

Note from the United Kingdom delegation on the establishment of a Western European Armaments Committee (2 February 1955)

Caption: On 2 February 1955, the Secretary-General of the Interim Commission of Western European Union circulates a note from the United Kingdom delegation on the establishment of a Western European Armaments Committee, whose aims will be to improve to the greatest extent possible the standardisation of armaments and to promote the common production of agreed items between the Member States. The note particularly emphasises the links that the organisation will establish with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), including the possibility for other NATO member countries to participate in the activities and projects of the Armaments Committee.

Source: Western European Union. Interim Commission. Working Party on Production and Standardisation of Armaments. Working document submitted by the United Kingdom. Paris: 02.02.1955. PWG/A/10. 3 p.- Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://anlux.lu/>. Western European Union Archives. Armament Bodies. CPA/SAC. Comité permanent des armements. File CPA-032. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_united_kingdom_delegation_on_the_establishment_of_a_western_european_armaments_committee_2_february_1955-en-568ec44a-94d4-4c2f-b8a7-562c78fd596a.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION
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WORKING PARTY ON PRODUCTION AND STANDARDISATION OF ARMAMENTS

SECRET

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WORKING DOCUMENT SUBMITTED BY
THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a proposal submitted by the United Kingdom Delegation for the attention of the Working Party.

NOTE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION

The following organisation is proposed for the improvement of cooperation within Western European Union in the sphere of armaments.

1. There shall be a Western European Armaments Committee. The objects of the Committee shall be:

(i) to seek to improve to the greatest extent possible the standardisation of armaments and particularly components, ammunition and stores consumed in large quantities between the Member States.

(ii) to promote to the greatest extent possible the common production of agreed items between the Member States.

2. For this purpose the Armaments Committee shall set up two Sub-Committees for Standardisation and Production respectively.

3. The Standardisation Committee shall work in close co-operation with the International Staff and the Military Authorities of NATO with the object of reaching agreements between some or all of the Members upon the standardisation of items for which agreement in NATO has not yet proved possible, but may be reached in more restricted groups.

4. The Production Committee shall in cooperation with the International Staff of NATO endeavour to promote by agreement between Members the best use of existing capacity and where new capacity is required such joint cooperation between any or all the Members as may best meet requirements of military efficiency and economy. The Sub-Committee may also arrange for cooperation between some or all the members in research and development of specific projects.

5. The seat of the Committee and Sub-Committees shall be in Paris. The Committee and Sub-Committees will co-opt as necessary members of the NATO International Staff and Military Authorities as Observers or Members. The Committee shall be served by a small permanent Secretariat sufficient to ensure the circulation of papers and the preparation of reports on its activities. The Committee shall be responsible to the Council of Western Union in London to whom it will make quarterly progress reports. The Committee itself will meet monthly and the Sub-Committees as required.

6. Participation in all activities and projects of the Committee shall be voluntary.

Other members of NATO shall be invited or may apply to participate in such individual activities and projects.