

7. WEU Documents
WEU'S ROLE AND PLACE IN THE NEW EUROPEAN SECURITY
ARCHITECTURE
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Extraordinary meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers

Presidency's conclusions

The Foreign and Defence Ministers of Western European Union met in Paris on 22 February 1991 in Extraordinary Session to discuss WEU's role and place in the new European security architecture. The main basis for their discussions was a report on this question, which is annexed hereto and which it was decided to publish.

- This document was originally prepared by the Secretary-General of WEU;
- The text was discussed by the Organisation's Special Working Group, chaired by the Secretary-General, and resulted in a version on which all member States reached near consensus;
- Given the nature of the subject, the report at this stage has not been formally agreed since a number of aspects have still to be discussed in greater depth within WEU and also in other forums (Intergovernmental Conference, North Atlantic Council);
- Ministers confirmed that this report in general reflected their views and they decided that discussions should be pursued on this basis, particularly as regards the method of implementing the practical measures concerning the relationship between WEU and Political Union on the one hand, and between WEU and the Atlantic Alliance on the other.

The future of European security and defence cooperation
Security Architecture in the 1990's

1. The revolutionary changes which have taken place in Europe over the past year have made it possible to distinguish the three complementary levels around which Europe's security will be organised in the years to come:

- a European level currently based on the Western European Union and the Twelve of the European Community;
- an Atlantic level based on the Atlantic Alliance - the only organisation binding North America to the defence of Europe;

- a pan-European level based on the CSCE bringing together all European countries as well as the United States and Canada.

In addition there are other levels which are becoming increasingly relevant to European security, namely the Mediterranean and the Middle East, in which the human dimension and economic and security interests of the parties concerned should be taken into account to enhance stability in those regions in an appropriate manner, drawing on the experience of the CSCE process.

2. At the pan-European level, the CSCE is becoming markedly more important since it is the only forum where each country's security interests and particularly those of the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Soviet Union, can be taken into account. As the decisions taken at the Paris Summit demonstrate, the CSCE will have a crucial part to play in enhancing stability in Europe through its role as a forum for consultation and cooperation, conflict prevention, settlement of disputes and future arms control negotiations. On the other hand, its purpose is not to provide for all CSCE states the kind of firm defence guarantees which the Washington and Brussels Treaties provide for the member States of the Atlantic Alliance and Western European Union.

3. At the Atlantic and European levels, two processes are taking place which will have profound consequences for the future organisation of European security and defence cooperation:

- the decision taken by the European Council in Dublin on 25-26 June 1990 to convene an intergovernmental conference on political union and the conclusions of the European Council in Rome on 14-15 December 1990 regarding the common foreign and security policy and role the Political Union might play with regard to defence questions;
- the review of the tasks of the Alliance and the adaptation of NATO strategy and structures which is taking place in the light of the changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the conclusion of the CFE Treaty and which will also take into account developments in the West, notably the process of European integration.

4. One of the central objectives of both these exercises is how the identity of Europe in the field of security and defence can be developed. Indeed, European governments have been presented with a historic opportunity in which it is possible to take an overall look at the three institutions directly affected - NATO, European Community, European Political Cooperation and Western European Union - and at the relationships between them in order to define their security requirements for the 1990's.

The Atlantic Dimension

5. It is widely recognised that the Atlantic Alliance between North America and Western Europe with its arrangements for military cooperation has formed the indispensable backbone to defence – both European and Western – over the past 40 years. It has also been an important stabilising factor during the past year of change in Central and Eastern Europe. This Alliance, with effective defence arrangements, linking North America and Europe will remain imperative in the years to come:

- a. as the framework for the collective defence of all allies in the case of an attack on the territory of one or more of them,
- b. as a framework for broad political cooperation among the Allies and as a forum where North America and Western Europe can discuss common security concerns,
- c. as a stabilising factor on the continent of Europe where the Soviet Union retains the largest military capabilities including a major nuclear arsenal.

6. However, this role for the Alliance in the future in no way lessens the urgency for a reappraisal of its organisation and structures. This reappraisal must take into account the withdrawal by 1994 of all Soviet forces to within their own territory and the significantly more important part that European forces will play in the Alliance's collective defence due to the reductions in North American forces in Europe. The outcome of this reappraisal must ensure that there is no weakening of the Alliance commitments on the part of either North America or Europe which could lead to a narrower national view of defence. This would involve, in particular, reaffirming the importance of retaining North American forces in Europe and ensuring that all allies refrain from taking unilateral, uncoordinated decisions to reduce their defence effort.

7. With regard to the NATO review, European countries must define how they intend to strengthen and make more coherent the European pillar within the Alliance. In particular, it will be important to ensure the complementarity between two requirements:

- for Europe to take on a greater degree of responsibility for its own defence will require an identifiable European component which will only be achieved if it is linked to the broader process of achieving a European union;
- the need for effective arrangements for military cooperation which reflect the security interests of all members of the Alliance.

Political Union and a European security and defence dimension

8. The developments in Europe, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, the impetus given towards Economic and Monetary Union and more recently the Gulf conflict have all contributed to highlighting the desirability for the Community and its member States to improve their capacity for action internationally and to match the developments in the economic field with progress in the political field. The question of a common foreign and security policy is therefore now high on the agenda of the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union.

9. In this context, the European Council in Rome on 14-15 December 1990 has identified the issues in the security and defence field to which the IGC should give particular attention.² The Rome conclusions indicate that, whilst the first steps in a common security policy are taking shape, there is as yet no unanimity within the Twelve on the role the Political Union might, in the short term, play in defence matters. A gradual approach therefore suggests itself which would take account of the position of certain member States of the Twelve, of the evolution of the Atlantic Alliance and would keep in mind the security interests of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It is nevertheless clear that no hard and fast distinction can be made between broader security characteristics which may require specific arrangements. Due to its stated objective in the Hague Platform and due to its existing structures, WEU can therefore play an important part in this gradual approach to develop a European security and defence identity.

Role of WEU

10. In this context, WEU possesses a number of institutional advantages which would allow it to act as a bridge between the process of European integration and the Atlantic Alliance:

- a. It is an organisation based on a Treaty which affirms the member countries' intention progressively to achieve European integration. This objective was developed in the Platform on European Security Interests of 27 October 1987 and subsequently confirmed in the Protocol of Accession of Portugal and Spain signed on 14 November 1988 which has been accepted, approved or ratified by all the Parliaments of the Nine. These two documents moreover explicitly state that "the construction of an integrated Europe will remain incomplete as long as it does not include security and defence".
- b. It is the only European organisation based on a mutual defence commitment (Article V of the WEU Treaty).
- c. It brings together both Foreign and Defence Ministers.

- d. Its Treaty (Article VIII.3) places no geographical restrictions on its competences (which has enabled it to play a role coordinating military activities in the Gulf).
- e. Its Treaty contains a clause which, whilst requiring redefinition, commits the member countries to work in close cooperation with NATO.
- f. It is backed by a permanent, international Secretariat.
- g. It is an organisation with a parliamentary dimension in the form of the WEU Assembly whose competence is Treaty-based.

11. The task is therefore to identify practical ways in which WEU can play in the present circumstances and without precluding future developments a more effective role in the context of both Political Union and the Atlantic Alliance. The objective vis-à-vis Political Union should be to demonstrate more visibly that WEU is an integral part of the European integration process. The objective vis-à-vis the Alliance should be to achieve a strong, new transatlantic partnership by strengthening the European component, contributing to the Alliance's evolution and enhancing transatlantic cohesion in a reinvigorated Alliance. This approach should include the definition and introduction of WEU contributions or positions into Alliance debates. It will remain essential to ensure that all allies are willing to take account of each other's points of view before final positions are reached in Alliance consultations.

12. Moreover, the more WEU can successfully take on operational responsibilities, the more its credibility will be raised and the more effectively it will become the channel of cooperation between Political Union and NATO. Proposals should therefore now be developed to make cooperation within WEU more operational both in the politico-military field as well as in the military field proper taking account of what is stated in paragraphs 5 and 10 above.

13. Practical steps to be taken vis-à-vis Political Union

In order to develop an organic relationship between WEU and Political Union, make more visible the long-term commitment to a European Union including a defence dimension and without prejudicing either the WEU structures or the structures of the Twelve, increased cooperation and coordination between the Common Foreign and Security Policy and WEU shall be sought by the following measures:

- a. As part of Political Union, Heads of State and Government meeting in the European Council would be able to discuss all aspects of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, without there being any "taboo" subjects. The conclusions of the European Council on the principles

and orientation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy would serve as a guideline where coordination in the defence field is necessary, this would be taken forward within WEU.³⁴

- b. The dates and place of meetings of the WEU Council of Ministers should, when necessary, be synchronised with those Ministerial-level meetings of the Council of the Political Union dealing with the Common Foreign and Security Policy. When necessary, meetings at official level of the Twelve and of the Nine should also be synchronised.
- c. Close contacts should be maintained between the Presidencies of the Twelve and WEU. Harmonization of the sequence and duration of the Presidencies of the Twelve and of WEU should be considered.
- d. The EPC/Council Secretariats and the WEU Secretariat should maintain working contact and ensure a regular exchange of information on security matters.
- e. Possible links between the European Parliament and the WEU Assembly should be examined.

14. Practical steps to be taken vis-à-vis the Atlantic Alliance

In order to develop an organic relationship between WEU and the Alliance and to enable WEU to play a more effective role in strengthening the European pillar within the Alliance, the following steps shall be taken:

- a. The country holding the WEU Presidency or, when appropriate, another WEU member country, should:
 - introduce joint WEU positions or contributions into the process of Alliance consultation;
 - regularly brief the North Atlantic Council and other Alliance bodies on WEU activities.
- b. WEU concertation should when necessary take place at various levels including at Ministerial level and at the level of member States' Permanent Representatives to NATO, on those items on the Alliance agenda which are of particular interest to WEU; this concertation should take place with the appropriate degree of transparency with regard to other allies, taking each others' views into consideration.
- c. Contacts should be maintained between NATO and the WEU Secretariat and their respective Secretaries-General, and a regular exchange of information ensured.

Questions raised by the proposals above

15. The first question concerns the relationship of the WEU with the European member countries of the EC/EPC and Atlantic Alliance which are not members of WEU. Close cooperation between WEU member countries and all European Partners and Allies will remain essential. In the future, the modalities of the relationships between WEU and these countries should reflect the nature of the relationship which WEU itself will have with Political union and the Atlantic Alliance. In this context, an enlargement of certain ministerial meetings to include other or all European Partners and Allies as observers could be considered.

16. The second question concerns the location of WEU. The preceding paragraphs have begun to define the NATO-WEU-PU inter-relationship. In order to contribute to the effective functioning of WEU on the basis of the practical steps set out in paragraphs 13 and 14, the question of transferring the Organisation to Brussels should be considered. A move to Brussels must ensure that WEU retains its own clear identity as outlined in the paragraphs above. This implies that, in order to ensure that the Council is able to exercise its functions continuously, some form of permanent representation and a permanent WEU Secretariat should be retained. It would be for each Government to decide on the most appropriate arrangement for representation and liaison, drawing as necessary on member countries' delegations to NATO and the institutions of Political Union. Nevertheless, in terms of increasing the efficiency of WEU's work, it would be desirable for member countries to appoint comparable officials to the Permanent Council of WEU.

MAASTRICHT DECLARATIONS 10 DECEMBER 1991(...)

I. DECLARATION

of Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which are members of the Western European Union and also members of the European Union on **The Role of the Western European Union and its Relations with the European Union and with the Atlantic Alliance** Maastricht, 10 December 1991

Introduction

1. WEU Member States agree on the need to develop a genuine European security and defence identity and a greater European responsibility on defence matters. This identity will be pursued through a gradual process involving successive phases. WEU will form an integral part of the process of the development of the European Union and will enhance its contribution to solidarity within the Atlantic Alliance. WEU Member States agree to strengthen the role of WEU, in the longer term perspective of a common defence policy within the European Union which might in time lead to a common defence, compatible with that of the Atlantic Alliance.

2. WEU will be developed as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance. To this end, it will formulate common European defence policy and carry forward its concrete implementation through the further development of its own operational role. WEU Member States take note of Article J.4 relating to the common foreign and security policy of the Treaty on European Union which reads as follows:

1. The common foreign and security policy shall include all questions related to the security of the European Union, including the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence.
2. The Union requests the Western European Union (WEU), which is an integral part of the development of the European Union, to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications. The Council shall, in agreement with the institutions of the WEU, adopt the necessary practical arrangements.
3. Issues having defence implications dealt with under this Article shall not be subject to the procedures set out in Article J.3.
4. The policy of the Union in accordance with the present Article shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and shall respect the obligations of certain Member States under the North Atlantic Treaty and be compatible with the common security and defence policy established within that framework.
5. The provisions of this Article shall not prevent development of closer co-operation between two or more Member States on a bilateral level, in the framework of the WEU and the Atlantic Alliance provided such co-operation does not run counter to or impede that provided for in this Title.

6. With a view to furthering the objective of this Treaty, and having in view the date of 1998 in the context of Article XII of the Brussels Treaty, the provisions of this article may be revised as provided for in Article N (2) on the basis of a report to be presented in 1996 by the Council to the European Council, which shall include an evaluation of the progress made and the experience gained until then.”

A. WEU's relations with European Union

3. The objective is to build up WEU in stages as the defence component of the European Union. To this end, WEU is prepared, at the request of the European Union, to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications. To this end, WEU will take the following measures to develop a close working relationship with the Union:

- as appropriate, synchronization of the dates and venues of meetings and harmonization of working methods;
- establishment of close cooperation between the Council and Secretariat-General of WEU on the one hand, and the Council of the Union and General Secretariat of the Council on the other;
- consideration of the harmonization of the sequence and duration of the respective Presidencies;
- arranging for appropriate modalities so as to ensure that the Commission of the European Communities is regularly informed and, as appropriate, consulted on WEU activities in accordance with the role of the Commission in the Common foreign and security policy as defined in the Treaty on European Union;
- encouragement of closer cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of WEU and the European Parliament.

The WEU Council shall, in agreement with the competent bodies of the European Union, adopt the necessary practical arrangements.

B. WEU's relations with the Atlantic Alliance

4. The objective is to develop WEU as a means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance. Accordingly WEU is prepared to develop further the close working links between WEU and the Alliance and to strengthen the role, responsibilities and contributions of WEU Member States in the Alliance. This will be undertaken on the basis of the necessary transparency and complementarity between the emerging European security and defence identity and the Alliance.

WEU will act in conformity with the positions adopted in the Atlantic Alliance.

- WEU Member States will intensify their coordination on Alliance issues which represent an important common interest with the aim of introducing joint positions agreed in WEU into the process of consultation in the Alliance which will remain the essential forum for consultation among its members and the venue for agreement on policies bearing on the security and defence commitments of Allies under the Washington Treaty.
- Where necessary, dates and venues of meetings will be synchronized and working methods harmonized.
- Close cooperation will be established between the Secretariats-General of WEU and NATO.

C. Operational role of WEU

5. WEU's operational role will be strengthened by examining and defining appropriate missions, structures and means, covering in particular:

- WEU planning cell;
- closer military cooperation complementary to the Alliance in particular in the fields of logistics, transport, training and strategic surveillance;
- meetings of WEU Chiefs of Defence Staff;
- military units answerable to WEU.

Other proposals will be examined further, including:

- enhanced cooperation in the field of armaments with the aim of creating a European armaments agency;
- development of the WEU Institute into a European Security and Defence Academy.

Arrangements aimed at giving WEU a stronger operational role will be fully compatible with the military dispositions necessary to ensure the collective defence of all Allies.

D. Other measures

6. As a consequence of the measures set out above, and in order to facilitate the strengthening of WEU's role, the seat of the WEU Council and Secretariat will be transferred to Brussels.

7. Representation on the WEU Council must be such that the Council is able to exercise its functions continuously in accordance with Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty. Member States may draw on a double-hatting formula, to be worked out, consisting of their representatives to the Alliance and to the European Union.

8. WEU notes that, in accordance with the provisions of Article J.4 (6) concerning the common foreign and security policy of the Treaty on European Union, the Union will decide to review the provisions of this Article with a view to furthering the objective to be set by it in accordance with the procedure defined. The WEU will re-examine the present provisions in 1996. This re-examination will take account of the progress and experience acquired and will extend to relations between WEU and Atlantic Alliance.

II. DECLARATION

of Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which are members of the Western European Union

“The Member States of WEU welcome the development of the European security and defence identity. They are determined, taking into account the role of WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance, to put the relationship between WEU and the other European states on a new basis for the sake of stability and security in Europe. In this spirit, they propose the following:

States which are members of the European Union are invited to accede to WEU on conditions to be agreed in accordance with Article XI of the modified Brussels Treaty, or to become observers if they so wish. Simultaneously, other European Member States of NATO are invited to become associate members of WEU in a way which will give them the possibility to participate fully in the activities of WEU.

The Member States of WEU assume that treaties and agreements corresponding with the above proposals will be concluded before 31 December 1992.”

PETERSBERG DECLARATION
19 JUNE 1992
Western European Union Council of Ministers
Petersberg Declaration

Bonn, 19 June 1992

The Foreign and Defence Ministers of WEU member States met in Bonn on 19 June 1992 and issued the Petersberg Declaration consisting of the following three parts:

- I. On WEU and European Security
- II. On strengthening WEU's operational role
- III. On relations between WEU and the other European member States of the European Union or the Atlantic Alliance

I. ON WEU AND EUROPEAN SECURITY

Developments in the security situation in Europe, disarmament and arms control

1. Ministers reviewed the significant changes that had taken place in the security situation in Europe since their last regular meeting in November 1991. They emphasized the importance of strengthening the role and institutions of the CSCE for peace and security in Europe. They looked forward to decisions at Helsinki to start new negotiations on measures of arms control and disarmament and to enhance regular consultations and cooperation on security matters. In the light of the establishment of a new CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, they considered that decisions to enhance the CSCE's capabilities for conflict prevention, crisis management and the peaceful settlement of disputes are of primary importance. They supported the proposal under discussion at the Helsinki Follow-up meeting for the CSCE to declare itself as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Ministers considered that the CSCE should have the authority to initiate and pursue peacekeeping operations under its own responsibility.

2. As WEU develops its operational capabilities in accordance with the Maastricht Declaration, we are prepared to support, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with our own procedures, the effective implementation of conflict-prevention and crisis-management measures, including peacekeeping activities of the CSCE or the United Nations Security Council. This will be done without prejudice to possible contributions by other CSCE countries and other organisations to these activities.

3. Ministers welcomed the decisions taken by the CSCE Council in Berlin and Prague regarding the relationships between the CSCE and other mutually reinforcing European and transatlantic organizations including WEU. They declared that WEU, together with the European Union, was ready to play a full part in building up Europe's security architecture. They likewise reaffirmed their conviction that the Atlantic Alliance is one of the indispensable foundations of Europe's security. They welcomed the ongoing reform process of NATO with a view to establishing a strong new transatlantic partnership.

4. Ministers welcomed the agreement reached at the CFE Extraordinary Conference on 5 June 1992 in Oslo which provides the basis for the entry into force of the CFE Treaty which has been and remains a major objective of their arms control agenda. Its full and effective implementation will increase stability and open the way to a new cooperative security order in Europe. They call upon the new States parties to the Treaty to ensure its ratification by the time of the CSCE Summit in Helsinki. Ministers attach great importance to the conclusion of an agreement on the limitation of personnel strengths of ground and air forces (CFE 1a) in time for the Helsinki Summit and to the implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. They reaffirmed their commitment to the early entry into force of the Open Skies agreement and invited other CSCE States to accede to the Treaty in accordance with its provisions.

5. Ministers welcomed steps recently taken by the States concerned to allow for the entry into force of the START Treaty and the important agreement on further strategic reductions reached between the United States and Russia in Washington on 17 June 1992.

6. Ministers recalled that the presence of foreign forces on the territory of a sovereign state requires the explicit consent of that state. They stressed the importance of rapidly establishing, in the negotiations under way, timetables for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of the Baltic States.

7. Ministers expressed their conviction that a Chemical Weapons Convention can be reached within the next few months. They are confident that this Convention can play an important and pioneering role in worldwide multilateral arms control and call on all member States of the Conference on Disarmament to lend their support to the emerging consensus. They repeat their commitment to be among the original signatories of this Convention and ask all other nations to follow this course.

8. WEU member States reaffirmed their resolution to contribute further to the establishment of a new order of peace in Europe which, in accordance with the Charter of Paris, will be based on cooperation. Ministers underlined the valuable contribution of NACC in this connection. In the same spirit, WEU has invited the Foreign and Defence Ministers of eight States of Central Europe to a special Ministerial meeting later today. WEU and the invited countries intend to enhance consultation and cooperation in the framework of the new European security structure.

Implementation of the Maastricht Declaration

9. Ministers stressed the fundamental importance of the Treaty on European Union and they looked forward to the further elaboration of the common foreign and security policy at the Lisbon European Council. They discussed the progress made in developing the role of WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance in accordance with the Declaration adopted by WEU member States at the Maastricht European Council in December 1991.

10. Ministers reaffirmed the importance for WEU to develop close working relations with the European Union and Atlantic Alliance in accordance with the Maastricht Declaration of WEU. They adopted a report on the practical measures necessary for WEU to develop these relations. They asked the Permanent Council to propose to the Council of the Twelve and to the North Atlantic Council concrete measures aimed at facilitating the development of close cooperation between the respective Secretariats.

11. Ministers heard a report from the Secretary-General on the progress made towards the transfer of the WEU Council and Secretariat-General from London to Brussels. They instructed the Permanent Council and Secretary-General to expedite the necessary arrangements so that the transfer could become effective by January 1993.

12. Ministers heard a report from the German Chief of Defence Staff on the meetings of Chiefs of Defence Staff. Ministers agreed that the Chiefs of Defence Staff should meet twice a year prior to the regular Ministerial Councils and on an ad hoc basis whenever necessary. Ministers also agreed that, following the transfer of the Council and Secretariat to Brussels, national delegations could be reinforced with military delegates to develop and provide advice for the Council, to introduce the views of the Chiefs of Defence Staff to the Planning Cell and to monitor the professional standards of the Planning Cell's work.

13. WEU Ministers welcomed the IEPG Defence Ministers' decision, at their Oslo meeting on 6 March 1992, to analyse the future role of the IEPG in the new European security architecture. This represents a positive development fully in line with the objective set by WEU member States in Maastricht further to examine enhanced cooperation in the field of armaments with the aim of creating a WEU European Armaments Agency. WEU Ministers propose that both WEU and IEPG experts analyse this issue in depth, carry out an initial examination of the role and functions of a possible European Armaments Agency and submit a report for consideration.

14. WEU Ministers welcomed the decision of Eurogroup Defence Ministers at their meeting in Brussels on 25 May 1992 to consider the possibility, among other options, and if the necessary preconditions are met, of transferring to WEU some or all of Eurogroup's present functions for which there is still a need.

15. Ministers noted with satisfaction the considerable progress which had been made in setting up the experimental WEU Satellite Centre in Torrejn (Spain), a concrete example of the strengthening of WEU's operational role, and they looked forward to the official inauguration which would take place later in the year. They also noted that the contract for the main system feasibility study had been awarded to a consortium of firms from WEU member States led by a German firm.

Activities of Working Groups

16. In the field of verification, Ministers noted with satisfaction that a set of rules for the operation of multinational teams in CFE had been prepared in WEU and had subsequently been adopted in the Alliance. This represented the first example since the Maastricht Declaration of the introduction of joint positions agreed in WEU into the process of consultation in the Alliance.

17. Noting the progress which had been made so far, Ministers agreed in principle to a feasibility study to identify the most cost-effective means of implementing the Open Skies Treaty cooperatively among member States. They tasked the group of experts to agree assumptions for the study, to identify the options which merit further study and to consider the question of costs, with a view to taking a decision at their next ordinary meeting to proceed with the study. They stressed the readiness of WEU to cooperate with third parties at a later stage, and in this context welcomed the contacts which had taken place with other European allies, as well as with the Russian Federation. They agreed that experts should investigate the possibilities for intensified cooperation with the Russian Federation, which could include a joint feasibility study and/or a trial overflight.

18. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the Mediterranean Sub-Group's work on security in the Mediterranean. They adopted terms of reference for the establishment by WEU of a gradual and phased dialogue with the Maghreb countries, taking into account the political developments both in these countries and in the region.

WEU Institute for Security Studies

19. Ministers noted with satisfaction the activities of the WEU Institute for Security Studies in Paris. Its publications, seminars and colloquia had greatly contributed to deepening understanding for the ongoing development of a European security identity and to enhancing relations between WEU and other European countries.

II. ON STRENGTHENING WEU'S OPERATIONAL ROLE

1. In accordance with the decision contained in the Declaration of the member States of WEU at Maastricht on 10 December 1991 to develop WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance, WEU member States have been examining and defining appropriate missions, structures and means covering, in particular, a WEU planning cell and military units answerable to WEU, in order to strengthen WEU's operational role.

2. WEU member States declare that they are prepared to make available military units from the whole spectrum of their conventional armed forces for military tasks conducted under the authority of WEU.

3. Decisions to use military units answerable to WEU will be taken by the WEU Council in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter. Participation in specific operations will remain a sovereign decision of member States in accordance with national constitutions.

4. Apart from contributing to the common defence in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and Article V of the modified Brussels Treaty respectively, military units of WEU member States, acting under the authority of WEU, could be employed for:

- humanitarian and rescue tasks;
- peacekeeping tasks;
- tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking.

5. The planning and execution of these tasks will be fully compatible with the military dispositions necessary to ensure the collective defence of all Allies.
6. Military units will be drawn from the forces of WEU member States, including forces with NATO missions - in this case after consultation with NATO - and will be organized on a multinational and multi-service basis.
7. All WEU member States will soon designate which of their military units and headquarters they would be willing to make available to WEU for its various possible tasks. Where multinational formations drawn from the forces of WEU nations already exist or are planned, these units could be made available for use under the authority of WEU, with agreement of all participating nations.
8. WEU member States intend to develop and exercise the appropriate capabilities to enable the deployment of WEU military units by land, sea or air to accomplish these tasks.
9. A Planning Cell will be established on 1 October 1992, subject to practical considerations, under the authority of the Council. It will be located with the Secretariat-General in a suitable building in Brussels. The Council has today appointed Maj.Gen. Caltabiano (Italian Air Force) as its first Director. The Planning Cell will be responsible for:
 - preparing contingency plans for the employment for forces under WEU auspices;
 - preparing recommendations for the necessary command, control and communication arrangements, including standing operating procedures for headquarters which might be selected;
 - keeping an updated list of units and combinations of units which might be allocated to WEU for specific operations.
10. The Council of Ministers approved the terms of reference for the Planning Cell.

III. ON RELATIONS BETWEEN WEU AND THE OTHER EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE

A. Following the Declaration released in Maastricht on 10 December 1991 in connection with the Treaty on European Union, WEU Ministers recalled the fundamental principles on which relations between member States and associate member States should be based:

- settlement of their mutual differences by peaceful means, in accordance with the obligations resulting from the modified Brussels Treaty, the North Atlantic Treaty and the United Nations Charter, the commitments entered into under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter, and the other generally recognized principles and rules of international law.
- in their mutual relations, refraining from resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

They also stressed that the security guarantees and defence commitments in the Treaties which bind the member States within Western European Union and which bind them within the Atlantic Alliance are mutually reinforcing and will not be invoked by those subscribing to Part III of the Petersberg Declaration in disputes between member States of either of the two organizations.

B. In their Maastricht Declaration of 10 December 1991, the member States of WEU proposed that States which are members of the European Union be invited to accede to WEU on conditions to be agreed in accordance with Article XI of the modified Brussels Treaty, or to become observers if they so wished. Simultaneously, other European member States of NATO were invited to become associate members of WEU in a way which would give them a possibility of participating fully in the activities of WEU.

In accordance with Part III of the Petersberg Declaration, Ministers agreed that the following points should be made in extending the invitation to the countries interested in becoming members, observers or associate members:

Members:

Member States of the European Union which have accepted the invitation to accede to WEU undertake

- to respect, in accordance with the principles and values adhered to by all WEU member States, the Brussels Treaty of 1948, modified on 23 October 1954, its Protocols and associated texts, and the agreements concluded among the member States pursuant to the Treaty,

- to note with approval the agreements, decisions and rules adopted in conformity with the Treaty, and the Declarations starting with the Rome Declaration of 27 October 1984,
- to develop WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance in keeping with the obligation entered into on 10 December 1991 in the Declaration on the role of WEU and its relations with the European Union and with the Atlantic Alliance attached to the Treaty on European Union, and
- to accept in full the substance of Part III of the Petersberg Declaration which will form part of the Protocol of Accession.

Observers:

Member States of the European Union, which have accepted the invitation to become observers,

- may, although not being a party to the MBT, attend the meetings of the WEU Council without prejudice to the provisions laid down in Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty; at the request of a majority of the member States, or of half of the member States including the Presidency, presence at Council meetings may be restricted to full members;
- may be invited to meetings of working groups;
- may be invited, on request, to speak;
- will have the same rights and responsibilities as the full members for functions transferred to WEU from other fora and institutions to which they already belong.

Associate members:

Other European member States of the Atlantic Alliance which have accepted the invitation to become associate members of WEU, although not being parties to the modified Brussels Treaty, may participate fully in the meetings of the WEU Council - without prejudice to the provisions laid down in Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty - of its working groups and of the subsidiary bodies, subject to the following provisions:

- at the request of a majority of the member States, or of half of the member States including the Presidency, participation may be restricted to full members;
- they will be able to be associated to the Planning Cell through a permanent liaison arrangement;

- they will have the same rights and responsibilities as the full members for functions transferred to WEU from other fora and institutions to which they already belong;
- they will have the right to speak but may not block a decision that is the subject of consensus among the member States;
- they may associate themselves with the decisions taken by member States; they will be able to participate in their implementation unless a majority of the member States, or half of the member States including the Presidency, decide otherwise;
- they will take part on the same basis as full members in WEU military operations to which they commit forces;
- they will accept in full the substance of Section A of Part III of the Petersberg Declaration which will form part of the association document;
- they will be connected to the member States' telecommunications system (WEUCOM) for messages concerning meetings and activities in which they participate;
- they will be asked to make a financial contribution to the Organization's budgets.

Space activities

For practical reasons, space activities will be restricted to the present members until the end of the experimental phase of the Satellite Centre in 1995. During this phase the new members and associate members will be kept informed of WEU's space activities. Appropriate arrangements will be made for associate members to participate in subsequent space activities at the same time as decisions are taken on the continuation of such activities.

Mandate

C. Ministers mandated the Permanent Council to arrange for discussions to start with the States concerned.

Ministers confirmed their wish to conclude the necessary agreements before 31 December 1992.

THE 28 WEU NATIONS
Member States;

Modified Brussels Treaty 1954; Belgium, France, Germany, Greece (1995),
Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal (1990), Spain (1990), United
Kingdom

Associate Members; Rome 1992; Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland,
Norway, Poland, Turkey

Observers; Rome 1992; Austria (1995), Denmark, Finland, Ireland,
Sweden (1995)

Associate Partners; Kirchberg 1994; Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania,
Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia (1996)

Since the Maastricht Declarations of 1991, WEU has developed a framework within which an increasing number of European countries have become associated in its activities. At present, there are 28 countries in the WEU family of nations, encompassing four types of status: Member State, Associate Member, Observer and Associate Partner.

In 1954 seven countries, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, signed the Paris Agreements modifying the 1948 Brussels Treaty. Portugal and Spain became Member States of WEU in 1990. All these countries are also members of the EU and NATO.

In 1991, at Maastricht, WEU Members invited States which are Members of the European Union to accede to WEU on conditions to be agreed in accordance with Article XI of the modified Brussels Treaty, or to become observers if they so wish. Greece became the tenth Member State. Ireland and subsequently Austria, Finland and Sweden, became Observers following their accession to the EU. Denmark also joined the Organization with Observer status.

Simultaneously, other European Members of NATO were invited to become Associate Members of WEU in a way which would enable them to participate fully in the activities of the Organization. Iceland, Norway and Turkey became Associate Members at that time.

The status of Associate Partner was created in Kirchberg in May 1994. It covers the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have signed a Europe Agreement with the European Union. Thus from 1994, WEU welcomed as Associate Partners the 10 new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

On 23 March 1999, the WEU Permanent Council took the decision on Associate Membership for the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, following their accession to membership of NATO.

Only the 10 Member States are signatories to the modified Brussels Treaty and have full decision-making rights in WEU. The other 18 countries have been increasingly associated with WEU's activities.

COOPERATION AMONG THE 28 WEU COUNTRIES

Following the changes in Central and Eastern Europe that came with the end of the Cold War, WEU was to prove able to seize the opportunities and meet the challenges of a new Europe. In 1994, the Council of Ministers meeting at Kirchberg decided to invite the Central European countries that had the perspective of acceding to the EU through their Europe Agreements with the Union to become Associate Partners of WEU.

In 1995, all WEU countries - full Members, Associate Members, Observers and Associate Partners - took part in a collective endeavour to identify not only the common interests of Europeans, the risks and potential threats, but also Europe's new responsibilities. This exercise resulted in the publication of the Common Concept on European Security. In the first half of 1997, WEU nations participated in a further common reflection on European security interests.

The 28 WEU countries have participated to an ever-increasing extent in the political and operational activities of the Organisation in recent years. Depending on the topics on its agenda, the Council meets in different configurations, usually at 21 or at 28. More and more topics are dealt with at 28. They include WEU's operational development, the planning and conduct of exercises, WEU's missions in Albania and Croatia, relations with the OSCE and the UN, relations with the Russian Federation, relations with Ukraine, relations with non-WEU mediterranean countries and African peacekeeping.

WEU has established arrangements to enable all 28 Member States, Associate Members, Observers and Associate Partners to participate in WEU operations. In particular it has defined the Associate Partners' contribution to the various phases of the crisis management process, notably planning and force creation. Special liaison meetings allow the military representatives of Associate Partners to be informed about the activities of the Military Staff. In addition, all Associate Partners have signed security agreements with WEU which provide a legal basis for the exchange of classified documents, and most of them have supplied information on their armed forces to be kept alongside the FAWEU list and used by the Planning Cell for planning purposes. More recently, WEU has proposed to NATO to incorporate the capabilities of the Associate Partners drawn from the PARP process into the Special Report on forces and capabilities available for WEU-led operations. Participation by the Associate Partners has thus become the rule rather than the exception.

**MINUTES AGREED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DOCUMENT ON ASSOCIATE
MEMBERSHIP ROME 20 NOVEMBER 1992**

- As associate members are not parties to the modified Brussels Treaty, it follows that the reference to the acceptance in full of Section A of Part III of the Petersberg Declaration by the associate members is not related to the provisions of Art. X of the Treaty.
 - The 5th indent of paragraph 3 of the document on associate membership states that associate members will take part on the same basis as full members in WEU military operations to which they commit forces. The reference to commitment of forces may cover the provision of logistical and other facilities of a significant nature. If associate members participate in WEU military operations deriving from decisions taken by member States, the arrangements for the conduct of these operations will be established on a case-by-case basis by the participating States.
 - The right to speak brings with it the possibility to present proposals.
 - Full participation will include participation in caucuses subject to the same rules as for participation in the meetings of the WEU Council and other bodies.
 - It is understood that the provisions of this document on associate membership are without prejudice to the rights and obligations deriving from existing treaties or agreements.
 - The Council will take fully into consideration associate members' security interests.
 - The document on associate membership cannot be modified without the assent of the associate members.
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