

# Final reply by the WEU Council to Recommendation 339 on the industrial bases of European security – guidelines drawn from the symposium on 15, 16 and 17 October 1979 (London, 30 April 1980)


**Caption:** On 30 April 1980, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the Council’s reply to Recommendation 339 from the WEU Assembly on the industrial bases of European security – guidelines drawn from the symposium on 15, 16 and 17 October 1979. The final text follows the wording of the draft prepared by the French delegation (WPM(80)13/1).

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General’s note. Assembly Recommendation 339. London : 30.04.1980. C (80)69. 3 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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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/final\\_reply\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_to\\_recommendation\\_339\\_on\\_the\\_industrial\\_bases\\_of\\_european\\_security\\_guidelines\\_drawn\\_from\\_the\\_symposium\\_on\\_15\\_16\\_and\\_17\\_october\\_1979\\_london\\_30\\_april\\_1980-en-4c58cd79-e192-4b69-a504-9eed88a511c5.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/final_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_recommendation_339_on_the_industrial_bases_of_european_security_guidelines_drawn_from_the_symposium_on_15_16_and_17_october_1979_london_30_april_1980-en-4c58cd79-e192-4b69-a504-9eed88a511c5.html)

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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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30th April, 1980


## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

### Assembly Recommendation 339

(C (79) 163)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 339.

This reply, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 29th April, 1980, has been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (80) 6, III).

  
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London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 339  
on the industrial bases of European security -  
guidelines drawn from the symposium on  
15th, 16th and 17th October, 1979

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 a complicated, large-scale undertaking.

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. 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 ...



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 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 aware of the military requirements for joint communications in the field of command and control. 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. However, 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. 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.