COUNCIL DECISION

of 10 May 1999

concerning the practical arrangements for the participation of all Member States in tasks pursuant to Article 17(2) of the Treaty on European Union for which the Union avails itself of the WEU

(1999/321/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular the third subparagraph of Article 17(3) thereof,

Having regard to the Declaration relating to the Western European Union (WEU) included in the Final Act signed upon the adoption of the Treaty of Amsterdam,

(1) Whereas Article 17(3) of the Treaty on European Union stipulates the right of all Member States of the European Union to participate fully in the tasks referred to in Article 17(2) thereof when the Union avails itself of the WEU for the elaboration and implementation of its decisions on these tasks;

(2) Whereas, pursuant to the said Article 17(3), the Council is to adopt, in agreement with the institutions of the WEU, the necessary practical arrangements to allow all Member States contributing to the above tasks to participate fully and on an equal footing in planning and decision-taking in the WEU;

(3) Whereas, in paragraph 6 of the aforesaid Declaration, the WEU confirmed that all Member States of the European Union are to be entitled to participate fully in the tasks referred to in Article 17(2) of the Treaty on European Union when the European Union avails itself of the WEU to elaborate and implement its decisions on these tasks;

(4) Whereas, on 18 November 1997, the WEU Council adopted as Decision concerning the participation of WEU Observer States in operations carried out in accordance with Article 17(3) of the Treaty on European Union; whereas that Decision and the accompanying agreed minutes provide for practical arrangements allowing all Member States of the European Union contributing to the tasks in question to participate fully on an equal footing in planning and decision-taking in the WEU; whereas, in adopting the said Decision, the WEU institutions have expressed their agreement on these arrangements as the practical arrangements referred to in Article 17(3) of the Treaty on European Union,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The practical arrangements allowing all Member States contributing to the tasks referred to in Article 17(2) of the Treaty on European Union to participate fully and on an equal footing in planning and decision-taking in the WEU are hereby approved.

The text of the practical arrangements is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 10 May 1999.

For the Council

The President

H. EICHEL