

having due regard to the wider international obligations of Member States.

1 As amended by Council Decision No. 6 of 1989 (14th June, 1989).

2 Articles 27 and 28 were deleted by Council Decision No. 6 of 1989 (14th June, 1989).

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ARTICLE 30

Economic and financial policies

Member States recognise that the economic and financial policies of each of them affect the economies of other Member States and intend to pursue those policies in a manner which serves to promote the objectives of the Association. They shall periodically exchange views on all aspects of those policies. In so doing, they shall take into account the corresponding activities within the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation and other international organisations. The Council may make recommendations to Member States on matters relating to those policies to the extent necessary to ensure the attainment of the objectives and the smooth operation of the Association.

ARTICLE 31

General consultations and complaints procedure

1. If any Member State considers that any benefit conferred upon it by this Convention or any objective of the Association is being or may be frustrated and if no satisfactory settlement is reached between the Member States concerned, any of those Member States may refer the matter to the Council.

2. The Council shall promptly, by majority vote, make arrangements for examining the matter. Such arrangements may include a reference to an examining committee constituted in accordance with Article 33. Before taking action under paragraph 3 of this Article, the Council shall so refer the matter at the request of any Member State concerned. Member States shall furnish all information which they can make available and shall lend their assistance to establish the facts.

3. When considering the matter, the Council shall have regard to whether it has been established that an obligation under the Convention has not been fulfilled, and whether and to what extent any benefit conferred by the Convention or any objective of the Association is being or may be frustrated. In the light of this consideration and of the report of any examining committee which may have been appointed, the Council may, by majority vote, make to any Member State such recommendations as it considers appropriate.

4. If a Member State does not or is unable to comply with a recommendation made in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article and the Council finds, by majority vote, that an obligation under this Convention has not been fulfilled, the Council may, by majority decision, authorise any Member State to suspend to the Member State which has not complied with the recommendation the application of such obligations under this Convention as the Council considers appropriate.

5. Any Member State may, at any time while the matter is under consideration, request the Council to authorise, as a matter of urgency, interim measures to safeguard
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its position. If it appears to the Council that the circumstances are sufficiently serious to
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justify interim action, and without prejudice to any action which it may subsequently take

in accordance with the preceding paragraphs of this Article, the Council may, by majority decision, authorise a Member State to suspend its obligation under this Convention to such an extent and for such a period as the Council considers appropriate.

ARTICLE 32

The Council

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Council
 - (a) to exercise such powers and functions as are conferred upon it by this Convention,
 - (b) to supervise the application of this Convention and keep its operation under review, and
 - (c) to consider whether further action should be taken by Member States in order to promote the attainment of the objectives of the Association and to facilitate the establishment of closer links with other States, unions of States or international organisations.
 2. Each Member State shall be represented in the Council and shall have one vote.
 3. The Council may decide to set up such organs, committees and other bodies as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks.
 4. In exercising its responsibility under paragraph 1 of this Article, the Council may take decisions which shall be binding on all Member States and may make recommendations to Member States.
 5. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by unanimous vote, except in so far as this Convention provides otherwise. Decisions or recommendations shall be regarded as unanimous unless any Member State casts a negative vote. Decisions and recommendations which are to be made by majority vote require the affirmative vote of three 1 Member States.
 6. If the number of the Member States changes, the Council may decide to amend the number of votes required for decisions and recommendations which are to be made by majority vote.
- 1 As amended by Council Decisions No. 12 of 1972 (8th November, 1972) and No. 2 of 1995 (12th January, 1995).*

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ARTICLE 33

Examining Committees

The Examining Committees referred to in Article 31 shall consist of persons selected for their competence and integrity, who, in the performance of their duties, shall neither seek nor receive instructions from any State, or from any authority or organisation other than the Association. They shall be appointed by the Council on such terms and conditions as it shall decide.

ARTICLE 34

Administrative arrangements of the Association

The Council shall take decisions for the following purposes:

- (a) to lay down the Rules of Procedure of the Council and of any other bodies of the Association, which may include provision that procedural questions may be decided by majority vote;
- (b) to make arrangements for the secretariat services required by the