

Draft reply by the Council to Assembly Recommendation 363 on energy and security: version amended by the United Kingdom delegation (London, 18 March 1981)


Caption: On 18 March 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the Council’s draft reply to Recommendation 363 of the WEU Assembly on energy and security. The text, to which the United Kingdom delegation has proposed amendments that are subsequently taken up in the final reply from the Council (C(81)70), emphasises the need to move towards energy self-sufficiency and the importance of diversifying supply sources in order to reduce dependence on oil.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 363 on energy and security. London: 18.03.1981. WPM (81) 16/1. 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: 1973, 01/11/1973-05/05/1981. File 202.424.40. Volume 1/1 .

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_council_to_assembly_recommendation_363_on_energy_and_security_version_amended_by_the_united_kingdom_delegati_on_london_18_march_1981-en-918dcff2-949e-4b64-a3d4-e8c442027d41.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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Original: English/French

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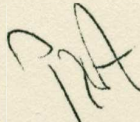
18th March, 1981

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 363 on energy and security (C (80) 171)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 363 on energy and security.

This text, prepared at the working group of 16th March, 1981, on the basis of WPM (81) 16, will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Monday, 23rd March, at 3 p.m.


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

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Draft reply to Recommendation 363

The Council share the views expressed and the concern shown by the Assembly in the preamble to Recommendation 363. The following observations can be made about the individual points in the Recommendation:

1. [The member countries, fully aware of the difficulty of harmonising a stringent energy policy common to all Western countries, are making the maximum effort, together with the United States, Canada and Japan,]⁽¹⁾ OR [The member countries, fully aware of the practical constraints on the development of an energy policy common to all Western countries, are making the maximum effort, both in the E.C. and together with other western countries including the United States, Canada and Japan, in the framework of the I.E.A.]⁽²⁾ towards the adoption of convergent energy measures and a common economic strategy. In this connection, it is sufficient to quote, in addition to the summit meetings of the seven main industrialised countries, the measures agreed by the Energy Ministers of the European Community on 27th November, 1980, and those adopted by the International Energy Agency on 9th December, 1980.

/2. [The member ...

(1) Original Italian version.

(2) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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2. [The member States already have plans drawn up for greater energy self-sufficiency which, moreover, will permit concrete results to be achieved, but not before the end of the present decade, so as to meet the dangers inherent in limited conventional energy sources being exhausted at the current rate of use. It is clear that both a short-term view and a medium-to-long-term view should be taken of the measures to be drawn up. Whereas for the first case the instruments used are chiefly the supply policy and prices policy, for the second and third cases they are conservation and diversification of energy resources, with particular reference to oil and to greater use of coal, nuclear means and renewable energy.](1)

OR

[The member States have acknowledged the need to move towards energy self-sufficiency by reducing dependence on imported oil, more rational and efficient use of energy, and the development of alternative sources - in particular coal and nuclear. To this end, they have agreed energy policy guidelines for the decade to 1990 and they have agreed action

/on energy conservation. ...

(1) Original Italian version.

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on energy conservation. Member States are also pursuing research and development activity in the energy sector. The key role of economic energy pricing in achieving agreed objectives has been recognised. In addition to existing schemes for dealing with a situation of oil supply crisis, member States are currently considering the possibility of arrangements which will alleviate difficulties in the event of temporary or less serious oil supply shortfall.](1)

3. The Energy Ministers of the member countries of the International Energy Agency (I.E.A.), as reported in the communiqué resulting from their meeting of 9th December, 1980, agreed with the main conclusions of the Coal Industry Advisory Board (C.I.A.B.) and undertook to examine closely the recommendations put forward and adopt, if appropriate, the required measures.

4. In line with the results of the INFCE* study, which highlighted the need to apply techniques leading to the maximum economies in the use of uranium, the member countries agreed on the need for wider use of fast-breeder reactors and on making provision also for the possibility of thermal

/recycling of ...

(1) Version proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

* International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation.

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recycling of plutonium. The E.E.C. also demonstrated its sympathy with this orientation by approving the three-point nuclear plan.

5. [Within the new body set up under the Economic Commission for Europe (E.C.E.) - "the Senior Advisers on Energy", the problem of the threshold of safety and security for imports of energy from eastern European countries is being carefully examined in a comprehensive framework of relations and of energy co-operation between all the member countries of the E.C.E.](¹)

OR

[In order to ensure the continuity of supply of energy and raw materials as much as possible, the Council consider diversification of sources of supply to be desirable.](²)

6. The member countries, in the E.P.C.* framework, and through the Declaration in New York by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine on 23rd September last, immediately after the worsening of the dispute between Iran and Iraq and its extension into a general conflict, stated the following:

/- deep concern ...

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- (1) Original Italian version.
(2) Version proposed by the Netherlands delegation.
* European Political Co-operation.

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- deep concern about a military confrontation in a region of vital importance to the whole international community;
- the need to ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf;
- their endorsement of the appeal by the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference and the action of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to an immediate ceasefire and avoidance of any escalation of the conflict;
- the willingness of the Nine to support any international initiative that could lead to a settlement of the dispute and to assist in the search for a solution.

The action of the member countries, therefore, appears to have been based so far on two considerations: first, to achieve an early ceasefire that would spare the population both grief and suffering and facilitate a negotiated settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; secondly to safeguard the interests of the entire international community by ensuring freedom of navigation in the Gulf, which must not in any way be threatened or impeded.

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