

Canada and the CFE

What should Canada's view be with regards to the future of the CFE? Are the values that Canada holds towards the international system met by participating in the CFE? Canada, as a founding member of the CFE Treaty group, has upheld the importance of the CFE since 1990. This has continued over the long-term, and especially over changes of government in Ottawa. More importantly, in the current context of a Liberal government in Ottawa, the CFE fulfills key aspects of Canada's vision of both what the international system should look like and what Canada's place in that system should be. As a very successful example of rules-based security cooperation in a multilateral setting, the CFE fits into Canada's perception of its long-term role as multilateral middle-power.

More contemporarily, the CFE fits into the priorities of Canada internationally, specifically by promoting prosperity, ensuring security, and spreading Canadian values abroad.⁷⁶ By eliminating the security dilemma in Europe, an area traditionally important for the long-term prosperity and security of Canada, the CFE should remain an important tool for arms control in Europe. A further benefit of supporting the CFE is its potential for exportability. Within Europe, the principles of the CFE have been applied to restoring peace and stability in the Balkans. In both the Dayton Accords and the subsequent Subregional Arms Control Agreement between Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia, the principles of arms inspections, armament limitations, and geographical limitations on weapons holdings found in the CFE have been used to mitigate a very tense security dilemma.⁷⁷ This successful application of CFE principles could reasonably be applied outside of Europe, especially in areas of tension such as the Middle East, South Asia, and the Korean Peninsula. As one specialist put it, "[i]t seems from my point of view very difficult to establish permanent cooperation between these countries [in the regions mentioned above] without some kind of military transparency, confidence building and some kind of accountability in the force strength there."⁷⁸ Canadian arms control specialists should use the lessons learned through participation in the CFE to assist in mitigating security dilemmas in other regions of tension.

⁷⁶ *Canada and the World*, Ottawa: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 1995.

⁷⁷ On the Dayton Accords and CFE principles, see Sami Fournier, Tasos Kokkinides, Daniel Plesch, and Richard Thomas, "Implementing Dayton: Arms Control and Intelligence in Former Yugoslavia," *British American Information Council*, March 1996. On the Subregional Arms Control Agreement and the CFE, interview with Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Senior Research Associate, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, March 2003.

⁷⁸ Interview with Hans-Joachim Schmidt, March 2003.