

External Security

The Congress of European Liberals and Democrats

NOTING THAT

- the question of European defence is an increasingly important element in political debate as has been demonstrated by the Haagerup report, which has been adopted by the European Parliament with an overwhelming majority. A political union of the European continent which takes no account of security is inconceivable,

- the draft Treaty on European Union, adopted by the European Parliament in February 1984 with the support of the European Liberals and Democrats, extends the scope of cooperation to include foreign and security policy and grants to the Council wider powers with regard to armaments, limitation on arms trading, disarmament and defence policy,

- the Council and the Assembly of the WEU (Western European Union) at the meeting held in Rome in October 1984, drew up plans giving new impetus to the work of this organisation, while the meeting held in Bonn in April 1985, further substantiated these plans,

- the Atlantic Alliance is the indispensable foundation of Western European security #

- the security of Europe concerns not only military aggression, but also deliberate destabilisation measures, subversive terrorism, sabotage, false information campaigns and espionage,

- the stability of Europe is a factor of detente, and that the creation of an European identity in the field of security policy can therefore promote progress in disarmament negotiations. In this context, Liberals and Democrats welcome the resumption of the Geneva negotiations.

1. DEMANDS to implement a real European solidarity in defence matters, based on the following basic principles :

a) the defence of the Allied Western democracies is an indivisible cause;

b) the defence of the territory of Western Europe must be integral.

2, BELIEVES that it is totally unrealistic to imagine an European defence equidistant from the two superpowers.

STRESSES, on the contrary. that European security can only be guaranteed in the framework of the Atlantic Alliance. the Europeans and their North American Allies being placed on an equal footing.

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3. HAS THE OPINION that the new European cooperation in the field of security policy is to:

a) contribute towards-Western European unification by a policy of coordination and joint (industrial).research, development and production in the defence sector, a policy which would make more economic sense;

b) restore a realistic two-way street between the USA and Western Europe in new technologies and arms procurement and trade;

c) raise the "nuclear threshold" by strengthening the defence with conventional means and by making use of new technologies;

d) reinforce defence cooperation, in order to achieve a more effective and efficient use of the resources at each country's disposal.

4. DEMANDS the establishment of an official working party of chiefs of defence staffs, to study which concrete measures could be taken without delay in order to strengthen European defence cooperation.

5. IS CONVINCED that the European Community and contribution it can and will make to detente must be an answer to the call voiced all over Europe for peace security and arms control.

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