

Adversarial conventional arms control in Europe: the quest for peace Lippert, W.E.

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## Propositions accompanying this dissertation:

## Conventional Arms Control in Europe The Quest for Peace

- 1. The speed at which a Conventional Arms Control (CAC) negotiation can be made and completed is directly related to the extent to which states agree about the military balance status quo.
- 2. A CAC agreement proposal which attempts to invert the military balance is unlikely to be accepted by all parties.
- 3. Implementation of CAC agreements is successful when delegated to significantly autonomous International Organizations (IOs) except in periods of great rivalry between adversaries, if these rivals have a substantial "brake" capability on the IO.
- 4. Incorporating adaptation measures such as committees to resolve Treaty Limited Equipment (TLE) definitional questions and to adapt to new technologies and geo-political circumstances can increase the lifespan of a CAC agreement.
- 5. The ability to monitor and verify TLE compliance is directly proportional to the size of the TLE object.
- 6. States that sign CAC agreements do so with the intention of complying with them, although only if adversaries are viewed as intending to respect the agreement as well.
- 7. CAC agreements that are based on a template may be easier to draft, but they are less likely to reflect the particular conditions of the rivalry in question and the state parties concerned.
- 8. The European Commission should have a dedicated (decentralized) agency for arms control and disarmament on par with Europol or the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.
- 9. An area within the Arctic should be designated for demilitarization, in which ships of certain sizes or types are prohibited, such as aircraft carriers and amphibious landing ships.
- 10. Future CAC agreements in Europe should incorporate an autonomous agreement implementer (an IO) which is significantly staffed and at least in part under the guidance and control of neutral, third-party states.
- 11. CAC should be featured more in university education, especially in international security programs.

*By William Lippert* Leiden, 16 October 2025