

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article: III-207

By Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Mr Sven-Olof Petersson, government representatives and Mr Sören Lekberg, national parliament representative.

Status : - Members: Hjelm-Wallén and Lekberg
- Alternates: Petersson

A European Armaments Agency shall be established to support the development of military capabilities by co-operation between the Member States in the field of armaments. The Agency shall be open to all Member States wishing to be part of it. Specific groups can be set up within the Agency bringing together Member States engaged in joint projects.

The Council, acting unanimously, shall adopt a decision defining the Agency's statute, terms of reference, seat and operational rules. Such rules will take account of the level of effective participation in the Agency's activities.

1. ~~The European Armaments, Research and Military Capabilities Agency, subject to the Council's authority, shall have as its task to:~~
 - ~~— contribute to identifying the Member States' military capability objectives and evaluating observance of the capability commitments given by the Member States;~~
 - ~~— promote harmonisation of operational needs and adoption of effective, compatible procurement methods;~~
 - ~~— propose multilateral projects to fulfil the objectives in terms of military capabilities, ensure co-ordination of the programmes implemented by the Member States and management of specific cooperation programmes;~~
 - ~~— support defence technology research, and coordinate and plan joint research activities and the study of technical solutions meeting future operational needs;~~
 - ~~— contribute to identifying and, if necessary, implementing any useful measure for strengthening the industrial and technological base of the defence sector and for improving the effectiveness of military expenditure;~~
2. ~~The Agency shall be open to all Member States wishing to be part of it. The Council, acting by qualified majority, shall adopt a decision defining the Agency's statute, seat and operational rules. Such rules should take account of the level of effective participation in the Agency's activities. Specific groups shall be set up within the Agency bringing together Member States engaged in joint projects. The Agency shall carry out its tasks in liaison with the Commission where necessary.¹~~

¹ It is uncalled for to specify the Agency's tasks in the Constitution, in which only the overarching principles should be mentioned. For reasons of flexibility it is important that the agency's tasks can develop according to the Union's needs over time. The specific name of the agency should be decided when defining the Agency's statute, terms of reference, seat and operational rules. Decision making on these issues should be unanimous, as in all other questions having military or defence implications.