

Recommendation 238 of the WEU Assembly on European security – relations with the countries of Eastern Europe (Paris, 21 June 1973)

Caption: On 21 June 1973, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 238 on European security – relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, in which it calls on the WEU Council and the member governments to continue to improve Europe's contribution to Western defence and to pursue the joint production of armaments. It also urges them to ensure that any East–West agreement on force reductions should not harm the security and interests of Western Europe and that any agreements on strategic arms limitation should impose no restrictions on the transfer of weapons or technology to the allies of the United States.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 238 on European security – relations with the countries of Eastern Europe (Paris, fifth sitting, 21st June 1973)' in Proceedings: Nineteenth ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1973, pp. 40-41.

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RECOMMENDATION 238***on European security — relations with the
countries of Eastern Europe***

The Assembly,

Aware that in Central Europe the Warsaw Pact powers have something like a two to one superiority in men, tanks and aircraft; that the European defence efforts must be further improved while a proper basis for détente is pursued through negotiation; and welcoming therefore the increase in recent years in the German, French and British defence budgets;

Aware that a broad balance of military force between the NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries can be assumed to exist only when all allied weapons and forces, strategic and tactical, nuclear and conventional, are treated as a part of the western deterrent;

Welcoming the fact that recent United States proposals are intended to redefine Atlantic relations on the basis of a new Atlantic Charter;

Believing that the study of the rational deployment of forces on the central front included in its proposals concerning the rationalisation of the European defence efforts must be undertaken urgently in view of the expected negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions in Europe, and recognising that such negotiations, conducted with the fullest regard for the maintenance and improvement of security in Europe, must be expected to extend over a number of years;

Noting those Soviet objectives in a conference on security and co-operation in Europe which seek to secure international recognition both of the present division of Europe and of the Soviet Union's practice of armed intervention in the internal affairs of its allies;

Reiterating its previous recommendation that any limitations on tactical nuclear warheads for delivery vehicles in the hands of forces assigned to NATO must be negotiated in the context of mutual and balanced force reductions where all countries concerned are represented, and must accordingly be excluded from discussion in the bilateral strategic arms limitation talks;

Welcoming, on these necessary and realistic conditions, the prospects that now exist for a successful outcome to East-West negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions; on a conference on security and co-operation in Europe; and on strategic arms limitation,

RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL

That it urge member governments:

1. To continue to improve Europe's contribution to western defence, especially by ensuring that all aspects of the European defence improvement programme are fully implemented; and that the joint production of armaments is actively pursued in accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Armaments Committee and the Eurogroup's review of major weapons systems in national planning schedules; its list of project areas for special effort; and the declaration on principles of equipment collaboration signed by the Defence Ministers on 5th December 1972;
2. To recognise formally that the defence, economic and monetary relationships between Europe and the United States are closely correlated, and to seek to secure from the United States, in conjunction

with any East-West agreement on mutual and balanced force reductions, a commitment concerning the strength of United States forces in Europe analogous to that given by the United Kingdom to its allies on the occasion of the modification of the Brussels Treaty as a necessary prerequisite for allied agreement as to its future strategy ;

3. To be fully alert to the particular problems and requirements of European defence at any lower force levels that may be agreed in the course of negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions ; to co-operate fully with the persons entrusted with the study on the rational deployment of forces on the central front, to be undertaken in implementation of Order 43, and to provide them with the fullest possible access to the relevant information ;

4. To ensure that any East-West agreement on mutual and balanced force reductions should not lead to the creation of a neutral zone in Central Europe ;

5. To agree to the establishment of any permanent machinery following a conference on security and co-operation in Europe only if the Soviet Union makes proper concessions to western views elsewhere ;

6. To make urgent representations to ensure that any further agreements arising from the strategic arms limitation talks impose no restrictions on the transfer of weapons or technology to the allies of the United States.