P? 607

EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 6 May 1999

SEMDOC
Statewatch European Documentation & Monitoring Centre on justice and home affairs in the European Union

PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW, UK
tel: 0181 802 1882 (00 44 181 802 1882)
fax: 0181 880 1727 (00 44 181 880 1727)

8046/99

LIMITE

PESC 123
COSEC 27

"A" ITEM NOTE

from : Secretariat

to : Council

prev. doc. 14323/98 PESC 343 COSEC 45
7570/99 PESC 97 COSEC 23

Subject : Draft Council decision concerning the practical arrangements for the participation of all the Member States in tasks under Article 17(2) of the Treaty on European Union for which the Union avails itself of WEU

1. The Amsterdam Treaty (article 17, para. 3, third subparagraph) provides that "When the Union avails itself of the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions of the Union on the tasks referred to in paragraph 2 all Member States of the Union shall be entitled to participate fully in the tasks in question. The Council, in agreement with the institutions of the WEU, shall adopt the necessary practical arrangements to allow all Member States contributing to the tasks in question to participate fully and on an equal footing in planning and decision-taking in the WEU.".

2. At its meeting of 26 April 1999, the Council agreed in principle on the draft decision contained in doc. 7580/99 PESC 98 COSEC 24, with a view to its final adoption, following finalisation of the text by legal/linguistic experts, at the first Council session, following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty.

3. It is suggested that the Committee of Permanent Representatives invite the Council:

   - to proceed to the final adoption of the decision which, following finalisation by the legal-linguistic experts, is contained in document 7481/99 PESC 89 COSEC 21;

   - to decide that the attached statement be entered in the Council minutes and published in the Official Journal.

Statement to be inserted in the minutes of the Council and published in the Official Journal

The Member States of the EU which are members of the WEU stated that the WEU Council adopted, on 18 November 1997, a Decision on the implementation of paragraph 14, 4th - 6th indents of the WEU Declaration of 22 July 1997. They indicated that this Decision contained modalities allowing the Member States which are WEU observers to participate fully in all operations undertaken by WEU, which shall apply to measures within the range of Petersberg tasks undertaken by WEU in response to any specific crisis.

The Council took note of this Statement.