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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Forty-third session  
Agenda items 40, 64, 78, 82, 83 and 100  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT  
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE  
QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS  
IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS  
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION  
EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-third year

Letter dated 6 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of  
Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French texts of the Declaration of the European Council on the International Role of the European Community and the conclusions of European Political Co-operation, adopted during its session held on 2 and 3 December 1988 at Rhodes, Greece (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 64, 78, 82, 83 and 100, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Constantine D. ZEPOS  
Ambassador

ANNEX

Declaration of the European Council on the International Role of the European Community adopted at Rhodes on 2 and 3 December 1984

1. Reaffirming its commitment to achieve concrete progress towards European Unity on the basis of the Single European Act,

- Determined to strengthen and expand the role of the European Community and its member States on the international political and economic stage, in co-operation with all other States and appropriate organisations.

- And aware that the completion of the internal market in 1992, which is already inspiring a new dynamism in the Community's economic life, will equally affect the Community's political and economic role in the world.

The European Council reaffirms that the Single Market will be of benefit to Community and non-Community countries alike by ensuring continuing economic growth. The internal market will not close in on itself. The Europe of 1992 will be a partner and not a "fortress Europe". The internal market will be a decisive factor contributing to greater liberalisation in international trade on the basis of the GATT principles of reciprocal and mutually advantageous arrangements. The Community will continue to participate actively in the GATT Uruguay Round, committed as it is to strengthening the multilateral trading system. It will also continue to pursue, with the United States, Japan and the other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) partners, policies designed to promote sustainable non-inflationary growth in the world economy.

2. The Community and its member States will continue to work closely and co-operatively with the United States to maintain and deepen the solid and comprehensive transatlantic relationship. Closer political and economic relations with Japan and the other industrialized countries will also be developed. In particular, the Community wishes to strengthen and to expand relations with European Free Trade Association countries and all other European nations that share the same ideals and objectives. Open and constructive dialogue and co-operation will be actively pursued with other countries or regional groups of the Middle East and the Mediterranean, Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Asia and Latin America, with special emphasis on interregional co-operation.

3. The European Council emphasizes the need to improve social and economic conditions in less developed countries and to promote structural adjustment, both through trade and aid. It also recognises the importance of a continuing policy to tackle the problems of the highly indebted countries on a case-by-case basis. It looks forward to the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the renewal of the Convention between the European Community and its 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific partners during the coming year.

4. The European Community and its member States are determined to play an active role in the preservation of international peace and security and in the

solution of regional conflicts, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. Europe cannot but actively demonstrate its solidarity to the great and spreading movement for democracy and full support for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Twelve will endeavour to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations and to contribute actively to its peace-keeping role.

5. Against the background of improved East-West relations, the European Council welcomes the readiness of the European members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance to develop relations with the European Community and reaffirms its willingness to further economic relations and co-operation with them, taking into account each country's specific situation, in order to use the opportunities available in a mutually beneficial way.

The European Council reaffirms its determination to act with renewed hope to overcome the division of our continent and to promote the Western values and principles which member States have in common.

To this effect, we will strive to achieve:

(a) Full respect for the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and further progress in the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, including an early and successful conclusion of the Vienna follow-up meeting;

(b) The establishment of a secure and stable balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level, the strengthening of mutual confidence and military transparency and the conclusion of a global and verifiable ban on chemical weapons;

(c) Promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, free circulation of people and ideas and the establishment of more open societies; promotion of human and cultural exchanges between East and West;

(d) The development of political dialogue with our Eastern neighbours.

6. The European Community and the Twelve are determined to make full use of the provisions of the Single European Act in order to strengthen solidarity among them, co-ordination on the political and economic aspects of security, and consistency between the external policies of the European Community and the policies agreed in the framework of the European Political Co-operation. They will strive to reach swift adoption of common positions and implementation of joint action.

7. The European Council invites all countries to embark with the European Community as world partner on an historic effort to leave to the next generation a continent and a world more secure, more just and more free.

## European Political Co-operation

### 1. EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Within the framework of East-West relations, the European Council had an in-depth discussion of the overall relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of eastern Europe based on various contributions concerning the political and economic fields. Ministers of Foreign Affairs have been entrusted with ensuring the necessary follow-up.

The European Council has approved a paragraph on East-West relations, to be included in the text of a declaration on the international role of the European Community and its member States, which it has decided to make public at the end of its meeting in Rhodes.

### 2. MIDDLE EAST

#### Arab-Israeli conflict

The European Council had a thorough discussion on the situation in the Middle East. It reaffirmed the positions expressed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in their declaration of 21 November 1988, as well as in the declaration of 30 November 1988.

#### Lebanon

The European Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to the election of a President of the Lebanese Republic.

It supports the efforts that the Lebanese are currently undertaking in order to search for a consensus which constitutes the condition for the maintenance of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The European Council considers it essential that the international community continue to demonstrate an active interest in Lebanon and in the election of the President.

It expresses the view that the United Nations could, in particular, if that would be useful, contribute to the satisfactory holding of the Presidential election.

### 3. CYPRUS

The European Council had a discussion on the Cyprus problem. It acknowledged the fact that the tragic division of the island remains unchanged and reaffirmed the previous declaration of the Twelve, which supports without any reservation the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus.

While expressing its satisfaction at the resumption of the dialogue between the two communities, the European Council expressed the wish that the dialogue should continue and lead to an early settlement of the problem on the basis of the above-mentioned principles and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

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