

# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,  
ROME, 20 NOVEMBER 1992

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## Declaration on Former Yugoslavia

Ministers discussed the extremely grave situation in former Yugoslavia and in particular the deteriorating conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They expressed dismay at continuing acts of aggression and violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the unacceptable practice of "ethnic cleansing" as well as at the repeated gross violations of human rights. They condemned all forms of obstruction of humanitarian operations. They called on all parties to respect the principles and decisions agreed at the London Conference and to work with the UN and EC special envoys to seek a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the problems of former Yugoslavia.

They reaffirmed the need for strict compliance with all relevant UNSC Resolutions and stressed that violations of those Resolutions would call for consideration of further measures by the UN Security Council.

They also reaffirmed their determination to reinforce the contribution WEU and its member States were making in support of the efforts of the whole international community to bring peace to former Yugoslavia and to relieve the suffering of its peoples. In this regard, they noted that, since 16 July 1992, warships and aircraft of WEU member States, under Italian operational control, have been carrying out operations to monitor at sea compliance with the embargo established by UN Security Council Resolutions 713 and 757. So far 3,649 ships have been monitored by WEU operations and 71 suspected violations have been reported.

Ministers therefore welcomed the adoption of UNSC Resolution 787. They decided that WEU will contribute to its implementation and that, to this end, warships and aircraft of WEU member States, on the basis of approved joint planning, will start operations aimed at ensuring the strict implementation of the embargo at sea. These will include stop and search actions and other measures as necessary. The participation of the member States will be subject to the provisions of their national constitutions.

WEU operations in the Adriatic have been undertaken and will continue to be carried out in close coordination with NATO. WEU will continue to ensure that the two Organizations work closely together.

WEU member States emphasized the importance of the sanctions assistance missions to which they contribute as members of the EC. They appealed to the Danube riparian States to ensure the strict application of the relevant UNSC Resolutions and confirmed that they were prepared to offer, if requested, expertise, technical assistance and equipment to those States to prevent the use of the river Danube for the purpose of circumventing or breaking sanctions. They also affirmed their willingness to make similar contributions to the implementation of the control of the land embargo at the frontiers!

WEU member States are contributing in a variety of ways to the enhanced operations of UNPROFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina which are now beginning their task of ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance. They reaffirmed the collective determination of WEU member States to contribute to the protection and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the responsibility of the UN and to offer further support to these operations. The member States of WEU are also prepared to study the possibility of and the requirements for the promotion of safe areas for humanitarian purposes.