

Working Group VIII

Working document 41

WORKING GROUP VIII « DEFENCE »

Subject : **Comments by Mr John Ingunez on the preliminary draft final report of
Working Group VIII "Defence" (WD 022)**

Members of Working Group VIII will find attached comments by Mr John Ingunez, alternate member of the Convention, on the preliminary draft final report.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPORT
COMMENT ON PARAGRAPH 49

While it is appreciated that the need exists for a more systematic co-operation to strengthen the Union's defence capabilities, any efforts undertaken in this direction must be carried out having due consideration to the variety of situations prevailing within different States, particularly in relation to their status and military structure. It is therefore particularly essential to clarify in paragraph 49 that any convergence objectives established to this end would be indicative, and by definition, applied voluntarily by individual Member States. There should also be the understanding that compliance with any convergence objectives would not constitute a pre-qualification for participation by that State in a given operation under ESDP.
