

## European Defence

The ELDR Congress,

A. Taking into account the NATO December 1979 dual-track decision to deploy Pershing II and ground-launched Cruise missiles and to pursue arms control negotiations involving these systems between the United States and the Soviet Union;

B. Considering that NATO partners made an ambiguous choice in favour of the so-called "Zero Option" for the simultaneous removal from Western Europe of all Pershing II and Cruise missiles and all SS-20 missiles in Eastern Europe;

C. Considering that the proposal put forward by Soviet leader Gorbachev to remove all medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe allows NATO partners to turn that option into reality;

D. Considering however that the USSR has a substantial advantage in the field of short-range nuclear missiles, chemical weapons and not least in the field of conventional weapons;

E. Considering that the withdrawal from Europe of all medium-range nuclear weapons therefore has clear consequences for European security;

F. Considering that these consequences are not only military, but also political and economic;

G. Considering that the Single Act clearly provides for EC competence with regard to the political and economic consequences of European Security;

H. Considering that in most EC Member States a consensus is in the making towards more attention for a European defence policy;

1. Hopes that the Zero Option can be established in the short term;

2. Does not consider the West European Union to be the only forum to discuss such problems, as only seven out of the 12 Member States are represented therein and as it does not provide for ministerial meetings on a regular basis;

3. Requests an informal summit of European heads of State to be held at EC level in order to discuss the political consequences of the latest disarmament proposals for Europe, as these confront Europeans with their responsibility in defence matters in the short run;

4. Requests that a decision in that sense be taken by the EC Foreign Affairs Ministers at their April 4-5 informal summit;

**Resolution:**

European Defence

**Year and**

**Congress:**

April 1987, Lisbon

**Category:**

Foreign Affairs –

Defence Policy

**Page:**

1

5. Requests that this resolution be transmitted to the President in office of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

**Resolution:**  
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Defence Policy

**Page:**  
2