

Recommendation 85 of the WEU Assembly on standardisation and interdependence in the production of armaments (Paris, 4 December 1962)


Caption: On 4 December 1962, given the economic and military issues surrounding armaments standardisation, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 85 on standardisation and interdependence in the production of armaments. The Assembly asks the Council to take measures for the creation of a European armaments production pool in anticipation of the United Kingdom's accession to the European Economic Community. The Assembly also emphasises that the Member States of the Council should base their forward planning of armaments production on the principle that the manufacture of complicated and costly modern weapons can be carried out economically and efficiently only within an international framework.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 85 on the standardisation and interdependence in the production of armaments (Paris, eleventh sitting, 4th December 1962)' in Proceedings: Eighth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1962, p. 27.

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RECOMMENDATION 85
on standardisation and interdependence
in the production of armaments

The Assembly,

Considering the Council's assertion in reply to Recommendation 69 that "every effort must be made to achieve as effective and extensive multilateral co-operation as possible in research, development and the production of armaments";

Aware that thirteen years after the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty the contributions of the WEU countries to multilateral armaments production projects amount to only a tiny fraction of their total expenditure on the procurement of armaments and equipment;

Considering the Council's assertion in reply to Recommendation 68 that "bilateral and multilateral production should neither delay the introduction into service of modern weapons nor result in increased costs. It may even be in the interests of economy and efficiency in certain cases for individual countries to specialise in the development and production of those types of weapon or equipment which they are best qualified to provide";

Aware that no major armaments-producing country has yet placed any substantial orders for a weapon produced by another country;

Considering the disastrous consequences on the logistics situation of failure to standardise armaments production;

Considering that in the event of the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Economic Community it will be appropriate to reconsider the economic basis of the production of armaments by member countries,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Take preliminary steps now for the creation of a European armaments production pool in the perspective of the entry of the United Kingdom into the European Economic Community;
2. Promote agreement between member States to stop the further proliferation of non-standardised conventional weapons and weapon systems, as a first step towards the goal of establishing this European armaments production pool;
3. Urge the Ministers of Defence of member States to base their forward planning of armament production on the principle that the manufacture of complicated and costly modern weapons can be carried out economically and efficiently only within an international framework;
4. Urge NATO to adopt only one model of vertical take-off fighter for production by the NATO countries after sufficient experience with the different possible prototypes.