



Council of Ministers

## Removal of Spain's Permanent Representative in the Western European Union Council

- The measure represents a saving of €131,640.11

**27 April 2012.** The Council of Ministers has approved a Royal Decree removing Spain's Permanent Representation to the Western European Union (WEU) Council in order to adapt the structure of Spain's administration abroad to the current global context. The measure represents staff savings of €131,640.11.

Spain's Permanent Representation to the WEU Council was created in 1992 with the aim of strengthening the role of the Western European Union as the defence component of the European Union.

From the end of the 1990s, the WEU was gradually stripped of its main powers until it was finally closed down by unanimous agreement of all Member States following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The former functions of the WEU were transferred to the EU, specifically to the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

In view of this, the Spanish government believes it is appropriate to fully integrate Spain's Permanent Representation to the WEU into its Permanent Representation to the European Union in order to ensure the country continues to be represented on the Political and Security Committee and its associated working groups. Following a proposal by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain will also appoint an ambassador representative in the EU Council's PSC.