

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

MINISTERIAL DECISION SETTING UP A WEU SATELLITE CENTRE
TAKEN AT VIANDEN, LUXEMBOURG, 27 JUNE 1991

The Ministerial Council:

- Recalling its decision of 10 December 1990 on space cooperation within WEU,
- Approving the results of the work of the ad hoc Sub Group on Space regarding the setting-up of a WEU Satellite Centre,

DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

1. A WEU subsidiary body will be set up, in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the modified Brussels Treaty, to be known as the WEU Satellite Centre, hereinafter referred to as the Centre.
2. The Centre will be placed under the authority of the WEU Council. Its legal personality will not be separate from that of WEU. The Centre's managing bodies will be the Director and the Steering Committee.
3. The Director will be appointed for a term of three years by the WEU Council. He will be responsible for the management of the Centre. He will exercise hierarchical authority over the Centre's staff.
4. Each member State will appoint a representative to the Centre's Steering Committee. The latter will lay down technical and financial guidelines to be implemented by the Centre, and be in constant liaison with the national authorities calling upon the Centre's services.

5. The Centre will offer no legal guarantee as to services supplied in accordance with this decision, and WEU will incur no liability to member States by virtue of this fact.

6. The financial resources of the Centre will be provided for in a separate budget approved annually by the WEU Permanent Council in accordance with the current financial regulations of WEU. The budget shall be financed by contributions from member States in accordance with a cost-sharing formula agreed by the Council. The Centre's budget for the experimental phase will be within a maximum ceiling of 38.25 million Ecus, based on an estimate of 30.6 million Ecus plus 25 % for contingencies.

7. The Centre will be established in the territory of one of WEU's member States.

8. The personnel responsible for setting up the Centre will be appointed by member States or on the recommendation of the ad hoc Group before 1 September 1991. The Centre will be established with effect from 1 January 1992 and will enter into operations later that year.

9. At their next meeting, a report reviewing progress on the establishment of the Centre, and a draft framework agreement covering access by the Centre to HELIOS data, will be presented to Ministers, who will decide on the location of the Centre and the appointment of a Director.

10. The activities of the Centre should be reviewed no later than three years after it has entered into operation, when it will be possible for each member State to reconsider its participation in the Centre.

The possibilities for future cooperation between the Centre and other corresponding bodies, particularly in Europe and in the United States, on the basis of a balanced partnership, will also be studied.