



## European Security and Defence Assembly Assembly of Western European Union

*Fifty-ninth Plenary Session - Press Release No. 50/2010*

### **President Walter calls for an effective successor body to the Assembly**

**Paris, 1 December 2010** – Re-elected President of the European Security and Defence Assembly (ESDA) for the 60<sup>th</sup> and last session of the Assembly on Wednesday, **Mr Robert WALTER** (United Kingdom, Federated Group) said that the “successor body” to the Assembly must be able to “exercise effective scrutiny over common security and defence policy”.

“We have a massive job ahead of us in these final six months” Mr WALTER underlined, recalling that the Assembly would close on 30 June next year. He said that the past year had been “a very difficult period”, marked by “quite intense dialogue”. The foreign ministers of the European Union had “declared that there should definitely be a successor body to this Assembly” and there had been discussions in national parliaments and in other EU bodies, including the European Parliament which was “not a disinterested party in this issue”.

“We must make sure that those discussions are brought to a conclusion and that a consensus evolves sooner rather than later with regard to what will be the successor body to this Organisation” he declared, adding that “the new body must also have the authority to call ministers to account”.

Recalling that yesterday notices of dismissal had been issued to all Assembly staff, President WALTER insisted that “we must make sure that the treatment of our staff is fair and just”. He called on the WEU Council to intensify its efforts to set up the legal entity which would be responsible for paying pensions and other forms of remuneration after the 30 June 2011.

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