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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges i forbindelse med regeringskonferencen forslag fra Benelux-landene og Italien vedr. forsvars- og sikkerhedspolitikken, CONFER 4788/00.

**CONFERENCE
DES REPRÉSENTANTS DES
GOUVERNEMENTS
DES ÉTATS MEMBRES**

Bruxelles, le 23 octobre 2000

CONFER 4788/00

LIMITE

COPIE DE LETTRE

de: l'Italie et du Benelux
à: Monsieur H. Védrine, Président de la Conférence intergouvernementale (au niveau ministériel)

Objet: **CIG 2000:**
– *Politique européenne en matière de Sécurité et de Défense*

L'Italie, la Belgique, le Luxembourg et les Pays-Bas attachent une grande importance au développement de la Politique Européenne de Sécurité et de Défense. Le progrès important que nous avons accompli et l'ambition de l'Union dans ce domaine, méritent une base dans le traité.

A cette fin, nous avons formulé quelques propositions textuelles que nous avons le plaisir de vous faire parvenir ci-joint.

Nous nous réjouissons de discuter ces propositions prochainement au sein de la Conférence intergouvernementale.

(Formule de politesse).

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Ministre des Affaires étrangères du Luxembourg

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Ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Belgique

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ARGUMENTAIRE

L'Italie, la Belgique, les Pays-Bas et le Luxembourg proposent un aménagement des articles 17 et 25 du TUE. Cet aménagement, qui a été opéré de manière aussi légère que possible, répond à un double objectif.

- Le premier, un objectif politique, consiste à faire en sorte que le traité reflète les développements significatifs qui ont eu lieu depuis le Sommet de Cologne dans le domaine de la PESD.
- Le second objectif, à caractère opérationnel, tend à mettre en place un processus décisionnel qui permettra à l'Union d'agir avec l'efficacité requise dans le domaine de la PESD.

Article 17

1. The common foreign and security policy shall include all questions relating to the security of the Union, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy, (~~DELETE: in accordance with the second subparagraph,~~) which might lead to a common defence, should the European Council so decide. It shall in that case recommend to the Member States the adoption of such a decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

~~DELETE~~ (*The Western European Union (WEU) is an integral part of the development of the Union providing the Union with access to an operational capability notably in the context of paragraph 2. It supports the Union in framing the defence aspects of the common foreign and security policy as set out in this Article. The Union shall accordingly foster closer institutional relations with the WEU with a view to the possibility of the integration of the WEU into the Union, should the European Council so decide. It shall in that case recommend to the Member States the adoption of such a decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.*)

The policy of the Union in accordance with this Article shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and shall respect the obligations of certain Member States, which see their common defence realised in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), under the North Atlantic Treaty and be compatible with the common security and defence policy established within that framework.

The progressive framing of a common defence policy will be supported, as Member States consider appropriate, by cooperation between them in the field of armaments.

2. Questions referred to in this Article shall include humanitarian and rescue tasks, peace-keeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking.

~~NEW~~ In order to fully assume those tasks, the Union develops appropriate capabilities and instruments in cooperation, where appropriate, with NATO.

~~DELETE~~ (3. *The Union will avail itself of the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications.*)

The competence of the European Council to establish guidelines in accordance with Article 13 shall also obtain in respect of the WEU for those matters for which the Union avails itself of the WEU.

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.

Decisions having defence implications dealt with under this paragraph shall be taken without prejudice to the policies and obligations referred to in paragraph 1, third subparagraph.)

4. The provisions of this Article shall not prevent the development of closer cooperation between two or more Member States on a bilateral level, in the framework of the WEU and the Atlantic Alliance, provided such cooperation does not run counter to or impede that provided for in this Title.

5. With a view to furthering the objectives of this Article, the provisions of this Article will be reviewed in accordance with Article 48.

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Article 25

Without prejudice to Article 207 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, a Political Committee shall monitor the international situation in the areas covered by the common foreign and security policy and contribute to the definition of policies by delivering opinions to the Council at the request of the Council or on its own initiative. It shall also monitor the implementation of agreed policies, without prejudice to the responsibility of the Presidency and the Commission.

NEW 2. The Committee, meeting as standing Political and Security Committee, shall deal with all aspects of the CFSP and exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, the political control and strategic direction of crisis management operations.

NEW 3. For the purpose of a crisis management operation this Committee may be authorized to take any decision concerning the political control and strategic direction of the operation. The said authorization, subject to rules and conditions as established by the Council, is granted by the Council in the context of the decision, to be adopted according to Article 23, of engaging a EU-led crisis management operation and remains in force until the Council decides to end the operation, unless otherwise decided.

NEW 4. In assuming its tasks, the Committee is assisted by a Military Committee, composed of the Chiefs of Defence of Member States or their representatives, and a Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management.

