

Reply from the WEU Council to Recommendation 362 on international industrial consortia and collaborative arrangements for the production of high technology military equipment (London, 1 April 1981)

Caption: In a note dated 1 April 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the reply from the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 362 on international industrial consortia and collaborative arrangements for the production of high technology military equipment. The reply is largely based on the French proposal (WPM(81)11). The changes are mostly in paragraph 5: the Council does not retain France's text, which emphasised the role of consortia and suggested that they should become the general rule for 'requests for proposals' issued by military staffs. The final reply confirms that each state is free to decide how such requests are passed on to industry.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendation 362. London: 01.04.1981. WPM (81)11. 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, 01/12/1980- 30/09/1984. File 202.411.11. Volume 1/1 .

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_from_the_weu_council_to_recommendation_362_on_international_industrial_consortia_and_collaborative_arrangements_for_the_production_of_high_technology_military_equipment_london_1_april_1981-en-0026b74f-38a1-4819-8669-bb8830154efe.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 362

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 362.

This reply, approved by the Council at their meeting on 1st April, 1981, has been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (81) 4, VI, 2).



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London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 362
on international industrial consortia and
collaborative arrangements for the production
of high technology military equipment

1. In view of the specific tasks of W.E.U. and NATO, it would be difficult to entrust the S.A.C. with the task of "monitoring" the progress towards achieving the inter-operability and standardisation of defence equipment within the Alliance. The Alliance, in fact, has its own structures for fulfilling this task and they do not need to be "overseen", as it were, by the S.A.C.

2. As the Council have in the past made clear to the Assembly, not all the member States of the I.E.P.G. are members of W.E.U. Consequently, it does not seem logical to establish the proposed link between the I.E.P.G. and the Assembly as this would imply that the latter would be supplied with information by nations that are not members of both institutions. Such information, therefore, can only be transmitted to the W.E.U. parliamentarians within a national framework and insofar as their governments participate in the I.E.P.G.

3. As the Assembly is aware, the development of co-operative armaments programmes is, moreover, a long and arduous task requiring, in the countries concerned, consensus with regard to industrial, economic, military and political interests. Co-operation in the matter of armaments is more readily achieved by pragmatic and patient endeavour than by declarations of principle, whose limitations have been shown by past experience.

4. The "transatlantic dialogue" and the "two-way street" are necessities. In order to implement them, two conditions must be met:

- European co-operation in the matter of armaments must first have acquired sufficient weight for the dialogue to be a balanced one;

- the problem of harmonising the standards in force on both sides of the Atlantic should be satisfactorily solved, as recently exemplified by the transfer of the Roland licence to the United States.

/It should be ...

It should be emphasised in this context that the I.E.P.G. is striving to implement the transatlantic dialogue and has recently intensified its efforts in this direction.

5. The problem of "requests for proposals" issued by military staffs touches on an area of national prerogative that is very sensitive. It is up to member countries to decide the ways in which requests for proposals are passed on to industry.

6. The member States are in fact maintaining their efforts through the I.E.P.G. to harmonise to the maximum extent possible the requirements of their armies and their re-equipment plans. They clearly intend to continue these efforts.