

Amended draft reply from the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 338 on the definition of armaments requirements and procurement in Western Europe (London, 22 February 1980)

Caption: On 22 February 1980, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council to Recommendation 338 on the definition of armaments requirements and procurement in Western Europe. The document sets out various British amendments to the Dutch draft, most of which are taken up in the Council's final reply (C(80)68).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General note. Recommendation N°338 on the definition of armaments requirements and procurements in Western Europe. London : 22.02.1980. WPM(80)10/1. 6 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, 01/06/1980-30/06/1981. File 202.400.11 vol 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/amended_draft_reply_from_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_338_on_the_definition_of_armaments_requirements_and_procurement_in_western_europe_london_22_february_1980-en-4678e4d8-b495-4foa-806e-6ec3eed050c8.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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Original: English/French

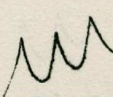
22nd February, 1980

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 338
on the definition of armaments requirements
and procurement in western Europe
(C (79) 163)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 338 on the definition of armaments requirements and procurement in western Europe.

This text, prepared at the working group of 20th February, 1980, on the basis of WPM (80) 10, will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Monday, 3rd March at 3.15 p.m.


9, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 338

1. The Council agree that the creation of a number of permanent international consortia for the production of defence equipment can be a useful contribution to a better organisation of armaments co-operation in Europe. [The Council believe that joint production of defence equipment should not be limited to ad hoc consortia, which are dissolved after the completion of the particular project for which they were created.]⁽¹⁾ In order to preserve the technological know-how and experience in management techniques gained by such co-operation, [when a continuing need is foreseen,]⁽²⁾ these consortia should be encouraged to [take on]⁽³⁾ OR [bid for]⁽⁴⁾ further co-operative projects and to assume a permanent structure. On the other hand, the constitution of permanent consortia should not preclude the possibility of competition. Successful projects, such as the production of the Hot, Milan and Roland missiles and the Tornado aircraft clearly point the way to this new form of co-operation. [The Council are of the opinion that member countries can contribute to the constitution of such international consortia by coordinating their requirements planning /policies. In fact, ...

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- (1) The United Kingdom delegation proposes deletion of this sentence.
(2) The United Kingdom delegation proposes the addition of these words.
(3) Original Netherlands version.
(4) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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policies. In fact, this is a process which has already been started by the NATO Armaments Planning Review, which makes use of the harmonised equipment replacement schedules drawn up by the I.E.P.G. and supplemented with the United States and Canadian replacement schedules. The Council are of the opinion, however, that while this coordination of member countries' replacement schedules certainly provides opportunities for the industries to try to meet these common requirements by proposals for producing the equipment jointly,]⁽¹⁾
OR [Agreement on common requirements by member countries may provide the impetus for international consortia;]⁽²⁾
it should nevertheless be left to the industries concerned to organise themselves and to choose the type of co-operation which best suits their requirements. At the same time, the Council wish to emphasise that this form of co-operation need not necessarily be limited to European firms only, but could equally be applicable to joint production by European and North American firms together.

2(a). As the Assembly is aware, the member states of I.E.P.G. already undertook at the meeting of Armaments Directors in September 1977 to give preference to future collaborative equipments selected for production in the framework of the

/I.E.P.G. rather than ...

(1) Original Netherlands version.

(2) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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I.E.P.G. rather than non-European equipment in competition. The countries represented in the I.E.P.G. agreed not to depart from this preference unless for overriding reasons, particularly performance, price and delivery date.

2(b). The Council are fully aware of the advantages of an Alliance-wide market for defence equipment. Much work in this respect has already been done. In particular, the proposals forwarded to CNAD by the United States Armaments Director, Dr. Perry, constitute in the opinion of the Council an important step towards achieving the goal of greater co-operation within the Alliance and a "two-way street" in defence equipment with the United States [in so far as this is consistent with the aims expressed in paragraph 2(a) above]⁽¹⁾. In this respect, it may be recalled that the member countries of the I.E.P.G. have expressed their agreement in principle with the proposals mentioned above, which are designed to bring about an Alliance-wide co-operation in the defence equipment field through bilateral memoranda of understanding, dual production of defence equipment and the concept of families of weapons. Greater co-operation between the Allies and a better division of the production of defence equipment will indeed reduce

/the economic importance ...

(1) The United Kingdom proposes the addition of these words.

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the economic importance of exports to third countries, a consideration which certainly has the sympathy of the Council.

3(a). As stated by the Council in their reply to Assembly Recommendation 333, paragraph A, national parliamentary defence committees are generally kept informed on national defence budgets. However, it should be left to the governments of individual member States to decide within the context of existing national laws and procedures to what extent detailed information can be given about future national defence equipment requirements. The annual equipment replacement schedules prepared by the I.E.P.G. and completed by CNAD, which bring together the equipment requirements of the Alliance as a whole and, as a consequence, contain very sensitive information, are classified "confidential", and the Council are not in a position to request member governments to communicate these documents to national defence committees.

3(b). For the same reasons, the Council see no possibility of requesting the Chairman of Panel I of the I.E.P.G. to communicate these schedules to the Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments of the Assembly. The Council, though fully appreciating the wish of the Assembly to be kept informed, cannot ignore the difficulties encountered by some countries which are members of the I.E.P.G., but not of W.E.U. with

/regard to informing ...

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regard to informing the Assembly or its Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments about the work undertaken by the I.E.P.G. and consequently have to leave it to the member governments to brief their national delegates on I.E.P.G. activities.

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