

A number of different types of inspection are available as verification methods. Inspections will be carried out to verify information exchanges and compliance with the limits established in the Treaty. Inspections will also be used to monitor the destruction of equipment and arms, and the processes used to convert aircraft and helicopters. A state cannot refuse an inspection of a declared site but a system of quotas is established in the Protocol on Inspection to ensure that no one state will be subject to an excessive number of inspections. Challenge inspections of specified areas (non-declared sites) are permitted but, in this case, the state to be inspected has the right to refuse the inspection. A Joint Consultative Group (JCG) is established by the Treaty to provide a framework for all the states party to the Treaty to discuss ambiguous issues, questions of compliance and other questions relating to the Treaty.

The independence of the Baltic states and the dissolution of the Soviet Union occurred before the Treaty entered into force, producing an unexpected hitch in the Treaty process. In mid-October 1991, the Joint Consultative Group reached a formal agreement dealing with the new situation. They agreed that the territory of the Baltic states should be excluded from the zone of the Treaty and accepted a formal Soviet undertaking to count its forces still deployed in the Baltic states as part of its holdings. In addition to the Baltic states, eight former Soviet republics are in the zone established by the Treaty: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The potential for problems among the former republics over the dispersion of weapons poses a potential threat to the Treaty's viability. This proved to be a particular problem for Armenia and Azerbaijan because of the armed conflict between them over the disputed area of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In an effort to resolve these issues and head off problems before they occurred, Treaty signatories met with representatives of the Soviet republics (Kazakhstan did not attend) in mid-January at NATO headquarters in Brussels. The former Soviet republics agreed that they would ratify the Treaty as it stood as soon as possible. In May, the former Soviet republics reached an agreement among themselves as to the allocation of Treaty quotas. This paved the way for the signing of the Final Document of the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the CFE Treaty on 5 June 1992, by the now twenty-nine parties to the Treaty. The CFE Treaty entered into force on 17 July 1992.

The CFE Treaty does not place limits on personnel levels or the number of troops deployed in the European area. However, Article XVIII of the Treaty requires states to continue negotiations under the CFE mandate and specifically to include limits on personnel levels. States pledged not to increase their peacetime personnel strength until a further agreement was completed. Known as CFE 1A, this second set of