

## Conclusion

Does the CFE resolve the security dilemma in Europe? The above discussion points to a clear yes. Historically, the CFE has successfully fulfilled its role as an international arms control regime, applying a universally accepted set of principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures in the treaty area. It has institutionalized discussion and joint decision-making (in the form of the JCG and through the OSCE and NATO). Through intrusive and open inspections and information sharing, the CFE has provided the member states relatively unbiased information on their neighbour's conventional assets, significantly reducing the uncertainty and unpredictability in their relations.

Does the CFE fill the criteria set out in this paper for evaluating the viability of arms control regimes, that is *community* and *adaptability*, and as such show a continued relevance and institutional capacity for dealing with arms control issues in Europe? Again, the discussion here points to a yes, but perhaps a more guarded one. There is a high degree of community within the treaty area – flexibility and compromise while working within a broad framework of rules-based behaviour. But while community is high, and historically the CFE has shown itself to be adaptable to changing security conditions, the present and future arms control issues that face European states may prove to be highly divisive, more so than any of the security issues dealt with in the past. While this may conclude on a negative tone, the record of the CFE in adapting to new circumstance is exemplary, and points to an ability to overcome future hurdles.