

ARTICLE 17

Exceptions to the obligation to provide assistance

1. In cases where assistance under this Title would infringe upon the sovereignty of Canada or a Member State of the European Community or prejudice security, public policy or other essential interest (such as that referred to in Article 16(4)) of a Contracting Party, or would involve a violation of industrial, commercial or professional secrecy or would be inconsistent with its legislation, assistance may be refused or made subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions or requirements.

2. If the requesting authority would be unable to comply were a similar request to be made by the requested authority, it shall draw attention to that fact in its request. Compliance with such a request shall be at the discretion of the requested authority.