

WEU Ministerial Council, The Hague, April 1988

WEU Council of Ministers

Statement on Recent Events in the Gulf

The Hague, 18-19 April/1988

The member States of WEU expressed their grave concern at the recent increase in hostilities in the Gulf following new mining activities and attacks against merchant shipping in the area.

They stress the necessity of respecting the principle of free navigation. Several member states contribute to the safeguarding of this right by their maritime presence in the Gulf. The member States reaffirm the importance of such a contribution to the maintenance of freedom of navigation.

They urgently call for an immediate end to all mining and other hostile activities against shipping in international waters, taking into account that such activities can call for measures for self defence.

They will continue their diplomatic efforts, particularly within the EPC framework, to support all endeavours towards the full and early implementation of Resolution 598 of the Security Council, which is the only framework for an overall solution to the problems raised by the Iraq- Iran conflict.
