

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 14

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Status : **Members and alternate member.**

Article 14: The common foreign, *security and defence* policy

14.1 Member States ***shall support*** the Union's common foreign and security policy in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity. They shall refrain from action contrary to the Union's interests or likely to undermine its effectiveness.

14.2 Without prejudice to the North Atlantic Treaty or to the specific character of the defence policy of certain Member States, the Union is committed to its collective security and, accordingly, shall frame progressively a common defence policy.

Explanation:

14.1 The Praesidium's commitment to 'active and unreserved' support of common foreign and security policy is no doubt well-intentioned but is hardly attuned to reality. There must be scope in Part Two for constructive abstention from joint actions and for the formation of core groups of Member States both capable and willing to act in the vanguard.

Likewise, there must be scope for certain governments to harbour reservations for national political or historic reasons about a position struck by a majority in the Council. The development of CFSP has to be consensual, respecting minority views. The constitution should not impair its development by seeking to impose a uniformity at variance with the reality.

14.2 To be consistent with the present Treaty on European Union, specific mention must be made here of defence policy. The EU Rapid Reaction Force and any future EU military combinations must have a legal basis in the Constitution.

Within the context of a commitment to the collective security of the Union as a whole, obligations to NATO by some Member States and to neutrality by others should be referred to explicitly.