

Recommendation 68 of the WEU Assembly on the Standing Armaments Committee and the joint production of armaments (London, 1 June 1961)

Caption: On 1 June 1961, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 68 on the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC) and the joint production of armaments. The Assembly recommends to the WEU Council that the policy of Member States should be directed to securing the joint production of the majority of military equipment throughout the NATO and WEU alliances, with a selection of projects and distribution of production among the countries. The text encourages the establishment of close cooperation between the two organisations and calls for joint production agreements. The Assembly also speculates on the real activities of the SAC and asks for an investigation to be undertaken to discover whether in fact the staff of the SAC is fully occupied.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. ‘Recommendation 68 on the Standing Armaments Committee and the joint production of armaments (London, eighth sitting, 1st June 1961)’ in Proceedings: Seventh ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1961, p. 45.

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RECOMMENDATION 68***on the Standing Armaments Committee and the joint production of armaments***

The Assembly,

Aware that some twelve years after the conclusion of the Brussels and North Atlantic Treaties, only a tiny proportion of military equipment, in particular for allied land forces, is being produced under joint production agreements ;

Aware that the common production of weapons in the Alliance would both increase military efficiency and lead to considerable savings in money and skilled manpower ;

Reiterating its concern to avoid a dangerous and costly proliferation of nuclear weapons ;

Welcoming the useful progress made in N.A.T.O. since the adoption of the principle of interdependence in the production of armaments, originally agreed in the Council of W.E.U.,

RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL

1. That the policy of member governments should be directed to securing the joint production of the greater part of all military equipment throughout the Atlantic and WEU Alliance, with a selection of projects and distribution of production among the countries ;
2. That major items of equipment should be procured only under joint bi- or multilateral production agreements ;
3. That co-operation should start in the earliest phases of research, with the exchange of technicians between countries of the Alliance ;
4. That this policy should be implemented within either or both of the WEU Standing Armaments Committee and the NATO Armaments Committee, as shall best suit the object to be achieved ;
5. That the Standing Armaments Committee should be entrusted with any specific tasks which can be better performed within W.E.U. than within N.A.T.O. ;
6. That, should the activities of the Standing Armaments Committee nevertheless not increase in the near future, full use should be made of the experience of the members of its technical staff by enabling them to work with the staff of N.A.T.O. on armaments projects being handled in that organisation ;
7. That an investigation should be undertaken to discover whether in fact the staff of the Standing Armaments Committee is fully occupied, as the Assembly understands that the present situation is unsatisfactory.