

Draft reply by the French delegation to Recommendation 339 on the industrial bases of European security – guidelines drawn from the symposium on 15, 16 and 17 October 1979 (London, 14 March 1980)


Caption: In a note dated 14 March 1980, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the revised draft reply by the French delegation to Recommendation 339 on the industrial bases of European security – guidelines drawn from the symposium on 15, 16 and 17 October 1979. On the matter of cooperation between European industries, the Council considers that the most effective use should be made of existing machinery for concerting measures in the armaments field, in particular the independent European Programme Group (IEPG) and the Conference of National Armaments Directors. This cooperation is too complicated for any changes to be made to working practices in the near future. The draft reply mentions cooperation in the three branches of the military and emphasises the satisfactory results of cooperation on missiles and the importance for armaments industries of mastering all telecommunications techniques.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General note. Recommendation 339 on the industrial bases of European security – guidelines drawn from the symposium on 15th, 16th et 17th october 1979. London : 14.03.1980. WPM(80)13/1. 4 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: 1980, 01/06/1980- 30/11/1980. File 202.413.26. Volume 1/1.

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_french_delegation_to_recommendation_339_on_the_industrial_bases_of_european_security_guidelines_drawn_from_the_symposium_on_15_16_and_17_october_1979_london_14_march_1980-en-30966b15-d7a4-4efe-abae-541e125e095e.html

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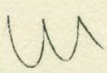
14th March, 1980

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 339
on the industrial bases of European security
- guidelines drawn from the symposium on
15th, 16th and 17th October, 1979
(C (79) 163)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a revised draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 339 on the industrial bases of European security - guidelines drawn from the symposium on 15th, 16th and 17th October, 1979.

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


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Draft reply to Recommendation 339

The Council welcome the interest which the Assembly, as the only European Assembly with defence responsibilities, takes in the future of the European industries and of the co-operation which must be established between them.

1. With regard to the framework and form of such co-operation, they consider that the most effective use should be made of existing machinery for concerting measures in the armaments field, in particular the I.E.P.G. and the Conference of National Armaments Directors. This co-operation, which involves many interests, is too complicated an undertaking and on too large a scale for any attempt to be made in the near future to change the working practices of the two bodies mentioned.

2. The Assembly will be aware that, in the spirit of its recommendation, the French and German Governments have recently decided to develop jointly a battle tank for the 1990's and that other countries have expressed interest in this programme.

/3. The I.E.P.G. ...

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3. The I.E.P.G. is currently examining the problems connected with the future combat aircraft which is also the subject of intense tripartite discussions between the French, German and United Kingdom Governments. The Council share the Assembly's concern that these efforts to co-operate should produce European successors for the Jaguar, Harrier and Phantom F-4F.
4. The position of the European ship-building industries is a matter for concern but this state of affairs is not confined to Europe. The production of interchangeable components and standardisation would be very difficult in practice, firstly, because warships are not mass-produced and secondly, because they vary considerably in both design and type of service from country to country. In this particular field individual economic problems add further to the differences between States and supply and demand vary in the same way.
5. Co-operation on missiles through bilateral programmes or the Euromissile consortium is already producing very satisfactory results. The expediency of producing several versions of the same missile must be dictated by the operational requirements of the different armed forces; these requirements

/are taken into ...

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are taken into account, together with a number of constraints, particularly of a financial nature. The necessary choices must therefore be based on the findings of studies on the subject.

6. The Council are not convinced that the standardisation of telecommunications equipment would help, in the immediate future, to promote the European equipment which they have already declared to be necessary. However, on this point, as on the subject of advanced technology, it should be noted that several member countries of W.E.U. have industries capable of competing with the industries named by the Assembly in the fields of telecommunications and lasers for example. Governments are aware of the importance for the future of the armaments industries of mastering these techniques in a European context and of what has to be done to achieve this.
7. The creation of consortia forms the subject of Recommendation 338 to which the Council have replied separately.

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