

ARTICLE 3

LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE

- (1) Assistance may be refused if, in the opinion of the Requested State, the execution of the request would impair its sovereignty, security, public order or fundamental interests.
- (2) Assistance may be postponed if the execution of the request would interfere with an ongoing investigation or prosecution in the Requested State.
- (3) Assistance may be refused if the request pertains to a political offence, unless the offence is one which the Contracting States are entitled to treat as not being a political offence pursuant to any other international agreement to which they are parties.
- (4) Before refusing to grant a request for assistance or before postponing the grant of such assistance, the Requested State shall, after consulting with the Requesting State in appropriate cases, determine whether assistance may be granted subject to such conditions as it deems necessary. If the Requesting State accepts assistance subject to these conditions, it shall comply with them.
- (5) The Requested State shall promptly inform the Requesting State of a decision to refuse or postpone execution, and shall give reasons for that decision.

PART II

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 4

LOCATION OR IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS OR OBJECTS

The competent authorities of the Requested State shall take all the measures necessary to ascertain the location and identity of persons or objects specified in the request.

ARTICLE 5

SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

- (1) The Requested State shall serve any notice of judicial proceeding and any document transmitted to it for the purpose of service. Service may be effected by simple delivery of the procedure or document to its addressee. If the Requesting State expressly requests it, the Requested State shall effect service by one of the means for service of similar documents provided for in its legislation or by any special means consistent with such legislation.
- (2) The Requesting State shall transmit a request for the service of a document pertaining to a response or appearance in the Requesting State within a reasonable time before the scheduled response or appearance.
- (3) As proof of service, the Requested State shall return an acknowledgement of receipt dated and signed by the addressee or a declaration signed by the agent who carried out the service setting out the means and the date of service.