WASHINGTON EUROPEAN UNION

Rome Declaration

WEU Council of Ministers

Rome, 16-17 November 1998
WEU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ROME DECLARATION
16-17 November 1998

1. Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the WEU nations met in Rome on 16 and 17 November 1998. The WEU Council of Ministers was preceded by a meeting of the Defence Ministers of the 13 countries in the framework of the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG).

2. Ministers noted that WEU is facing a year of important change and development: in 1999, the Treaty of Amsterdam will enter into force, NATO will be enlarged and its nations will review the Alliance's role at their Summit meeting in Washington; OSCE is working on a Charter on European Security, to be adopted at a Summit in the same year.

WEU continues to play a substantial role in the evolution of the new security architecture of Europe through its pivotal role as a link between the European Union and NATO. It constitutes both an integral part of the development of the European Union, giving the Union access to an operational capability, and is an essential element of the development of ESDI within the Alliance. Its institutional and practical cooperation with the EU and NATO has enhanced its capacity to act and to meet the challenges of crisis management. Thus, it enables Europeans to pursue their common interests in the field of security and defence.

Ministers recalled the proposals made during the negotiations of the Amsterdam Treaty and noted with interest the lines of thought put forward by some Heads of State and Government and the new impetus given to the debate in Pörtschach with a view to a fresh consideration of the issues of common European security and defence. In this connection, Ministers expressed the wish that a process of informal reflection be initiated at WEU on the question of Europe's security and defence in the perspective of the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty and of the Washington Summit. This reflection should serve the interests of all WEU nations.

A special emphasis should be put on the identification of further steps to enhance European military capabilities to deal with crises, notably Petersberg tasks, including greater transparency and interoperability among multinational forces.

This means that the ongoing coordination and restructuring among European defence industries is another crucial step towards the development of a more effective military capability for Europe, which also demands increased cooperation in various fields.

WEU Ministers reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate closely with EU and NATO, also taking into account future high-level meetings in both fora.
Ministers expressed their determination for WEU to play its role among the mutually reinforcing organizations active in European security, and confirmed WEU’s readiness to support the UN and the OSCE in their crisis management tasks.

Ministers recognised that all 28 WEU nations are playing a growing part in the organization’s drive for operational readiness. In this context, Ministers welcomed the wish of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to become WEU Associate Members.

WEU’S OPERATIONAL ROLE

3. WEU nations made a political commitment after the end of the Cold War to build this Organization as one of the tools for maintaining international peace and security. At the Petersberg meeting in 1992, they defined the special role of WEU in the military tasks of crisis management.

Ministers today reaffirm Europe’s responsibility in these fields and emphasize the characteristics of WEU’s distinctive contribution to crisis management in Europe:

- its strengthened relationship with the European Union, allowing the European Union’s political and economic instruments to be complemented by WEU’s politico-military capabilities to deal with crises;
- its role in the development of ESDI within the Alliance and the manifold operational benefits this brings, especially with the implementation of the CJTF concept;
- its politico-military structure with a newly strengthened military element, combining the principles of political control and civil-military cooperation.

4. Ministers welcomed the role played by WEU in Albania, which has contributed to the efforts of the international community aimed at restoring security, stability and the respect of international norms. At the Tirana International Conference held on 30 October 1998, WEU pledged its support in the framework of the Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) to the ongoing process of stabilization and democratic reform in Albania. Ministers welcomed the Albanian Government’s commitment to implement a strategy (‘Master Plan’) for the restructuring of the Albanian police with a view to more efficiency.

Against this background and upon request from the European Union, WEU has been preparing a contingency plan with a view to giving enlarged, and geographically and functionally better focused, responsibilities to its police mission. Ministers expressed their intention to extend the MAPE mission, corresponding to Albanian needs and wishes for the restructuring for the Albanian police, and instructed the Permanent Council to carry forward the work urgently, with regard inter alia to the availability of personnel and the financing of the mission, so that further decisions could be taken promptly. In this context, they stressed the importance of continuing to work closely with the European Union to gain maximum benefit from the engagement of both institutions to this end.
To help in defining its own contribution while supporting those of others, WEU has taken part in NATO's planning for the emergency in Kosovo, and has kept in touch with the developing international responses to other aspects of the crisis including the acute human problem of displaced persons and refugees. WEU supports the missions of the OSCE and NATO and the efforts of the EU and calls on all parties to live up to their obligations and commitments, to refrain from further acts of violence in the region and to engage in immediate political negotiations.

5. Ministers noted with appreciation that the general institutional framework and conditions for WEU to fulfil its operational role are being steadily strengthened. WEU Ministers at this meeting have confirmed WEU’s readiness to organize a mine-clearance assistance mission in Croatia in response to a request from the European Union under Article J.4.2 of the Maastricht Treaty and have welcomed the recent J.4.2 decision concerning the use of the WEU Satellite Centre to contribute to monitoring the situation in Kosovo. Work by the EU and WEU on illustrative profiles will clarify how WEU can help meet future EU needs and complement the EU’s own work on crisis management. At the same time, WEU, together with NATO, is considering how to mobilize and manage the assets and capabilities which NATO might put at its disposal for missions under WEU political control and strategic direction.

6. This operational potential cannot be realised without an adequate purpose-adapted European defence capacity and this in turn demands harmonization of operational requirements and rationalization of research and technology, development and procurement as well as of the industrial base in the field of armaments. European nations are striving for a more resource-efficient, collaborative approach along many tracks, namely the continuing work of WEAG and other national and international initiatives. The importance WEU nations attach to this subject is again underlined by the defence industry seminar organized by the Italian Presidency in conjunction with the Rome Ministerial meeting.

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH THE EU

7. Ministers stressed that 1998 has seen much progress in WEU’s cooperation with the European Union. In recent months, the use of Article J.4.2 of the Maastricht Treaty has reinforced WEU’s role in crisis management notably in the context of the Petersberg tasks and has strengthened the political and institutional foundations for the objective to “build up WEU in stages as the defence component of the European Union” as developed by the Treaty of Amsterdam. Ministers noted that the practical consequences of this important development and the operational requirements of an increasing cooperation between the European Union and WEU in the field of European crisis management were also the subject of a substantive informal discussion by the Defence Ministers of the European Union at their conference in Vienna on 3-4 November 1998. Ministers reaffirmed that WEU will further contribute, in the framework of Art. J.7 of the Treaty on European Union, to the progressive framing of a
Common European Defence Policy and noted that the reflection between WEU and the EU is continuing in this regard. The EU’s and WEU’s working cultures and approaches to security challenges are drawing closer, with the elaboration and trial of procedures for specific emergencies, but also with better exploitation of the link between the two Presidencies – which will be strengthened by the harmonization of the sequence of Presidencies next January. Closer cooperation is being forged between WEU and the European Commission; and between the respective Secretariats. The Forum held in Rome on 16 November has encouraged closer cooperation between the WEU Assembly and the European Parliament. Ministers welcomed the first preparatory work done with a view to the drawing up of the arrangements for enhanced cooperation between the EU and WEU, to be concluded within a year from the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

REINFORCING RELATIONS WITH NATO

8. Ministers underlined that, at the same time, WEU and NATO are working closely together to strengthen the institutional and practical foundations of the European Security and Defence Identity within the Alliance, on the basis of earlier Ministerial decisions. The two organizations have cooperated to identify and strengthen the European capacity for Petersberg tasks and to test crisis management procedures through a developing exercise programme. Cooperation with NATO on planning is developing well, both in the field of defence planning, and in military planning where work is in hand to refine and align planning techniques for related missions. Intensive work is continuing to elaborate and validate consultation arrangements and to define principles and modalities for WEU’s possible use of NATO assets and capabilities with a view to the approval of a framework agreement on the transfer, monitoring and return or recall of such assets and capabilities. Ministers reaffirmed their aim of putting in place all these essential elements by the time of the Washington Summit, thus achieving the goals set at Birmingham, Brussels and Berlin.

RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

9. Ministers recalled that WEU’s role in European security expresses itself also through relations with a range of third countries sharing interests, values or concerns. They stressed the importance of developing these relations in a way which enhances cooperation in the framework of European security.

Ministers stressed the importance of the development of relations with the Russian Federation, conscious of its strategic importance and significance for the development of the European security architecture; in this context, they looked forward to the conclusion of an agreement with Russia on large capacity air transport assets.

Ministers further reaffirmed their attachment to the development of relations with Ukraine in recognition of Ukraine’s significance as an important European partner of WEU; in particular, they welcomed the holding of the first ever WEU-Ukraine Seminar in Kyiv on 9-10 October.
Ministers welcomed WEU’s continued efforts to enhance the substance of the Mediterranean dialogue, strengthening the cooperation with Mediterranean partners; in this connection, they noted the seminar on WEU’s role in the Mediterranean and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership to be held with non-WEU Mediterranean countries in Genoa on 4-5 December.

WEU ASSEMBLY

10. Ministers paid tribute to the role played by WEU’s Parliamentary Assembly.

PROGRAMME OF GERMAN PRESIDENCY

11. Ministers welcomed the statement presented by Germany on its programme for its forthcoming Presidency of WEU during the first semester of 1999. The programme includes:

initiating a reflection on the question of Europe’s security and defence in the future;

further strengthening of institutional links and practical cooperation with the European Union, in particular with a view to the early drawing up, together with the European Union, of arrangements for enhanced cooperation between the Western European Union and the European Union pursuant to the protocol on Article 17 of the Amsterdam Treaty;

reinforcing WEU’s institutional and practical cooperation with the Atlantic Alliance, in particular with a view to finalizing all essential elements necessary for the implementation of the European Security and Defence Identity within the Alliance by the time of the Washington Summit;

pursuing requests by the EU under Art. J.4(2) of the Treaty on European Union:

to extend and strengthen WEU’s training and advisory police mission in Albania (MAPE) to contribute to the re-establishment of a viable police force and thereby to promote stability in the region;

and to train and supervise mine clearance specialists and mine clearance instructors in Croatia and to contribute to the international verification mission in Kosovo by making available the capabilities of the WEU Satellite Centre;

maintaining and improving WEU’s operational capabilities in particular through exercises;
preparing the accession of the three future members of the Alliance to the WEU as Associate Members;

undertaking further practical steps to strengthen WEU nations’ cooperation with a view to their participation in WEU operations;

intensifying WEU’s dialogue with third countries.
1. The Defence Ministers of the thirteen nations of the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG), the European forum for armaments cooperation, together with their colleagues from Austria, Finland and Sweden, who were participating for the first time, met before the WEU Council meeting on 16 November 1998.

2. They reviewed the evolving situation in the field of armaments and the specific armaments cooperation activities carried out within the WEAG, in particular the progress towards the establishment of the European Armaments Agency (EAA) and the status of the implementation of the European Armaments Partnership.

3. Ministers considered the various armaments related initiatives at industrial, governmental and institutional level in Europe and, recognizing the need for coherence, reaffirmed WEAG as the single European forum for armaments cooperation and their intention to create the EAA.

4. Concerning WEAG perspectives, Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made on issues such as the WEAG Masterplan on the EAA, the European Armaments Partnership and the relations between WEAG and the European Union.

5. Concerning progress towards the European Armaments Agency, Ministers recalled the work previously undertaken by the WEAG to develop the framework for armaments cooperation in Europe and discussed the recently developed Masterplan on the EAA. They agreed on the Masterplan as the basis for further development and actions towards the EAA and they welcomed the establishment of a group of national experts for the performance of studies and further development of the Masterplan.

6. Ministers also considered the progress on widening participation in WEAG activities for non-WEAG nations and welcomed in particular the enhanced relations with Finland and Sweden.

7. Concerning the envisaged participation in research and technology programmes, WEAG Defence Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding, known as SOCRATE (System Of Cooperation for Research And Technology in Europe), which allows the WEAG research and technology community to be extended initially to Finland and Sweden.

8. In the more general context of the European Armaments Partnership, Ministers noted the level of interest shown and, recognizing that there may be scope for further involvement of non-WEAG nations, noted with appreciation that areas for further improvement have been identified and will be examined. In the specific case of the Russian Federation and Ukraine they approved a policy on relations between the WEAG and these nations.
9. Looking beyond these achievements within the agreed set of modalities, Ministers considered the need to explore the developing relationship of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland with NATO and WEU and tasked the National Armaments Directors to further examine this issue and propose a possible WEAG position for consideration at the next Ministerial meeting.

10. Ministers welcomed the enhancement of the ongoing informal dialogue between the WEAG and the European Union and also the developing relationship between WEAG and NATO.

11. Concerning the regular activities within WEAG, Ministers welcomed the progress made in identifying and promoting opportunities for equipment cooperation. In the area of research and technology, Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts which are being undertaken to increase R&T expenditure within WEAG with the aim to make WEAG/WEAO the forum of choice for R&T cooperation in Europe. In this context, Ministers also signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the mutual use of Governmental Test Facilities. This MoU facilitates access to as well as more effective use of Test Facilities and will, in the long-term, contribute to rationalisation and mutual interdependency in this field. With regard to the European Defence Equipment Market and the Defence Technological and Industrial Base Ministers noted that work is progressing and that the 1990 WEAG Coherent Policy Document is being reviewed.

12. Finally, Ministers welcomed that the WEAO has established a recognized role in the research and technology community and they noted the annual report by the Board of Directors.

13. The WEU Council (members of WEAG) adopted the conclusions of the WEAG Defence Ministers.
MINISTERS REVIEWED THE PROGRESS MADE SINCE THEIR MEETING IN RHODES.

WEU'S OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Ministers noted with interest the report by the Presidency on the Military Committee meeting held in Rome on 23 October.

2. They observed with satisfaction that the setting up of the WEU Military Committee and Military Staff represents a major contribution to enhancing the Organization’s operational capabilities. In particular, Ministers noted a document on personnel management within the WEU Military Staff. They also noted the concept for the revision of the Military Staff, guiding principles and timetable for implementation, which will allow timely proposals to be made. An interim solution will also be required to take into account the future incorporation of new WEU Associate Members. They noted with interest the mandate given by the Military Committee to the Military Delegates Committee aimed at improving the harmonization of future military operational requirements.

3. Ministers endorsed the document on the terms of reference of a Dedicated Planning Cell Unit, as part of the implementation of decisions taken at Erfurt and Rhodes on the participation of WEU Observer nations concerned in planning for operations in respect of which they have notified their intention to contribute.

4. Ministers noted the WEU exercise concept which provides an overall conceptual framework for the implementation of the WEU exercise policy. In this context, conscious of the need for training to strengthen its operational capabilities, they looked forward to the WEU crisis management exercise CRISEX'98 due to take place from 20-26 November. Ministers underlined that the observation arrangements for the exercise provided a valuable opportunity to familiarize various partner institutions and third countries with WEU decision-making mechanisms and procedures. They noted France’s offer to demonstrate its mobile ground station in the margins of CRISEX’98. Ministers further noted that this exercise would provide useful lessons learned for the future on these agreed mechanisms and procedures, including the interaction between WEU HQ and nations.
5. Ministers welcomed the increasing contribution of the Satellite Centre in support of WEU's missions. They took note of the report on the evaluation of the possibilities of WEU's participation in a developing multilateral European Programme, approved the recommendations contained and tasked the Permanent Council to take this work forward. Ministers appreciated the finalization of work on a conceptual framework paper concerning WEU's Space Policy, initiated by the Greek Presidency, and they took note of the relevant document, defining this policy. Ministers noted the decision on the arrangements for implementing the Council decisions on the possible secondment of image analysts from Member States and Associate Members to the Satellite Centre. Ministers further noted with interest the reflection on the possibilities of participation in space activities for Associate Partners and Observers and tasked the Permanent Council to continue this work as a matter of priority.

6. Ministers welcomed the progress made in further enhancing the participation of Associate Partners in WEU's operational activities. In this context, they noted the participation of Associate Partners at relevant meetings in the framework of the Military Delegates Committee; the decision to involve all 28 WEU nations in the meetings of the Transatlantic Forum; the implementation of the Erfurt decisions on involving Associate Partners in Eurogroup activities, and the first visit of Associate Partners to the WEU Satellite Centre in Torrejón on 5 June 1998. Ministers requested the Permanent Council to continue to explore possibilities for the further involvement of Associate Partners in the operational development of WEU.

7. Ministers welcomed the ongoing effort by Hungary, Italy and Slovenia to set up the Multinational Land Force (MLF). The Force is expected to become operational by the end of 1999 and will then be declared answerable to WEU for Petersberg type missions, on the basis of a unanimous decision by these three countries, within the framework of employment established in their agreement.

Ministers welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe and expressed their belief that this initiative will contribute to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and foster the good-neighbourly relations and cooperation among the South-Eastern European countries. They noted with satisfaction that the force will be available for employment in UN or OSCE-mandated NATO-led or WEU-led conflict prevention and other peace support operations.

Ministers welcomed the decision of Spain and Italy to nominate, once activated, the Spanish-Italian Amphibious Force (SIAF) answerable to WEU. They noted with satisfaction that the force may be employed in the framework of WEU for the missions defined in the Petersberg Declaration.

8. Ministers noted the reports of the Turkish Chairman of Eurocom, the Spanish Chairman of Eurolongterm and the UK Chairman of the Western European Logistics Group (WELG) on the work of the three groups.
9. Ministers noted with interest the work accomplished in the field of the strategic mobility concept for WEU.

**WEU'S PRESENCE IN ALBANIA AND CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION**

10. Ministers reaffirmed WEU’s resolve to continue its contribution to the efforts to promote national reconciliation and stability in Albania, notably through its Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) mission directed to training, advice and evaluation for the Albanian police forces. Through a mid-term review of MAPE’s current mandate the Council has identified ways to focus MAPE’s work more closely on key priorities for the training and modernization of the Albanian police, and – building on initiatives by the Italian Presidency – to achieve more effective liaison and coordination with other national and international initiatives in this field. Ministers tasked the Council to ensure the rapid implementation of all measures required for these ends.

11. In view of the grave developments in Kosovo and their consequences for the region, MAPE was tasked in June to give special priority to training, advice and assistance for Albanian border police, including the assessment of their material needs. Representatives of the WEU Military Staff have meanwhile participated in the Alliance’s assessment and planning work related to the Kosovo emergency. Responding to impulses from the European Union in the context of a comprehensive European strategy for support to Albania — including a J.4.2 decision adopted by the EU Council – WEU has studied ways to widen and better focus the geographic and functional scope of its support for the maintenance of law and order, given the necessary security conditions and material and financial support. In this context, Ministers welcomed the outcome of the Feasibility Study on international police operations in Albania and the subsequent production of a contingency plan by the Military Staff and stressed the importance of the ongoing work of the Permanent Council on that basis.

12. Ministers welcomed the recommendations of the Tirana International Conference that more resources should be channelled into meeting the equipment needs of the Albanian police, through the EU and bilateral assistance programmes.

**STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH THE EU**

13. Intensive efforts have been made, in the light of priorities identified in WEU’s Declaration of 22 July 1997, to enhance both institutional and practical cooperation with the EU and to prepare the best possible foundation for implementation of Article J.7 (1) – (3) of the Treaty on European Union.

14. Ministers welcomed the effective operation of Article J.4.2 of the Maastricht Treaty as demonstrated by the requests made by the Council of the European Union with regard to WEU’s work on a Feasibility Study for possible international police operations in Albania, and a WEU humanitarian mine-clearance assistance mission in Croatia. Ministers expressed their satisfaction that close dialogue has been established between the institutions on follow-up in both areas.
15. Ministers welcomed the initiative taken by the EU to present illustrative profiles of some cases in which it might wish to avail itself of WEU and to invite WEU to develop these, thus strengthening practical readiness for specific emergencies. They tasked the Permanent Council to carry forward the necessary work on WEU's response.

16. Ministers appreciated the useful work carried out in the EU/WEU joint ad hoc group, including the completion and notation by both Councils of a "modus operandi" for linking the decision-making processes in crisis management operations for which the EU avails itself of WEU. The joint seminar held on 18 June to test these procedures in the light of an illustrative scenario underlined the value of the "modus operandi" and allowed valuable supplementary lessons to be drawn. Ministers tasked the Permanent Council to continue, in close cooperation with the EU, to refine and build upon the lessons learned.

17. Ministers noted the continuing valuable reflection on the framing of a Common European Defence Policy, which has been based on a pragmatic approach, identifying building blocks and considering inventory work without prejudice to the eventual form and content of a CEDP.

18. Ministers also welcomed the work done by the ad hoc group to identify, as one of the building blocks, the principles and practical implications of civil/military cooperation with special reference to humanitarian missions for which the EU may avail itself of WEU. They tasked the Permanent Council to ensure follow-up of the practical proposals developed for better EU/WEU interface in these fields and to monitor progress on the related action programme. They encouraged further work on these lines by the ad hoc group, covering also other functional types of Petersberg missions.

19. Ministers noted that work was continuing towards the establishment of improved security arrangements for facilitating the flow of classified information between the two organizations and tasked the Permanent Council, in consultation with the appropriate EU authorities, to pursue this work as a matter of priority.

20. Ministers noted the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General and approved by the WEU Permanent Council for closer coordination of the work of the staff of the Secretariat-General of WEU with the General Secretariat of the EU Council, and expressed their hope for speedy implementation of these measures in agreement with the European Union. They underlined the importance they attached to WEU's effective cooperation with the future EU Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit, and tasked the Council to begin work as soon as practicable, in consultation with the European Union, to ensure WEU's full and timely contribution in this respect.

21. Ministers noted the work proceeding in the Permanent Council on the basis of a report presented by the Secretary-General on measures for ensuring cooperation of WEU with the European Commission, reflecting the Commission's role in the CFSP as defined in the revised Treaty on European Union. They tasked the Council to finalize this work promptly in order to start the speedy implementation of such measures in cooperation with the European Commission, and to review the opportunities for further enhancement of these relations in the light inter alia of progress towards the implementation of the Treaty of Amsterdam.
22. Ministers welcomed the recent meeting between the European Commissioner Ms Emma Bonino and the Permanent Council, on 27 October, organized on the initiative of the Italian Presidency, which contributed to identifying further possibilities for cooperation between WEU and the Commission in the humanitarian field, with a view to the strengthening of their relationship.

23. Recalling the WEU Declaration of 22 July 1997, Ministers agreed that the progress made, as set out above, was an important contribution to the enhanced cooperation between WEU and EU consistent with the Protocol on Article J.7 of the Treaty on European Union. They tasked the Permanent Council to take up as a matter of priority the measures required for prompt and effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty of Amsterdam relevant to the relationship between WEU and the EU.

24. Ministers noted the need for increased practical cooperation with the European Union in the context of WEU’s MAPE mission in Albania. They tasked the Permanent Council to pursue any necessary enhancement in consultation with the EU, in particular possibilities of further improvement in funding mechanisms beyond the PHARE programme.

25. Ministers welcomed the forthcoming visit by experts from the EU Commission to the Satellite Centre with a view to identifying possible areas of cooperation.

26. Ministers noted with interest the initiative taken with support from the WEU and EU Presidencies to arrange a forum for members of the WEU Assembly and European Parliament, with other national, institutional and expert participants, in Rome on 16 November.

They welcomed the converging views of members of the WEU Assembly and the European Parliament on the need to strengthen Europe’s resolve to address the issues of common security and defence, promoting a closer relationship between WEU and the EU, taking into account the imminent entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty.

27. Ministers look forward to the high-level seminar on European Cooperation in the Field of Defence Industry being hosted by the WEU Presidency at Rome on 17 November 1998, which will give them the opportunity to debate matters of common concern with representatives of WEU, WEAG, EU and some industrialists.

REINFORCING RELATIONS WITH NATO

28. The priority areas for WEU/NATO cooperation and for reinforcing the two organizations’ relationship have been clearly identified and pursued by both organizations in harmony, on the basis of earlier Ministerial decisions and with the aim of putting all essential elements in place by the time of NATO’s Washington Summit.
29. Ministers welcomed the progress made in NATO/WEU joint work towards a document setting out principles and modalities for the transfer, monitoring, and return or recall of NATO assets and capabilities for future WEU-led operations. They appreciated the working approach adopted by both organizations which does not prejudice the eventual form and content of such a document, and the intensive efforts made to identify its key elements and to develop the appropriate practical provisions. They urged that every effort should be made to allow the adoption of such a document by the time of the Washington Summit in terms which fully meet the needs and respect the requirements of both organizations.

30. Ministers welcomed the joint NATO/WEU Crisis Management Workshop held on 10 September, which inter alia assessed a series of key issues in the NATO/WEU consultation process related to future WEU-led operations and opened up new prospects for achieving fully harmonized, practicable arrangements in this field. They tasked the Permanent Council to ensure that progress in this respect is reviewed at regular intervals.

31. Ministers drew attention to the importance of joint work and compatible approaches by WEU and NATO in the field of military planning and welcomed the efforts being made to develop solutions consonant with the evolving needs of both organizations.

32. Ministers noted that a joint programme of preparations for the first ever WEU/NATO Exercise, CMX/CRiSEX 2000, has been adopted and is well on track, with the benefit of close cooperation between responsible staffs on both sides. They looked forward to the adoption by both Councils, in the coming months, of the Exercise Specification and to the scheduling of joint planning conferences during 1999.

33. Ministers welcomed the progress made in implementing NATO’s and WEU’s working agreement on modalities for WEU’s participation in the NATO defence planning process, which now include practical arrangements for the involvement of non-allied WEU Observer States. They welcomed the ongoing discussion on a possible involvement of Associate Partner states in WEU’s contribution to the NATO defence planning process. They endorsed WEU’s contribution for the 1998 NATO Ministerial Guidance and approved its transmission to NATO.

34. They welcomed the arrangements made, pursuant to paragraph 26 of the Rhodos Declaration, for representatives of the WEU Military Staff to be involved in NATO’s assessment and planning work related to Kosovo and regional stability. The exchange of information on plans and concepts as well as the secondment of a WEU liaison officer to the International Military Staff have not only helped to maintain transparency and complementarity of institutional approaches in the specific instance but also to deepen the working relations, confidence and understanding between WEU and the Alliance.

35. They also noted the value of the continuing practice of reciprocal observation at trials and exercises, including WEU’s invitation for NATO to observe Exercise CRiSEX’98; and the development of contacts between the WEU Council and NATO’s Military Authorities, including the discussions held for the first time with Deputy SACLANT.
36. Ministers noted with appreciation the visit made by NATO experts to the WEU Satellite Centre on 11 September 1998 and the interest subsequently confirmed by NATO in drawing, on a case-by-case basis, on the resources of the Centre. They looked forward to the elaboration of the necessary cooperation procedures.

**RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES**

37. Ministers stressed the importance of developing WEU’s relations with third countries.

38. In this context, Ministers welcomed the further enhancement of the ongoing dialogue and cooperation with the Russian Federation which had taken place since their last meeting. In particular, Ministers noted the valuable exchange of views between the 28 WEU nations and Russia on the subject of peacekeeping. Ministers looked forward to the observation by Russia of the upcoming WEU exercise CRISEX’98. They welcomed the progress in discussions on an agreement on large capacity air transport assets and looked forward to its early conclusion. They tasked the Permanent Council to continue to promote WEU’s dialogue with Russia and to explore further possibilities for practical cooperation.

39. Ministers noted the Ukrainian proposals for enhanced practical cooperation with WEU. They looked forward to a forthcoming visit by Ukrainian experts to the WEU Satellite Centre in Torrejón and to the observation by Ukraine of the upcoming WEU exercise CRISEX’98. Ministers took note with interest of the seminar on ‘Western Europe and Ukraine’, organized by the Istituto di Affari Internazionali and the WEU Institute for Security Studies in Kyiv from 9-10 October, under the auspices of the Italian Presidency, which provided a useful opportunity to raise awareness on issues related to European cooperation in the field of security and WEU’s role therein. They tasked the Permanent Council to examine all possibilities for further dialogue and practical cooperation with Ukraine.

40. Ministers reaffirmed their wish for a timely ratification of the Open Skies Treaty by Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

41. Ministers welcomed the latest pragmatic initiatives to enhance the dialogue with non-WEU Mediterranean Countries, as well as the continued efforts to enrich its substance. Ministers noted the ongoing reflections of the Mediterranean Group on the possible WEU contribution to the political and security Chapter of the Barcelona process. In this regard they considered particularly appropriate the organization of the Seminar on WEU’s role in the Mediterranean and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which will take place in Genoa, 4 and 5 December, under the auspices of the Italian Presidency. Ministers noted with interest the Institute’s initiative in organizing an information seminar for military staff from the Mediterranean dialogue partners which took place in Paris on 28-29 September. Ministers tasked the Permanent Council to review and pursue its work in developing the dialogue with the Mediterranean partners, taking into consideration the Barcelona process and NATO’s Mediterranean dialogue.
42. Ministers took note with appreciation of the ongoing dialogue between Cyprus* and Western European Union that evolves in line with the development of Cyprus'* links with the European Union, with which negotiations for accession are continuing. Ministers noted the submission of Cyprus'* application for Associate Partnership.

UN

43. In the context of WEU’s role among the mutually reinforcing organizations active in European cooperation and security building, WEU contributed to the Third Meeting between the UN and Regional Organizations in New York on 28-29 July 1998, which focused on early warning and conflict prevention, and will take part in the practical follow-up. WEU is prepared to support, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with its own procedures, the effective implementation of conflict prevention and crisis management measures, including peace support operations endorsed by the UN Security Council.

OSCE

44. WEU supports the OSCE’s role in creating an integrative and flexible framework for cooperative security and cooperation among different organizations and institutions. WEU continues to support and contribute to the ongoing work on the platform for cooperative security and participated in the OSCE meeting with other international organizations which took place in Vienna on 3 July. Ministers confirmed WEU’s readiness to support the OSCE in its crisis management tasks on a case-by-case basis. In this connection, they welcomed the close cooperation between the WEU and the OSCE presence in Albania and expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the OSCE to provide a coherent package of assistance to Albania.

TRANSATLANTIC FORUM

45. Ministers welcomed the programme of activities of the Transatlantic Forum to be implemented under the Danish Presidency, which builds on the objectives and achievements of previous presidencies. Ministers welcomed in particular the decision to allow for the participation of Associate Partners in the Council Working Group on the Transatlantic Forum, in accordance with the tasking contained in the Rhodos Declaration.

* Turkey dissociates itself from this reference by reserving its stated position on this issue.
OTHER QUESTIONS

46. Ministers stressed the important contribution of the WEU Parliamentary Assembly and its Committees in relation to the Organization’s work and welcomed the fact that the President of the Assembly addressed them at their Rome meeting.

47. Ministers noted the decision of the Permanent Council on the gradual development of the Institute for Security Studies into a European Security and Defence Academy, building on the tasks assigned to the Institute and taking into account the evolution of mutually reinforcing relations with other institutions and initiatives. Ministers welcomed the involvement of all 28 WEU nations in the Institute’s activities.

48. Ministers expressed their high appreciation for the achievements of the Satellite Centre under the authority of its Director, Mr Bernard Molard who will complete his term of office at the end of this year and welcomed the appointment of Mr Fernando Davara as the new Director of the Satellite Centre.

49. Ministers welcomed WEU’s participation, following the invitation of the Portuguese Government, in EXPO 98 in Lisbon.