

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article 19

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : David Heathcoat-Amory

Status : X - Member - Alternate

Article 19

1. The European Armaments [*Delete: and Strategic Research Agency*] shall have as its task to:

[Delete – contribute to identifying the Member States' military capability objectives and evaluating observance of the capability commitments given by the Member States;]

[Delete – 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] **Facilitate** coordination of the programmes implemented by the Member States and management of specific cooperation programmes;

– support defence technology research, and coordinate [*Delete: 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, **not including strategic asset management**;

2. The Agency shall be open to all Member States wishing to be part of it. The Council, acting by [*qualified majority*] **unanimity**, 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.

Explanation (if any) : The original draft proposes the establishment of a proactive policy-making organisation, whereas the defence procurement agency should rather respond to the stated aims and objectives of national ministers of defence. Its role in harmonisation also duplicates one of the key functions of NATO. Consequently, its work should be managed by unanimity.

The exclusion of « strategic asset management » excludes the body from any decisions regarding concentration of capabilities – in other words, closing down factories or shipyards in certain countries, and ending national construction capability.