

## WEU Ministerial meeting

### Communiqué

*Paris, 21 August 1990*

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1. The Foreign and Defence Ministers of WEU met on 21 August 1990 to discuss the situation in the Gulf caused by the Iraqi invasion and then the annexation of Kuwait. The meeting was held pursuant to Article VIII, paragraph 3, of the WEU Treaty, the Rome Declaration of October 1984 and the Platform on European Security Interests of October 1987, which provides for member countries to concert their policies on crises outside Europe insofar as they may affect European security interests.
  2. The Ministers of the WEU member States repeat their unreserved condemnation of the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and call on Iraq to comply immediately and unconditionally with UN Security Council Resolutions 660 and 662. They restate their firm determination to continue to take all necessary steps to comply with the embargo of Iraq in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 661 and to render it effective. They call on the Security Council to take any further useful measures to this end.
  3. Ministers declare that the determination their Ministers intend to display in upholding the law is for the sole purpose of ending aggression and its consequences. The action they have initiated is aimed at upholding respect of the principles which must obtain in relations among States, for they concern the whole international community and serve as a safeguard for all its members.
  4. Faced with a situation that in the first instance affects the Arab States, Ministers emphasise the solidarity linking their countries to the Arab world and their resolve to support its efforts to seek a solution from within which respects the relevant Security Council Resolutions in the context of their ongoing cooperation and dialogue with the Arab world.
  5. Ministers express their acute concern and indignation at the restrictions on the freedom of movement of nationals of the member countries and at the inhuman treatment inflicted on some of those nationals. They warn Iraq of the grave consequences that would inevitably ensue were their safety to be placed at risk. They reiterate their support for Security Council Resolution 664 and demand that Iraq complies with it without delay.
  6. They stress that WEU member countries, bearing in mind the vital European interests in the stability, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the states of the area, intend to contribute towards further enhancing the unprecedented international solidarity that has developed since the aggression and has led to effective action by the UN Security Council. The countries that are suffering from the economic consequences of this action deserve their solidarity.
  7. Ministers welcome the measures being taken by member States in support of UN Security Council Resolution 661 and in response to the requests for assistance from States in the Gulf region, with the aim of obliging Iraq unconditionally to withdraw its troops from Kuwaiti territory and restore Kuwait's sovereignty.
  8. They have decided closely to coordinate their operations in the area aimed at implementing and enforcing the measures mentioned in paragraph 7, as well as any further measures the Security Council may adopt, also assuring, by common agreement, the protection of their forces. Building on the experience acquired, including the consultation mechanisms during the Gulf operations in 1987 and 1988, they have instructed an ad hoc group of Foreign and Defence Ministry representatives to ensure the most effective coordination in capitals and in the region. This should cover among other things overall operational concepts and specific guidelines for coordination between forces in the region, including areas of operation, sharing of tasks, logistical support and exchange of intelligence. Contact points are being nominated in the Ministries of Defence to assist with cooperation at the practical/technical level and, as an immediate step, to prepare for a meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staff to be held in the next few days.
  9. Ministers emphasise that coordination within WEU should also facilitate cooperation with other countries deploying forces in the region, including those of the United States.
  10. The Presidency of the Council will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the outcome of this meeting.