

The CFE Treaty limits:

- (1) tanks to 20,000 for each group of states;⁴⁴
- (2) armament combat vehicles to 30,000 for each group of states, with a subceiling on;
- (3) armoured infantry fighting vehicles (AIFVs) and heavy armament combat vehicles (HACV's) to 18,000 for each group of states, of which no more than 1,500 for each group of states can be HACVs;
- (4) artillery (guns, howitzers, mortars, and multiple rocket launchers of 100mm calibre and above) to 20,000 pieces per side;
- (5) combat aircraft to 6,800 for each side, excluding primary trainers;
- (6) attack helicopters, to 2,000 for each bloc and;
- (7) the signatories made a political commitment outside of the Treaty to limit land-based naval aircraft to 430 for each side with no more than 400 for any one country.⁴⁵

In addition, the Treaty sets sufficiency limits for any one country to: 13,300 tanks; 13,700 artillery pieces; 20,000 armoured combat vehicles; 5,150 combat aircraft; and 1,500 attack helicopters. In this way, an attempt has been made to guarantee that no one country will be allowed to dominate Europe by force of arms.

The Treaty also contains provisions which contribute to confidence and stability in Europe. The most important of these is the storage provision, which limits the readiness of both groups of armed forces by imposing equal ceilings of equipment that may be in active units. Other ground equipment must be designated in permanent storage sites. The limits that each group of parties may have in active use are : 16,500 tanks; 17,000 artillery pieces; and 27,300 armoured combat vehicles.

A central feature of the CFE Treaty is the ability to verify effectively the reduction of armaments and the maintenance of ceilings at lower levels. The Treaty includes provisions for

⁴⁴ Since the Warsaw Pact nations held over half the tanks in Europe, this limit required the reduction, primarily through destruction, of thousands of Eastern tanks.

⁴⁵ Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty. 19 November 1990.