


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2010(INI)	Procedure completed
Arms: code of conduct on exports, provision 8. 4th annual report		
Subject 6.10.03 Armaments control, non-proliferation nuclear weapons		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PPE-DE VON WOGAU Karl	21/01/2003

Key events			
11/11/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	13779/2002	Summary
16/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/06/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
17/06/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0244/2003	
25/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
25/09/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0418/2003	Summary
25/09/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
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Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP P.F.
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/19093

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		13779/2002 OJ C 319 19.12.2002, p. 0001-0045	11/11/2002	CSL	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0244/2003	17/06/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0418/2003 OJ C 077 26.03.2004, p. 0269-0414 E	25/09/2003	EP	Summary

Arms: code of conduct on exports, provision 8. 4th annual report

PURPOSE : to present the fourth annual report according to operative provision 8 of the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.

CONTENT : the European Code of Conduct on Arms Exports was adopted on 8 June 1998, setting high minimum standards for the management of, and restraint in, conventional arms transfers by all Member States of the European Union. The Code sets up eight criteria for the export of conventional arms and a denial notification procedure obliging Member States to consult on possible undercuts. In accordance with Operative Provision 8 of the Code, this provides for an annual review of its implementation and identification of any necessary improvements. This document constitutes the fourth annual report and covers developments during the fourth year of operation of the Code. During the fourth year of operation the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports consolidated its position as the most comprehensive international arms export control regime, providing for a high degree of internal and external transparency, dialogue, respect for denial notifications and dynamism. Priority objectives identified in earlier reports were achieved. However, many issues are not settled once and for all but are subject to a continuous dialogue on responsibility in arms transfers and ways to promote it. When adopting the third annual report (refer to INI/2001/2254) it was felt that although the fundamental elements of a common approach to the control of conventional arms exports by Member States of the European Union were in place much remained to be done. Also work needed to begin in certain areas which had not been addressed in the past as was requested by the European Parliament in its report on the third annual report (A5-0286/2002). In specific terms, the substantive increase in the number of notified denials and consultations has produced a sizeable body of information which testifies to the growing confidence in this instrument. The Code's unique notification and consultation procedures and the continued exchange of views between Member States on aspects of national export policies including policies on exports to specific countries or regions contribute decisively to transparency, dialogue and convergence between Member States in the field of conventional arms exports. Dialogue takes place not only between Member States, but also through troika meetings in the framework of the political dialogue of the EU with candidate countries and non-member states and by way of EU Member States' participation in other international and multilateral forums. It should be noted that a meeting of the Presidency and the Commission with the United States of America, attended by a number of EU Member States, was held in June 2002 on the subject of export control assistance, including in the field of arms exports. Member States have been conscious of the increased need to prevent arms from falling into the hands of terrorists and have supported the inclusion of a terrorist clause in the 'Initial Elements' of the Wassenaar Arrangement, of which all EU Member States are members. The Code of Conduct was a primary subject of all political dialogue consultations carried out with non-member States. Following this example Member States have identified the following guidelines: 1) continue efforts to increase harmonisation of national reports with the aim of increasing their transparency and producing clearer summary tables; 2) pressing for definitive adoption of a system for controlling exports of non-military security and police equipment; 3) continue deliberations in the area of arms brokering on the basis of the guidelines already approved, with a view to adopting a Common Position on the subject. Promote regulation of arms brokering in other relevant forums; 4) continue work on standardising the information to appear in the certificates of final destination; 5) continue work on issues related to manufacture under licence in non-member countries; 6) establish how best the authorities of each Member State should control electronic transfers of the software and technology associated with equipment on the common list; 7) continue efforts to promote the principles and criteria of the Code among third countries and international organisations; 8) work towards even greater involvement of the candidate countries in the implementation of the Code of Conduct and provide practical assistance to this effect, including by sharing information on denials; 9) consider practical measures to improve the implementation of the denial and consultation mechanism in national decision-making taking into account Member States' experiences and the handling of the growing volume of denials circulated among Member States.?

Arms: code of conduct on exports, provision 8. 4th annual report

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Karl von WOGAU (EPP-ED, D) on the Council's 4th annual report on the implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. It began by stressing the need for a clear and efficient common arms export policy, which would represent an important contribution to the development of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) as well as to a strengthened common foreign policy approach by the Member States. As regards the implementation of the code, and in particular the compilation of data on export licences, the committee welcomed the greater harmonisation of statistical data but wanted to see more detailed information on, for example, the type and quantity of arms supplied, the number of licences refused and the reasons for refusal, the country of destination, the classification of end-users, etc. It also reiterated its previously-expressed view that a register and authorisation system should be introduced for the brokering of arms transactions, which should also apply to EU citizens and companies outside EU territory. In addition, MEPs called for a verification and post-export monitoring system to be set up, with provision for penalties, and urged the Member States to consider establishing a European arms export control agency. The report pointed out that organised criminals and international arms smugglers had expanded their activities in the area of small arms and were trafficking weapons along routes which went through the territory of the enlarged EU and also through its new neighbouring countries and countries in the Western Balkan region. It called on the future new Member States to tighten up their national legislation and their arms export practices on the basis of the Code and to compile and publish national annual reports, and suggested that the new neighbours of the enlarged EU and countries with which the EU had concluded, or intended to conclude, stabilisation and association agreements should also be asked to observe the EU Code of Conduct. MEPs welcomed the French initiative on establishing an 'International Code on Transparency and Responsibilities for Arms Transfers' based on the model of the EU code, and regretted the lack of US and Russian support for this proposal. Such an international initiative was urgently needed, they said, not least in the light of the latest findings concerning the arming of Iraq. They also supported the Commission's idea of legislation imposing a Community export ban on all equipment for torture and laying down strict controls for equipment that might be used for internal repression. The report added that particular attention should be paid to products which may be used for both civilian and military purposes and similarly to spare parts and products suitable for use in cyber warfare. Lastly, the committee felt that arms exports to countries involved in armed conflicts should be banned in principle. ?

Arms: code of conduct on exports, provision 8. 4th annual report

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Karl von WOGAU (EPP-ED, Germany) on the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. Until there is a ban on exports to countries involved in armed conflict, Parliament recommended the following: - full pre-consultation between the Member States with regard to transfers to regions susceptible to crises; - a full multilateral approach to the consultation process in connection with decisions to grant or refuse licenses, with, as a first step, a commitment by Member States to circulate to all other Member States the substance and result of any consultation to which they are party; - a common definition of criterion 8 (compatibility of arms exports with the technical and economic capacity of the recipient country), representing a significant contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable development in socially less developed countries; - incorporation into national law of all the principles, criteria and operative provisions of the Code of Conduct, with the understanding that this does not affect the right of Member States to operate more restrictive national policies.?