

That it communicate to the North Atlantic Council, and to the Study Committee set up following the Conference of 10th February 1961 (the "Cattani Committee"), the following suggestions for future European organisation in the field of defence :

On the executive level

1. That a Ministerial Defence Committee be set up within the framework of such future European political union as may be agreed ;
2. That as in NATO, at Ministerial level this Committee be composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence, and in permanent session of the Permanent Representatives to the North Atlantic Council of the member States ;
3. That this Committee be responsible for :
 - (i) the implementation by the member States of the European political union of the decisions of the North Atlantic Council, without in any way affecting the unified NATO chain of command ;
 - (ii) the exercise of such competences as may be devolved upon it under the provisions of such Treaty as may be concluded setting up a political union ;
 - (iii) the exercise of the competences of the Council set up under the provisions of Article VIII of the amended Brussels Treaty ;

On the parliamentary level

4. That democratic control of this executive be ensured by fusing the present European Parliamentary Assembly and the Assembly of Western European Union into a single Assembly which shall receive an annual report from the Council on its defence activities as defined above ;

Seats

5. That the seat of the Ministerial Defence Committee and of the Defence Committee of the single Assembly be in the same city as that of the North Atlantic Council ;

II

That it communicate to the Assembly its opinion on the above suggestions.