

Article 23

Tasks of the Office of the Union; Responsibilities of the Secretary-General; Appointment of Staff

(1) The Office of the Union shall carry out all the duties and tasks entrusted to it by the Council. It shall be under the direction of the Secretary-General.

(2) The Secretary-General shall be responsible to the Council; he shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Council. He shall submit the budget for the approval of the Council and shall be responsible for its implementation. He shall make an annual report to the Council on his administration and a report on the activities and financial position of the Union.

(3) Subject to the provisions of Article 21(b), the conditions of appointment and employment of the staff necessary for the efficient performance of the tasks of the Office of the Union shall be fixed in the administrative and financial regulations referred to in Article 20.

Article 24

Legal Status

(1) The Union shall have legal personality.

(2) The Union shall enjoy on the territory of each member State of the Union, in conformity with the laws of that State, such legal capacity as may be necessary for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Union and for the exercise of its functions.

(3) The Union shall conclude a headquarters agreement with the Swiss Confederation.

Article 25

Auditing of the Accounts

The auditing of the accounts of the Union shall be effected by a member State of the Union as provided in the administrative and financial regulations referred to in Article 20. Such State shall be designated, with its agreement, by the Council.

Article 26

Finances

(1) The expenses of the Union shall be met from:
— the annual contributions of the member States of the Union;