

CHAPTER X

Exemptions

ARTICLE 19

1. In cases where assistance under this Agreement would infringe upon the sovereignty, security, public policy or other substantial national interest of a Contracting Party, or would involve a violation of industrial, commercial or professional secrecy or would be inconsistent with its national legislation, a Contracting Party may refuse assistance.
2. If the requesting Administration would be unable to comply if a similar request were made by the requested Administration, it shall draw attention to that fact in its request. Compliance with such a request shall be at the discretion of the requested Administration.
3. Assistance may be postponed by the requested Administration on the grounds that it will interfere with an ongoing investigation, prosecution or proceeding. In such a case, the requested Administration shall consult with the requesting Administration to determine if assistance can be given subject to such terms or conditions as the requested Administration may require.
4. Where assistance is denied or postponed, reasons for the denial or postponement shall be given.