

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS ON THE UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION AND SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

CHAPTER 2

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

SECTION 2

PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Article 45

1 The European Defence Agency referred to in Article 42(3), subject to the authority of the Council, shall have as its task to:

- a contribute to identifying the Member States' military capability objectives and evaluating observance of the capability commitments given by the Member States;
- b promote harmonisation of operational needs and adoption of effective, compatible procurement methods;
- c propose multilateral projects to fulfil the objectives in terms of military capabilities, ensure coordination of the programmes implemented by the Member States and management of specific cooperation programmes;
- d support defence technology research, and coordinate and plan joint research activities and the study of technical solutions meeting future operational needs;
- e 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 European Defence Agency shall be open to all Member States wishing to be part of it. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall adopt a decision defining the Agency's statute, seat and operational rules. That decision 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.