

International Negotiations Sample Policy Brief - Lilliput Defense Policy

Statement of Issue/Problem

Lilliput, a former Eastern Bloc country, current NATO member, and recent member of the EU, faces complex challenges in becoming a full participant in the Common Foreign and Security Policy. CFSP, as currently conceived, will require Lilliput to provide forces for both its current NATO commitments and for seven separate European rapid reaction forces. Lilliput has only two understrength brigades of infantry, and is not well-prepared for even local security, much less large-scale deployments.

Lilliput is also very concerned about the decision-making process for EU deployment of their troops. Before committing to and supporting CFSP implementation, Lilliput will require reassurances about the limitations of their commitments, and strong assurances about what type of missions their forces may be asked to undertake.

Priorities

Lilliput is focused on ensuring their place within NATO, enhancing over time the work of CFSP, and ensuring border security. Major initiatives including the new Bureau of Border Security have been launched in 2018, with a commitment of EUR 40 million

Current Status

Lilliput is working with Denmark, Austria and Portugal to help define the written policy of the EU on force deployment, and is pushing for a unanimity requirement on votes to send EU forces outside the EU. Lilliput is also supporting a Luxembourgish proposal to allow forces to be earmarked for several different uses, including NATO, EU rapid reaction forces, national emergency services, etc. This latter proposal is meeting stiff resistance from the major countries of the EU, who are deeply concerned that this approach may mean critical forces are unavailable when called upon.

Policy Options

- a) Demand EU defense funding to quintuple the size of Lilliput's defense forces, with the understanding that Lilliput will support CFSP fully once the money has arrived. (Pros/Cons!)
- b) Insist that the Lilliputian military is exactly the right size today, and that the EU can choose to allow forces to be earmarked for multiple uses, or to accept that if Lilliput must designate forces for either NATO or EU use, Lilliput's contribution to the EU will be approximately 100 troops, as all others are already designated for NATO. (Pros/Cons!)
- c) Determine that Lilliput is supporting CFSP over NATO, and is willing to break its commitment to NATO, and designate the majority of forces as available for EU rapid reaction forces, and not for NATO. (Pros/Cons!)

Policy Recommendation

The Foreign Ministry of Lilliput recommends policy option a) 'Demand EU defense funding'. We feel that the terms of our entry into the EU were somewhat onerous to begin with, and that the additional demands for defense capacity and improvement are beyond the grasp of our budgets and capabilities. We suggest that a request for €200m annually be submitted to the Council at their next budgetary meeting. (Complete the pros/cons here!)

Budget

€200m annually for the next 5 years, totaling €1b. This money will go to expanding and modernizing the Lilliputian Army, Navy and Air Force, including the purchase of tanks, APC's, fighter-bomber aircraft, and missile-armed patrol boats, as well as all associated training and recruitment activities. To integrate with other EU defense forces, an additional €1b over the five years would be tremendously helpful. We have identified several possible sources for this funding – a) an EU-wide chocolate tax of 5%, b) unused EU emergency funds for possible disaster flooding relief, or c) redirecting funds from EU-supported early childhood education programs. We have no recommendation among these – we believe net impacts are likely to be minimal.