



TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM MR DOUGLAS HURD AND SGR GIANNI DE MICHELIS

Dear Colleague,

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE

1. We are circulating to colleagues a Declaration on European Security and Defence issued jointly by Italy and the United Kingdom on Friday 4 October.
2. The Declaration is offered as a basis for the discussions on European security which will be taking place this autumn. We have in mind particularly:
  - (a) the articles on European security in the Political Union Treaty, to which paragraphs 2, 3 and 8 in particular of the Anglo-Italian Declaration are relevant,
  - (b) the common guidelines on the links between the Atlantic Alliance and a strengthened European security identity which it was envisaged at the Luxembourg European Council the Eleven might work out with a view to the NATO Summit, and
  - (c) the conclusions of the extraordinary meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Western European Union on 29 October on the role of the WEU and its relationship with the Political Union and the Alliance (which might, as the Luxembourg Presidency earlier envisaged, be annexed to the Political Union treaty).
3. We commend this Declaration to you, and look forward to it being discussed at the informal meeting at Kasteel de Haar and subsequently.

Gianni de Michelis

Douglas Hurd



## DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE

1. The United Kingdom and Italy are fully aware of the challenge that Europe will have to face in the new political and strategic environment of the 90s. For this reason, they wish to contribute - in close association with other partners - to the definition of the framework in which Europe will be able to play a fuller role on the international scene by establishing a Political Union.

### I THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE

2. Political Union implies the gradual elaboration and implementation of a common foreign and security policy and a stronger European defence identity with the longer-term perspective of a common defence policy compatible with the common defence policy we already have with all our allies in NATO.

3. The development of a European identity in the field of security and defence shall be pursued through an evolutionary process involving successive phases.

4. The special relationship between Western Europe and North America, resting on shared values and interests and expressed through the Alliance, is a key element of the European identity. Our mutual defence commitment in the Alliance, and the presence of North American forces in Europe as part of a collective structure, are therefore essential to the common defence of Europe.

5. The revision of the Alliance's tasks and strategy and the development of a common foreign and security policy in the context of Political Union are complementary. They must proceed in parallel and reach mutually satisfactory results. NATO's reform should imply a reinforced European contribution as part of a changed and rebalanced relationship between North America and a more cohesive Europe.

6. The transatlantic relationship is an integral part of the broader idea of Europe which is reflected in the CSCE process. A reformed NATO embodying the transatlantic relationship will therefore be the key component in the development of a system of security including the whole of Europe.

### II THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE IDENTITY AND THE ALLIANCE

7. The development of a European identity in the field of defence should be construed in such a way as to reinforce the Atlantic Alliance. Such a process will not be contradictory but compatible with a strengthened and reformed NATO.

8. WEU should be entrusted with the task of developing the European dimension in the field of defence. It will develop its role in two complementary directions: as the defence component of the Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance.

9. In order better to perform these functions WEU Ministerial organs should be transferred to Brussels. The role of WEU and its



relationship with the Alliance and the Union should be reviewed in 1998 in the context of Article XII of the Brussels Treaty. In order to ensure a better coordination of the activities of WEU with those of the Union and the Alliance, dates and venues of meetings should be synchronised: links appropriate to the different institutions should be established between secretariats as well as between presidencies, and parliamentary assemblies.

10. Consistent with the above, the WEU will take account in its activities of the decisions of the European Council in the context of the common foreign and security policy, and of positions adopted in the context of the Alliance, bearing in mind the different nature of its relations with each body.

11. In order to achieve complementarity between the European defence identity and the Alliance two principles should apply:

(a) Intensified coordination among Europeans on security and defence issues will respect the principle of openness in consultation, in accordance with the Rome Declaration of 1984 on the contribution of all European allies and The Hague platform of 1987 on the need to keep all allies informed of WEU activities.

(b) Complementarity in decision-making. The Alliance will remain the essential forum for agreement on policies bearing on the security and defence commitments of its members under the Washington Treaty. WEU members will consult with other allies in an open spirit, drawing on positions agreed among themselves. On other issues relating to the European defence identity (for example collective action to protect European interests outside the NATO area), decisions will be made in the WEU in close consultation with other allies.

12. A special relationship of association should be envisaged for other European partners and allies. Liaison arrangements will be made for other European countries where appropriate.

### III THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE IDENTITY: OPERATIONAL ROLE

13. In order to give a first practical content to the European defence identity, members of WEU should develop a European reaction force. This would be capable of responding flexibly in a range of possible circumstances outside the NATO area, for example in response to threats to the interests of WEU members or in peacekeeping operations. It would thereby make a new contribution to the common defence.

14. Such a force would be autonomous, separate from the NATO structure, and would have its own peacetime planning cell to develop contingency plans and organise exercises. Political control would be exercised by WEU Ministers.

15. There should be coordination with other members of the Alliance, so that such a force could deploy alongside forces of other allies.