

Amendments to the draft reply by the French delegation to Recommendation 368 on the European combat aircraft and other aeronautical developments (London, 12 November 1981)

Caption: On 12 November 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates an amended draft reply by the Council working group to Assembly Recommendation 368 on the European combat aircraft and other aeronautical developments. This reply contains various British amendments, all of which are included in the final reply by the Council (C(81)158).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General note. Recommendation N°368 on the European combat aircraft and other aeronautical developments. London : 12.11.1981. WPM(81)30/1. 5 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: 1974, 01/07/1974-26/07/1982. File 202.411.18 vol 3/4.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/amendments_to_the_draft_reply_by_the_french_delegation_to_recommendation_368_on_the_european_combat_aircraft_and_other_aeronautical_developments_london_12_november_1981-en-f4e8b43b-29ca-49ac-945d-a458f42a6da7.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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WPM (81) 30/1

Original: English/French

12th November, 1981

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 368
on the European combat aircraft and
other aeronautical developments
(C (81) 96)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 368 on the European combat aircraft and other aeronautical developments.

This text, prepared at the working group of 10th November, 1981, on the basis of WPM (81) 30, will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Monday, 16th November, at 3 p.m.

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WPM (81) 30/1

Draft reply to Recommendation 368

The Council welcome the interest which the Assembly [, as the only Assembly competent in defence matters,]⁽¹⁾ shows in projects arising from European co-operation in the field of aeronautics, notably the combat aircraft.

1. The Council are fully aware of the need to design a technologically advanced multi-purpose aircraft able to meet the various forms of threat to which European countries may be subjected.

2. The development of co-operative armaments programmes is a long and arduous task calling for consensus at national level between industrial, economic, military and political interests. The countries concerned with the combat aircraft are [striving to make the organisation of this project as flexible and as efficient as possible,]⁽²⁾ OR [fully apprised of the importance of flexibility and efficiency in organisation,]⁽³⁾ taking into account its requirements.

/Co-operation in ...

- (1) The German delegation proposes the deletion of this phrase.
(2) Original French version.
(3) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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Co-operation in the matter of armaments, which is the fruit of pragmatic and patient efforts, naturally draws upon the lessons of the past, even if the programmes present themselves under the same configuration.

3. [As the spirit of its recommendation shows, the Assembly is aware that the desire of the countries concerned is to construct a specifically European aircraft.]⁽¹⁾ OR [The countries concerned will be considering together most carefully the way forward in this field.]⁽²⁾ At the preliminary design stage, [the governments are anxious to carry out the definition of the characteristics and harmonisation procedures by]⁽¹⁾ OR [definition of characteristics and harmonisation procedures must involve]⁽²⁾ using with maximum efficiency the already existing machinery for concerted action in the sphere of armaments and chiefly the I.E.P.G. and Conference of National Armaments Directors.

4. The future combat aircraft is notably the subject of intense tripartite discussions between the French, German and United Kingdom Governments. In addition, because of

_____ /the interest ...

(1) Original French version.

(2) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

the interest shown by various European Governments, [it has been decided within the Independent European Programme Group to set up a project group for this aircraft, thus providing an adequate]⁽¹⁾ OR [a project group for this aircraft has been set up within the Independent European Programme Group, thus providing a]⁽²⁾ vehicle for concerted action and exchanges of information. Although the interest of the various countries within the I.E.P.G. has been stressed and regularly reaffirmed, the fact remains that [the working of this project group is]⁽¹⁾ OR [any further progress within this project group will be]⁽²⁾ dependent on harmonisation of characteristics, a matter currently being discussed in detail between the military authorities and the staff of the armaments directors of the various countries.

5. The efforts pursued within the framework of the I.E.P.G. are aimed at the maximum harmonisation of renewal plans and military requirements; thus it examines on an annual basis the evolution of the schedules of each of the member countries and endeavours to promote machinery for

/co-operation ...

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- (1) Original French version.
(2) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

co-operation whenever this is possible. With regard to aeronautics, in addition to the future combat aircraft, joint talks have started, particularly in connection with helicopters and transport aircraft. Regarding the latter, initial studies have [proved to be fruitful and it has been decided to set up within the I.E.P.G.]⁽¹⁾ OR [led to the setting up within the I.E.P.G. of]⁽²⁾ an exploratory group whose terms of reference are to determine the long-term requirements of the various European countries in the matter of transport aircraft.

(1) Original French version.

(2) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.