

# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

## WEU MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

### EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON THE SITUATION IN THE GULF

Paris, 17 January 1991

#### Communiqué

1. The Foreign and Defence Ministers of the member countries of WEU met in Paris on 17 January 1991, together with representatives of Denmark, Greece, Norway and Turkey who were attending as observers.

They deplored the fact that Iraq has, right up to the deadline of 15 January 1991 set by Resolution 678 of the Security Council, remained impervious to the repeated calls by the international community to comply with international law, as conveyed in the last instance by the UN Secretary-General. Consequently they condemn the Iraqi authorities, who were responsible for opening hostilities. If Iraq and its people are now exposed to the ordeal of war, the responsibility lies with Saddam Hussein.

They nevertheless expressed the hope that Saddam Hussein will finally see reason and withdraw his forces from Kuwaiti territory in order to bring the war to an end and to avoid further unnecessary suffering of his own people.

They recalled the primacy of international law and consequently reaffirmed their determination to implement all the decisions of the Security Council, in particular Resolution 678.

They pledged their full support for those amongst them, as well as for their other coalition partners who have quite legitimately resorted to armed force. They saluted the courage of the armed forces involved in these operations. They recalled that the objective is to restore the sovereignty and integrity of Kuwait and not to wage war on the Iraqi people.

2. Whatever the subsequent developments in this crisis, they solemnly warned Iraq against any further violation of the law, in particular the international conventions applicable in the event of armed conflict.

3. They decided to give practical expression to the solidarity which unites them and consequently to strengthen the coordination between them, in concertation with the other countries which are committed to ensuring that the law is upheld. This applies in particular to the coordination of the naval forces of WEU countries participating in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 678, and to the coordination by WEU countries of logistic support for ground and air forces.

As far as naval coordination is concerned, they stressed the importance of the setting-up of a WEU coordination authority in theatre, to which the member countries present in the region will be able to assign a liaison officer.

In the logistic field, they intend to provide a real-time response to the various requests made by the member countries.

They are already studying what role the member countries may play after the war. They hope that the countries of the region may then, without delay, be able to develop security relationships which ensure long-term peace and stability.

4. They expressed their solidarity with the countries of the region and resolved to continue their humanitarian aid, particularly to those countries most severely affected by the war.

5. Ministers agreed to remain in constant contact during the new phase of the crisis which had just begun, and to meet again whenever the need arises.