Development of a security and defence policy - WEU

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If the EU really wants to preserve and strengthen stability on the continent of Europe it must establish a common foreign and security policy (CFSP) capable of preventive action as well as measures for the peaceful settlement of disputes. This was the conclusion of the Committee which adopted the report by Leo TINDEMANS (EPP, B) on new prospects for the EU's common security policy. To achieve these ends it was essential that Europe should speak with one voice. There was also a need to extend the concept of security as defined by the Lisbon European Council (four areas that could be incorporated into joint action). Mr TINDEMANS proposed a double concept of security. The external aspect, which came under the CFSP, would include the territorial integrity of the EU and its Member States and the protection of its citizens; conventional and nuclear arms control; border problems that might destabilize the EU for a variety of reasons (e.g. minorities, ethnic conflicts); combatting the inequalities between rich and poor countries (which had an impact on the movement of migrants and the rise of racism in the EU); and protection of the environment, Aspects of internal security that would come under the third pillar were the threats due to terrorism, organized crime and trafficking of all kinds. There was also the question of the economic and social crisis, which focused popular discontent on foreigners. The committee's proposals included the creation of a European corps of military and civilian units with special responsibility for maintaining and restoring peace. The treaties ought to include Petersberg-type missions to be carried out as a joint measure, even before the merger between the WEU and the EU. These could be adopted by qualified majority unless one or more Member States claimed the right of constructive abstention. Nevertheless all Member States should provide practical or financial support for this type of mission. This approach was intended to demonstrate the political solidarity of the EU Member States. An active concept of security implied anticipatory action by the EU. Hence the need to give practical effect to something the EP had called for long ago (14 June 1995): the creation of an analysis centre for preventive action and policy planning, which would be under the joint responsibility of the Council and Commission, with WEU input.