

consultation only. (NB: in this area, neither the Parliament nor the national parliaments have a say with regard to the content or the budget of the policy);

2. Harmonisation of legislation concerning indirect taxes, such as turnover taxes and excise duties;

3. Article 235.

APPENDIX VI:

Provisions Requiring Assent Procedure

Assent of the European Parliament

(absolute majority of votes cast except for uniform electoral procedure)

Article 8a(2) : Citizenship

105(6) : Specific tasks of European Central Bank

106(5) : Amendments to Bank Statutes

130d : Structural Funds; Cohesion Funds; Consultation of EcoSoc and the Committee of the Regions

138(3) : Uniform electoral procedure (majority if component members)

228(3) : Certain international agreements

Article O (TEU) : Accession of new Member States

APPENDIX VII:

CFSP and JHA

CFSP - Common Foreign and Security Policy

The Declaration No 27, annexed to the TEU, states that with regard to Council decisions requiring unanimity, Member States will, to the extent possible, avoid preventing a unanimous decision where a qualified majority exists in favour of that decision.

I. The Council decisions requiring unanimity are with respect to the following Articles of the TEU:

J.3 in conjunction with Article J.8:

Joint Action; without EP consultation

J.2(2) in conjunction with Article J.8:

Common Positions; without EP consultation

J.11:

Operational expenditure/Community Budget; without EP consultation

II. The Council decisions taken by qualified majority are with respect to the following Articles of the TEU:

J.3 in conjunction with Article J.8:

Implementing Measures; without EP consultation

J.3 in conjunction with Article J.8:

Procedural Questions; without EP consultation

III. Consulting and Informing EP

1. The Council Presidency consults the EP on the main aspects and fundamental options of the CFSP.

2. The Council Presidency and the Commission inform the EP of CFSP developments.

The Treaty of Amsterdam does not change the role of the EP within the CFSP. The Treaty, however, strengthens the decision-making capacity of the Council in different ways:

1. A New Instrument: Common Strategies (Article J.3). The common strategies specify the objectives of the Union and the means to achieve these objectives. The common strategies are decided by the European Council on recommendation of the Council of the European Union in areas where the Member States have important interests in common.

2. A Hierarchy of Instruments: When a common strategy is decided, the Council can decide with qualified majority joint actions and common positions to implement the strategy. In the absence of a common strategy, the Council of the European Union has to decide with unanimity on joint actions and common positions. But the measures necessary to implement these common positions and actions are adopted with qualified majority. QMV will not apply to decisions having military or defence implications. The Council will act by simple majority for procedural questions (Article J.13). These instruments are part of Article J.2 which sets out the 5 instruments of CFSP:

- Principles of and general guidelines
- Common strategies
- Joint Actions
- Common positions
- Systematic cooperation between MS

According to Article J.3 the European Council de-