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Belgian Arms Exports Five Years after the Regionalization of Competences: Facts and Figures

In the summer of 2003, the then ruling Belgian Federal Government decided to transfer most of the competencies for the control of Belgium's foreign trade in both military and dual-use goods to the three Belgian Regions. Since then, the Regions have been responsible for control of the arms trade in their respective jurisdictions. The Belgian Federal Government now controls only the import and export of military goods directly related to the Belgian Armed Forces and the police. This background note outlines the characteristics of Belgian licensed arms exports since the time of the regionalization of this competence on the basis of official figures gleaned from public documents.

The analyses demonstrate that in the five-year period 2003-2007 export licences for a total value of over 4.5 billion euros were issued by the competent Belgian authorities. Moreover, in both 2006 and 2007 the total value of export licences exceeded 1 billion euros. The data rank Belgium in eighth place among the European countries in terms of licensed arms exports in 2007. Small arms and light weapons are Belgium's main military export product, but it also exports substantial volumes of (components for) military aircraft and vehicles, bombs and other explosive devices, ammunition, electronic equipment and visualization screens. The major recipient country for Belgian arms exports is the United States but, in this period, large volumes of military goods were also exported to Saudi Arabia, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. In general, relatively few arms export licence applications are denied in Belgium.

The Walloon Region has traditionally dominated Belgian arms exports. Although the Flemish Region exported nearly as much as Wallonia in the years prior to the regionalization, Flanders' share has since then fluctuated at around a quarter of the total Belgian value. The Brussels Capital Region has very limited arms exports, and the level of exports by the Belgian Armed Forces has varied over the period. In terms of the destination and nature of the exported goods, there are notable differences between the Regions. The Flemish defence-related industry, with its high-technology components, exports mainly to the industrial sector in Europe, North America, and the relatively industrialized countries in the Far East. In contrast, the Walloon defence-related industry is oriented towards 'conventional' defence products, which are primarily exported to the United States but also to EU member states and Middle Eastern countries (especially Saudi Arabia). Arms exports from the Brussels Capital Region consist of both aircraft components – destined mainly for industry and foreign armed forces – and 'other' equipment, destined mainly for countries in the Middle East and the other Asian regions.

In the summer of 2003 the then ruling Belgian Federal Government decided to transfer most elements of the control of foreign trade in military goods and dual-use goods to the Regions (see also section 9). Since then, the three Belgian Regions have been responsible for control of the foreign arms trade within their territories. Only the import and export of military goods directly related to the armed forces and the police have remained a Federal competence. This background note outlines the characteristics of Belgian licensed arms exports since the regionalization of this competence in 2003, on the basis of official figures gleaned from public documents: the annual reports of the EU Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM)¹ and the mandatory periodic reports of the competent governments to their respective parliaments. It should be noted in this regard that, unless stated otherwise, the analysis is of licensed arms exports, not actual arms exports, because there is no extensive publicly available and reliable official public information about actual arms exports from Belgium. The next section deals with the size of Belgian licensed arms exports, followed by analysis of the nature and recipients of the exported goods, the share of the different Regions in total Belgian arms exports, and the respective characteristics of exports from the Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Regions as well as Federal arms exports.

1 The size of Belgian arms exports

According to Agoria, the lobbying group of the Belgian technology industry, the total annual financial turnover of the Belgian security and defence sector is approximately 300 million euros (€).² Because the Belgian Armed Forces have relatively limited budgets for buying military goods, the Belgian defence-related industry is strongly export-oriented. The periodic reports of governments to their respective parliaments show that, since the regionalization of control of foreign arms trade in the summer of 2003, the competent authorities have issued export licences for a value in excess of €4.5 billion. In 2007, as in 2006, export licences for a value of €1 billion were issued (see the annex, Table 5).

This section discusses the trends in Belgian arms exports since 1994, Belgium's position in the European context, the nature and recipients of the exported goods, and the share of each of the three Regions and the Federal Government in total Belgian licensed arms exports.

1.1 Evolution of the size of Belgian licensed arms exports

The competent regional governments were mandated to submit a (semi)annual report to their respective parliaments. These reports provide insight into the evolution of the value of Belgian arms exports over the past 15 years. Three periods are identified in this study.

Over the first, five-year period, 1994-99, the total value of the Belgian licensed arms exports – with the exception of the exceptional peak year 1997ⁱ – was fairly stable.

Over the next period – 1999-2002 – there was a strong annual increase. In only four years the value of Belgian licensed arms exports nearly doubled: from €622 million in 1999 to €1.145 billion in 2002. As shown below, this was brought about by a strong rise in exports from both Wallonia and Flanders (see section 4.1).

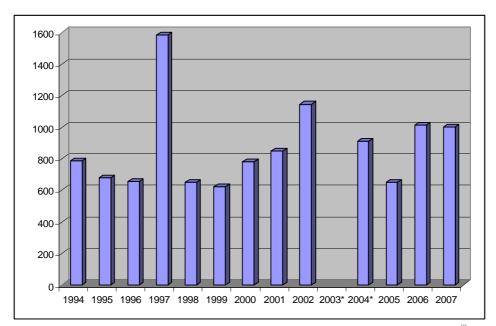


Figure 1: The annual value of all Belgian licensed arms exports, 1994-2007

Source: Periodic reports of the competent regional governments to their respective parliaments.

The unusually high value for 1997 can be attributed largely to the Walloon export licences (for a value of about €780 million) that were issued to a single firm for the delivery of components for F-16s.

For an overview of the exact figures, see Table 4 in the annex of this background note.

^{2003*:} The total value for 2003 is not known owing to the absence of a periodic report from the Federal Government for the period January-August 2003 and the absence of a separate report from the Flemish Government for the period September 2003-December 2003. The initial Flemish semi-annual report after the regionalization of the control competence related to the period September 2003–February 2004 and therefore, in contrast to the periodic reports from other regional governments, did not provide data specifically for the period September 2003-December 2003. 2004*: The value for 2004 is based on the data from Walloon, Brussels and Federal periodic reports for that year and on an estimate of the Flemish figures for 2004. Since the Flemish periodic reports did not relate to the period from January to December 2004, but to the 3 periods September 2003-February 2004, March-August 2004 and September-December 2004, no exact information is available for the period January-December 2004. For more on the estimation procedure see Castryck, G., Depauw, S. & Duquet, N. (2007), *Profile of foreign trade in military material and the defence-related industry in Flanders*. Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute.

The third period – the years after the regionalization of the control competence – is characterized by strong fluctuations in the size of Belgian licensed arms exports. Two conspicuous features are the steep drop in the total value in 2004-2005, followed by a no less spectacular rise in 2005-2006. It is also noteworthy that the size of Belgian licensed arms exports in 2007, with a total value of about €1 billion (see the annex, Table 6), was about 13% smaller than in the last full year prior to the regionalization of the control competence (i.e. 2002).

1.2 Belgian arms exports in a European context

The figures that the European Union Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) publishes annually offer an opportunity to place Belgian arms exports in a European context.³ In effect, these data provide an overview of every EU member states' licensed export of the goods that are included on the Common Military List of the European Union, an integral part of the politically binding 1998 EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.⁴ The total value of the export licences issued by EU member states in 2007 is shown in Table 1.

The COARM report for 2007 shows that the major EU exporters of military goods were France, Italy and Germany. Combined, these three countries accounted for two-thirds of total licensed arms exports from the European Union. Belgium (ranked 8th, with a value of just below €900 million^{IV}), like Sweden (7th) and the Netherlands (9th) – all small countries – nonetheless ranked among the top 10 exporters. In terms of value, Belgium accounted for about 3.3% of all European licensed arms exports in 2007. Table 1 also clearly shows that several of the 27 EU member states export military goods of only limited value.

The total value of Belgian licensed arms exports in 2007 differs between the figures in the COARM report (Table 1) and figures in the periodic reports from the various federal and regional governments to their respective parliaments, probably because of the differences between the EU and Belgian lists of military goods that are subject to an export licence. The national list of goods subject to a licence is, as in many EU other member states, more extensive than the EU Common List. For a summary of the differences in these figures, see Table 4 in the annex of this background note.

Table 1: Value of approved export licences for goods on the Common Military List of the European Union, in euros, and ranking of EU member states, 2007

Rank	Country	Amount (€)
1	France	9,849,112,123
2	Italy	4,743,681,726
3	Germany	3,667,684,031
4	Spain	1,961,820,145
5	Austria	1,378,664,623
6	United Kingdom	1,312,186,190
7	Sweden	1,010,289,824
8	Belgium	899,780,327
9	Netherlands	717,034,810
10	Czech Republic	477,873,597
11	Bulgaria	377,918,135
12	Poland	275,980,070
13	Denmark	195,576,594
14	Romania	123,266,387
15	Hungary	95,689,406
16	Slovakia	74,104,980
17	Lithuania	63,263,143
18	Finland	56,579,170
19	Greece	33,267,987
20	Ireland	32,668,295
21	Portugal	26,835,434
22	Slovenia	4,509,214
23	Estonia	2,997,237
24	Latvia	763,541
25	Malta	611,312
26	Cyprus	86,209
27	Luxembourg	-
	Total	27,382,244,510

Source: COARM.

Note that Table 1 gives an overview of *licensed* arms exports, not *actual* (effectively executed) exports. The total value of actual licensed arms exports is generally lower than the total value of licensed exports, since planned exports may have been cancelled or export shipments may have been smaller than indicated on the licences. Furthermore, not all the planned licensed exports take place in the course of the same year; most licences are valid for a longer period and, in some instances, may be extended for a longer period. Hence, although the figures for the value of licensed arms exports are not a reflection of actual arms exports, they nonetheless provide a useful reference point. The 2007 COARM report also contains some data on states' *actual* arms exports in that year, suggesting that the value of actual exports in 2007 was 43% of the value of licensed arms exports. The COARM report does not contain data on Belgium's actual arms

exports in 2007, but reports for 2005 and 2006 showed that the value of actual exports was €149.3 million in 2005 and €204.9 million in 2006, or only 23-27% of the total value of licensed arms exports in these two years. Furthermore, these reported values for actual Belgian arms exports are subject to a number of important caveats. It can safely be assumed that the official figures published in the COARM report underestimate the value of actual arms exports judging from the annual report from the Walloon Government to its parliament: actual Walloon arms exports in 2006 alone were estimated at €233 million, or considerably higher than the COARM figure of €204.9 million for *all* Belgian exports. For 2007, the Walloon Government estimated its actual arms exports at €383 million, or fully 62% of Walloon licensed arms exports. ⁵ The reason for this discrepancy is not known, but the example illustrates how difficult it is to draw a true picture of actual Belgian arms exports.

2 Types of exported goods

The information in the COARM report for 2007 also reveals the nature of Belgian licensed arms exports. Nearly one-third of all Belgian arms exports are of small arms and light weapons (SALW) (ML1 - 31%), Belgium's most significant military export products (see Figure 2). These weapons are exported primarily to the United States (68%) and, to some extent, countries in the Middle East (12%).

Aside from SALW, Belgian exports consist to a large extent of (components for) military aircraft (ML10 - 14%), (components for) military vehicles (ML6 - 14%), all types of bombs and other explosive devices (ML4 - 12%), ammunition for SALW (ML3 - 7%) and military electronics (ML11 - 7%). Aircraft components are exported primarily to countries in the Middle East (59%) and, to a smaller extent, to EU countries (21%), while components for military vehicles are exported to European countries (78%), both EU member states (48%) and non-member states (31%). Explosive devices are primarily sold to the Middle East (61%), SALW ammunition to North America (45%) and the Middle East (41%), and electronic equipment to EU countries (84%).

In the COARM report for 2007 the Belgian figures are for the first time presented by the ML categories of the Common Military List of the European Union.

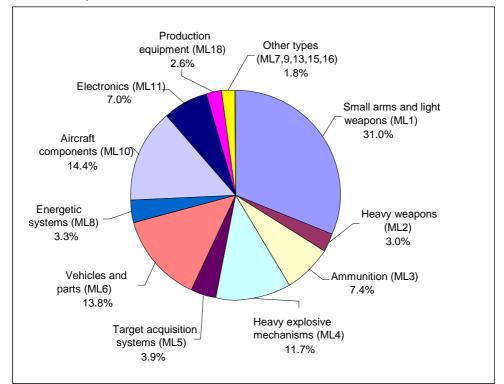


Figure 2: Distribution of the value of Belgian export licences by type of military equipment, ML1 to ML22, 2007

Source: COARM.

The 2007 COARM report shows that Belgium exports considerable numbers of target-acquisition and related systems (ML5 - 4%), all kinds of energetic systems such as explosives (ML8 - 3%), 'heavy' weapons such as mortars (ML2 - 3%), and production equipment for military products (ML18 - 3%). The export of other types of military goods is rather limited.

A significant drawback in the use of the COARM figures for compiling a picture of the types of military equipment exported from Belgium is that these figures do not take fully into account all the issued Belgian export licences. COARM figures relate only to a segment of Belgian arms exports that are subject to an export licence – the export of military goods on the Common Military List (ML1 to ML22). In Belgium, particularly in Flanders, a large number of export licences are issued for military equipment that is not on the Common List, according to the Belgian Royal Decree on foreign arms trade of 1993 (see section 5.1). Among other types, this concerns certain weapons and ammunition and the export of goods that fall under the catch-all clause (on the catch-all clause see section 6 below.) In 2007, for instance, licences for a total value of €89 million were issued for the export of visualization screens with military end-use, or about 10% of total Belgian arms exports that year. In spite of the fact that values for these licences are not

included in the COARM figures, it the category visualization screens constitutes one of the most important Belgian military exports.

3 Recipients of Belgian arms exports

3.1 Recipient regions and countries

The figures quoted in annual COARM reports allow analysis of the recipients of Belgian arms exports. In recent years exports were fairly equally split among recipient countries in three regions: Europe (33%), North America (32%) and Asia (27%). Exports to countries in Latin America (3%), Africa (3%) and Oceania (2%) were on a significantly smaller scale (see Figure 3).

Belgian exports to European countries are imported primarily by EU member states^{vii} – mainly Germany, France and the United Kingdom. Combined exports to these three countries constitute about 70% of all Belgian licensed arms exports to EU member states. Since the 2003 regionalization, licences have been issued for exports to all the EU member states except Luxembourg.^{viii}

The United States is the main recipient of Belgian arms exports to North America; Canada's imports are on a small scale. The United States has for years been the world's top military spender⁶ and, without question, is the most important market for sales of Belgian military equipment (see Table 2). In every year in the period 2004-2007, the United States was Belgium's most important recipient country (in terms of value). In 2007 Belgium licensed the export primarily of SALW.

With some exceptions, these screens are not on the Common Military List of the European Union, but in Flanders they fall systematically under the Belgian catch-all clause. The licence obligation for goods that are not on the Common List is, in any case, not a typically Belgian phenomenon: other EU member states, for instance the United Kingdom and Germany, also require export licences for goods that are not on the EU list but are included in the country's own national list of goods subject to control. See Castryck, G., Depauw, S. & Duquet, N. (2007), Benchmarking Arms Export Controls: a region and its neighbours. Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute.

In 2007 such exports pertained particularly to (components for) military vehicles (25%) and military aircraft (22%). For earlier years it cannot be determined on the basis of the COARM figures what types of goods were exported to which destinations.

This is logical since, under the BLEU Accord, Belgian export licences are not required for arms exports to Luxembourg. (This refers to the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU), which in July 1921 introduced a system of monetary association between Belgium and Luxembourg.) For additional information on the implications of the BLEU Accord for the legal framework of Belgian foreign arms trade, see Castryck, G., Depauw, S. & Duquet, N. (2006), *The Flemish Arms Export Policy: An Analysis of the Legal Framework*. Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, pp. 59-62.

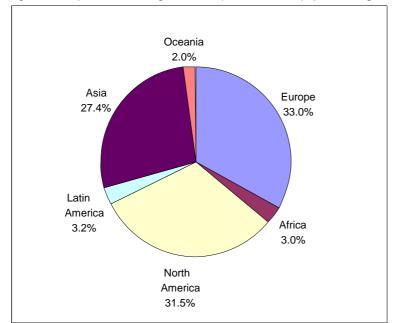


Figure 3: Importers of Belgian arms (ML1 to ML22), percentage share by region, 2004-2007^{ix}

Source: COARM.

Belgian arms exports to Asia are primarily delivered to countries in the Middle East. Since 2004, the Middle East has accounted for nearly a quarter (23%) of the total value of Belgian licensed arms exports. Exports were to a dozen or so countries, including Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Israel, Lebanon and Iraq. The most important recipient country is Saudi Arabia, which imports more than two-thirds of Belgian arms exports to the Middle East.

The most important Asian recipient countries that are not in the Middle East are India, Pakistan and Malaysia; but also a number of other Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, have recently imported Belgian military goods.

The most important recipient countries in Latin America are Venezuela, Chile, Brazil and Mexico – which in 2007 imported mainly SALW and energetic materials (e.g., explosives) of Belgian manufacture. In Africa, the recipients are primarily in North Africa, in particular Libya and Egypt: since 2004 these two countries have accounted for two-thirds of Belgian arms exports to Africa. In Oceania both Australia and New Zealand import Belgian weapons.

For an overview of the number and value of issued arms export licences per recipient country during the four-year period 2004-2007, see Table 5 in the annex of this background note.

3.2 Recipient countries

The 10 most important sales markets for Belgian arms exports since 2004 are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: The 10 top recipient countries of Belgian arms exports, by in value, 2004-2007

Rank	Country	Total value of licensed	Share of total value of
		arms exports (ML1-22)	licensed arms exports
1	United States	867,084,951	30.2%
2	Saudi Arabia	458,695,358	16.0%
3	Germany	284,953,699	9.9%
4	France	181,898,158	6.3%
5	United Kingdom	127,222,758	4.4%
6	Jordan	99,790,738	3.5%
7	Switzerland	64,716,113	2.3%
8	Portugal	54,068,690	1.9%
9	India	49,550,217	1.7%
10	Denmark	39,349,616	1.4%

Source: COARM.

4 Share of the Regions in total Belgian arms exports

This section examines the three Regions' and the Federal Government's share of total Belgian arms exports. It analyses first the nine-year period prior to the regionalization of trade competence (1994-2002) and then the period since 2003, when nearly all competencies were transferred to the Regions.

4.1 The period 1994-2002

Analysis of the data for 1994-2002 shows that more arms were exported from francophone Belgium than from Flanders (see Figure 4), with peak periods in 1994 (92%) and 1997 (80%). In addition, the volume of arms export licences for the Belgian Armed Forces is fairly modest in terms of value, although it is striking that, for both 1997 and 1998, the value of licensed arms exports by the Belgian Army was higher than the total value of the approved export licences for which application was made in the Flemish Region (or in the Dutch language in the Brussels Capital Region).^x

Belgian Armed Forces: €170.4 million (1997) and €173.0 million (1998). Flemish applications: €150.3 million (1997) and €138.9 million (1998).

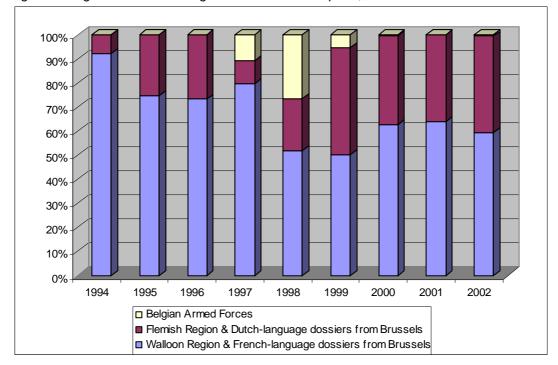


Figure 4: Regional shares in Belgian licensed arms exports, 1994-2002xi

Source: Periodic reports of the Federal Government to the Belgian Parliament.

An analysis of the figures shows that the Walloon and Flemish Regions were characterized by a different arms export dynamic in the years preceding the regionalization (see Figures 5 and 6).

Wallonia experienced a strong decrease between 1994 and 1999 (from €723.5 million to €312.6 million), except for the above-mentioned exceptional year 1997, followed by an equally strong increase between 1999 and 2002 (from €312.6 million to €682.0 million). This development reflects the worldwide trend in military spending. At the close of the 1980s, the end of the Cold War rang in a worldwide trend towards lower military expenditures, reaching its nadir in the mid-1990s. This downward spiral had worldwide consequences for defence-related industries, including that of Wallonia. However, the closing years of the 1990s witnessed a resurgence of military spending, which had a positive effect on Walloon arms exports.

Of the figures for 1994-1996, the category 'Belgian Armed Forces' did not appear in the pertinent annual reports from the Federal Government; the export licences were categorized by 'Flemish Region + Dutch-language applications from the Brussels Region' and 'Walloon Region + francophone applications from the Brussels Region'.

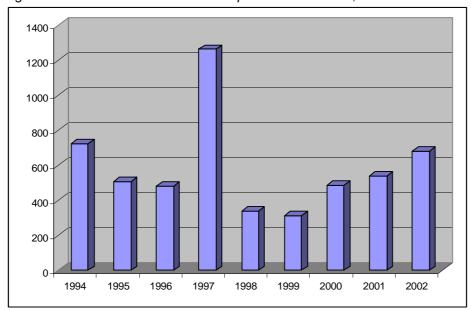


Figure 5: The value of licensed arms exports from Wallonia, 1994-2002

Source: Periodic reports of the Federal Government to the Belgian Parliament.

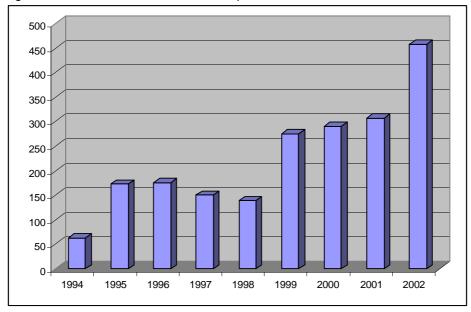


Figure 6: The value of licensed arms exports from Flanders, 1994-2002

Source: Periodic reports of the Federal Government to the Belgian Parliament.

Although Flanders' licensed arms exports for the entire period were smaller than exports from Wallonia, it was at this time that Flemish licensed arms exports showed an exponential growth: from €62.9 million in 1994 to no less than €457.6 million in 2002. This exceptional rise occurred

primarily in 1995, 1999 and 2002. Flemish arms exports in the years prior to the regionalization of the trade competence had clearly started to catch up with the level of Walloon exports.

4.2 The period since the regionalization in the summer of 2003

In 2004, this Flemish arms export 'catch-up phase' reached its zenith when the value of Flemish licensed arms exports (€477.3 million) for the first time surpassed the value of Walloon licensed arms exports (€413.1 million). However, this shift in regional dominance was short-lived. Ever since then the Flemish share of total Belgian arms exports has again been on a significantly lower level than the Walloon share (see Figure 7). This is to a large extent due to the spectacular drop in Flemish arms exports in 2005. While Flemish arms exports rose in 2006 and 2007, the current value of Flemish licensed arms exports is far below the level of 2004.

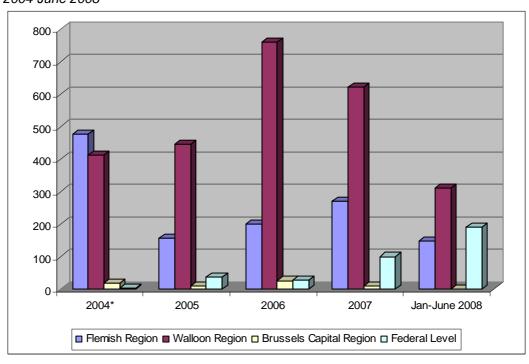


Figure 7: The value of Belgian licensed arms exports, at Region and Federal level, 2004-June 2008

Source: Periodic reports of the competent governments to their respective parliaments.

The value of Wallonia's licensed arms exports did not decline immediately after regionalization, but rather increased notably until 2006. Over the four-year period 2004-2007, the value of Walloon licensed arms exports rose by no less than 50%: from €413.1 million in 2004 to €621.0 million in 2007. This rise may be attributed primarily to the increase in exports to the United States and Saudi Arabia.⁹

Export licences issued by the Brussels Capital Region annually account for a small share (maximum 2.5%) of the total value of Belgian export licences. Similarly, export licences granted to the Belgian Armed Forces have traditionally been of only limited value. However, it is notable

that the total value of federally licensed arms exports has fluctuated greatly and, occasionally, as in 1997 and 1998, even exceeded Flemish licensed exports in the first half of 2008 (see Figure 7).

The following sections present characteristics of Flemish, Walloon, Brussels and Federal licensed arms exports since the partial regionalization (see section 9) in the summer of 2003 of the control competence for Belgian foreign arms trade. Section 5 scrutinizes the Belgian arms export licences that were denied in the period 1995-2007.

5 Denied licence applications

Belgian applications for military export licences are seldom denied. The data presented in Table 3 show that denials were numerous only in 1996 and 1997 (7% and 7.2%, respectively). In the other years of the period, the percentage of denied licence applications fluctuates between 1% and 3%.

A comparison of these figures over the years further demonstrates that the percentage of denied licences in the period following the regionalization of the competence (September 2003-2007: 1.5%) is appreciably lower than during the period prior to the transfer (1995-2002: 3.6%). However, this observation should be treated with caution in the light of the fact that Table 3 also shows that the percentage of denied licences since regionalization is only slightly lower than in the three years prior to the transfer of competence (2000-2002: 1.7%). If, indeed, the lower number of denied licence applications indicates a declining trend, it must have started in the years before 2003.

Since 2000, the share of denials by two Regions, Flanders and Wallonia (see Table 4), has differed. An analysis of these figures shows that the share of denied licence applications has risen strongly in Flanders since the regionalization (from 1.3% to 3%), while it has declined in Wallonia (from 1.8% to 1.2%).

The Flemish figures for the period 2000-2002 relate to all applications from the Flemish Region and Dutch-language applications from the Brussels Capital Region. The Walloon figures for this period relate to applications from the Walloon Region and francophone applications from the Brussels Capital Region.

Table 3: Percentage of all Belgian denied licences in total licence applications, 1995-2007

Year	Number of denied applications	Total number of applications	Percentage of denied applications
1995	25	1,107	2.26%
1996	84	1,201	6.99%
1997	95	1,321	7.19%
1998	29	1,096	2.65%
1999	29	980	2.96%
2000	10	894	1.12%
2001	26	943	2.76%
2002	12	1,025	1.17%
Jan. – Aug. 2003	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sep. 2003 – 2004	19	1,396	1.36%
2005	17	921	1.85%
2006	13	1,035	1.26%
2007	18	1,174	1.53%
Total 1995-2002	310	8,567	3.62%
Total 2000-2002	48	2,862	1.68%
Total 2003-2007	67	4,526	1.48%

Source: Periodic reports of the competent governments to their respective parliaments.

Table 4: Percentage of denied Flemish and Walloon licence applications, 1995-2007

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	Number of denied	Total number of	Percentage of denied	Number of denied	Total number of	Percentage of denied
Year	applications	applications	applications	applications	applications	applications
2000	2	196	1.02%	8	693	1.15%
2001	6	213	2.82%	20	709	2.74%
2002	1	277	0.36%	11	726	1.49%
Jan. – Aug. 2003	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sept Dec. 2003	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	340	1.47%
2004*	8	358	2.23%	6	624	0.96%
2005	6	174	3.45%	11	691	1.59%
2006	5	186	2.69%	8	774	1.03%
2007	8	185	4.32%	10	897	1.11%
Total 2000-2002	9	687	1.31%	39	2,159	1.81%
Total 2003-2007	27	903	2.99%	35	2,986	1.17%

Source: Periodic reports of the competent governments to their respective parliaments.

^{*} The 2004 figures for Flanders are for the period September 2003–December 2004.

It is also important to note that, since the regionalization of the competence in the summer of 2003, not a single formal application for an export licence has been denied by the government of the Brussels Capital Region (with a total of 206 licence applications) or by the Federal Government (106 applications).

6 Characteristics of Flemish arms exports

6.1 Nature of the exported goods

Previous analyses of the Flemish defence-related industry have demonstrated that this sector is primarily composed of high-tech companies (often suppliers of components), among which only a small number have activities concentrated primarily in the military market. ¹⁰ Most Flemish businesses that export military goods are still oriented mainly towards the civil market. For these companies, defence-related orders constitute only a small portion of their total turnover. Nonetheless, Flanders also has a number of enterprises that depend nearly entirely, or to a very large degree, on the defence-related market, such as for instance *OIP Sensor Systems* (a subsidiary of the Israeli *Elbit Systems* specialized in optical systems), *Varec* (rubberized metal and synthetic parts for armoured military vehicles), *EADS DS Belgium* (military electronics) and *FN Zutendaal* (ammunition).

The relatively high transparency in Flanders' periodic reports since 2005 permits a quite detailed analysis of the nature of its arms exports. Figure 8 presents an account of the nature of the goods for which Flemish export licences have been issued since 2005.

It is important to note that the export of visualization screens for military end-use – for instance, for incorporation in military aircraft, helicopters or vehicles – accounts for nearly half (43%) of Flemish licensed arms exports. With some exceptions, these goods are not on the Common Military List of the European Union¹¹ but their export is subject to a licence under the national catch-all clause of the Belgian Royal Decree on foreign arms trade of 8 March 1993. Aside from licences for the export of visualization screens, Flanders has in recent years also approved licences for other goods falling under the Belgian catch-all clause (3%) – mainly lighting systems and perimeter barriers for military airfields, components for vessels, vehicles and aircraft, electronics and software. The catch-all clause was added to the Belgian Royal Decree on foreign arms trade so that the authorities could react swiftly to unforeseen developments or changed circumstances. It allows them to invoke an ad hoc licensing obligation for the export of goods that are not included in either the European or national lists of goods subject to an export licence. The observation that the export of visualization screens for military end-use systematically requires an export licence in Flanders in fact signifies a de facto entry on the list of goods subject to a licence. In its reports to the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Government has given these kinds of goods their own ML-category classification (ML24), just like the goods that are not on the EU Common List but do appear in the national list, such as certain types of rifles and ammunition (ML23) and law-enforcement materials (ML26).

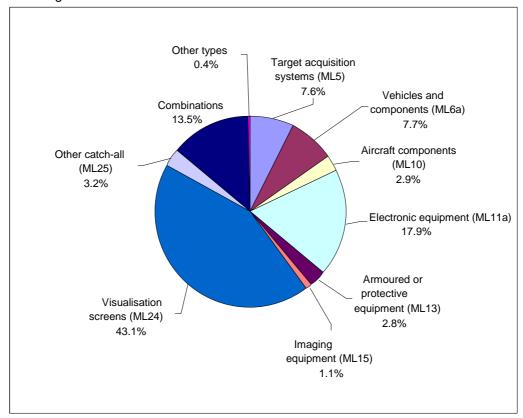


Figure 8: Categories of Flemish arms exports and share of total value of Belgian military exports, 2005-August 2008^{xiii}

Source: Periodic reports of the Flemish Government to its parliament.

Aside from visualization screens, the other important Flemish military export products are military electronic systems (18%), military vehicles and their components (8%), and target acquisition systems (8%). Combined, these four types of product account for more than three-quarters of all Flemish arms exports. **iv* The Flemish arms trade is thus clearly characterized by a limited number of goods. However, it is important to note that exports are carried out by a small number of Flemish companies: only a handful of enterprises export the four major types of military goods. As mentioned above, export licences for visualization screens account for 43% of all Flemish arms exports, and licences are applied for by only one Flemish corporation, *Barco*, a world presence in military cockpit technology and active in a number of other, civil niche markets such as medical imaging.

A more detailed summary of the various types of goods for which Flemish export licences have been applied since 2005 is presented in Table 6 in the annex of this background note.

If the share of these four types of military good is included in the licences that relate to the composite types of goods ('combinations'), the total share of these goods in Flemish arms exports is even higher – nearly 90%.

In sum, exports from the Flanders Region are dominated by four types of military product (visualization screens, electronic equipment, vehicles and components, and target acquisition and related systems). In addition, other types of military product are exported worldwide from Flanders – mainly components for military aircraft (currently primarily within the context of the Airbus A400M project), armoured protection for equipment and body armour for soldiers, and military imaging equipment. The absence of munitions is striking in the light of the presence of an important ammunition factory in Flanders (FN Zutendaal). It should be noted, however, that these goods are exported from the Walloon Region under a Walloon export licence via the Walloon parent company.

6.2 Recipients

Flemish arms are exported primarily to other European countries (52%), especially EU member states, and to North America (32%). The preceding sections show that goods are often exported to the industry sectors in those world regions, ¹² which is a logical consequence of the specific profile of the Flemish defence-related industry – high-tech components. The incorporation of these components into larger-scale weapon systems is carried out by major defence corporations in a number of industrialized countries. The most important sales markets for Flemish military goods in the five years September 2003 to August 2008 were: the United States (€453 million), Germany (€327 million), the United Kingdom (€149 mllion) and France (€130 million). Other important recipient countries are Switzerland, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Asia, with a 14% recipient share, is a relatively important sales market for Flemish military goods, with recipients in such industrialized countries as Singapore (€77 million), India (€55 million) and Japan (€28 million). Aside from the Far East, military goods were also exported, albeit in limited volume, to countries in the Middle East, e.g. Turkey, Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Flemish exports of military goods to Africa, Latin America and Oceania were rather rare in the period 2003-2007. Combined, these three world regions – with recipient countries such as Australia, Chile, Colombia, Algeria and Tanzania – account for only 2% of the value of Flemish licensed arms exports.

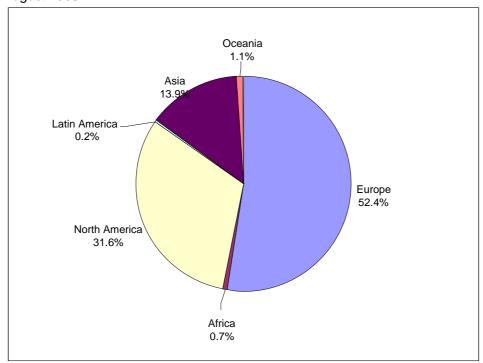


Figure 9: Recipient regions for Flemish arms exports, by share of total value, September 2003-August 2008^{xv}

Source: Periodic reports of the Flemish Government to its parliament.

Although Flemish military goods are exported to primarily industries in the industrialized countries of Europe, North America and Asia, the finished products ultimately may find their way to other countries. Components are built into large weapon systems that may subsequently be reexported to other countries.¹³

7 Characteristics of Walloon arms exports

7.1 Nature of the exported goods

In contrast to Flanders, Wallonia's defence-related industry is quite active in the production of such 'conventional' military goods as firearms, ammunition and explosives. Three large corporations are actively engaged in this conventional defence sector: the *Herstal Group* (firearms and ammunition), *Mecar* (grenades, mortars and other explosive devices) and *Cockerill Maintenance & Ingénierie* (CMI, weapon systems for armoured vehicles). Note that the *Herstal*

For an overview of the exact figures per recipient country, see Table 7 in the annex of this background note.

Group, ^{xvi} with its subsidiaries *FN Herstal* and *Browning International*, is one of the largest producers of firearms worldwide and is controlled entirely by the Walloon Region – that is, the Region that also processes export licences for this group. Until only a few years ago, the Walloon Region also held a quarter of the *CMI* shares, but this holding has in the meantime been reduced to one, symbolic share. Aside from these three major companies, a number of other Walloon firms are active in the conventional defence-related industry: *Forges de Zeebruges* (subsidiary of the French firm *Thales* and specialized in missile systems for integration into aircraft, helicopters, vehicles and vessels), *New Lachaussee* (subsidiary of the *Forrest Group* and specialized in production equipment for ammunition) and *PB Clermont* (subsidiary of *Eurenco* and specialized in munitions).

Several other companies in the Walloon Region are also actively involved in the military aviation sector. Among these, the largest is *Sonaca*, specialized in the development of aircraft components. Several smaller Walloon businesses are also active in the military aviation sector, e.g. *Techspace Aero* and *TAC Technical Airborne Components Industries*. Similarly, the aircraft parts producer *SABCA*, with its head office in Brussels, maintains a major plant in Wallonia. The activities of this Walloon *SABCA* plant are focused on repairing and upgrading military aircraft, such as the F-16s of the Belgian Armed Forces. *Sabiex* is a similar company that specializes in rebuilding and upgrading military vehicles for future resale. It is notable that, as in the conventional defence sector, the Walloon Region also maintains interests in the military aviation sector. For instance, the Walloon Region controls nearly 90% of *Sonaca* and is a minority shareholder in *Techspace Aero* (31%).

Because of the limited transparency in the mandatory periodic reports of the Walloon Government to its parliament, it is difficult to compile a detailed picture of the nature of Walloon arms exports in recent years. Nevertheless, on the basis of the 2007 COARM report and the periodic reports of the other Regions and of the Federal Government for that year, a reasonable estimate can be made of the nature of Wallonia's licensed arms exports.xvii These data show that export licences for SALW in 2007 accounted for about 40% of the total value of Walloon licensed arms exports, its most important military export products. Given the profile of the Walloon defence-related industries, it should come as no surprise that other 'conventional' military goods also account for a substantial portion of Walloon arms exports. The share of explosive devices in the total value of Walloon licensed arms exports in 2007 is estimated to be about 15%. Combined, SALW, heavy weapons, ammunition and explosive devices (four types of 'conventional' military goods) account for no less than two-thirds of total Walloon arms exports, in contrast to Flanders and Brussels. The export of products from the Walloon military aviation industry is also considerable: for military aircraft and their components it is estimated at 15% of total Walloon licensed arms exports in 2007. In addition, Wallonia also exports military electronics, which accounts for about 5% of Walloon licensed arms exports.¹⁴

The Herstal Group also maintains a plant in Flanders with FN Zutendaal. The ammunition produced in FN Zutendaal is exported under Walloon, not Flemish, export licences. The plant in Zutendaal does, in effect, export its products via the parent company in Herstal, in Wallonia.

xvii This is possible by subtracting the respective Flemish, Brussels and Federal export licences from the 2007 COARM figures for Belgium.

7.2 Recipients

The Walloon Government has since 2006 disclosed information about the number of issued export licences and their combined value per recipient country. This information is analysed here for the period 2006-2007 (see the annex, Table 10).

The most important sales market for the Walloon defence-related industry was the United States, with a total value of over €516 million. The USA was the recipient of no less than 37% of Walloon licensed arms exports in these two years.

Approximately one-fifth of Walloon licensed arms exports were destined for EU countries (22%): the most important recipient countries are France (7%) and Germany (6%) in terms of total value, but there were also considerable exports of military goods to for example Denmark, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Portugal, Greece, Poland, Italy and Ireland. Wallonia has in recent years also exported arms to European countries outside the European Union (in particular Norway and Switzerland). The rather limited exports from Wallonia to European countries is striking in the light of the fact that about half of Flemish arms exports were imported by these countries in recent years: while Flanders exported nearly 85% (by value) of its licensed arms exports to countries in Europe and North America, the comparable figure for Wallonia is notably lower, at 60%. The most important reason for this is the strong position occupied by the Middle East as a recipient region for Walloon arms exports.

The Middle East accounted for a quarter of Walloon licensed arms exports (25%). Saudi Arabia (20%) was the most important recipient: in both 2006 and 2007 the value of export licences for exports to Saudi Arabia increased to €277.3 million. In comparison, the value of all licensed arms exports from Flanders, worldwide, was in 2007 €270.3 million. In addition to Saudi Arabia, the other important recipient countries in this region are the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Turkey. It is also noteworthy that in the past two years military goods were exported to Israel and Lebanon, two countries that were recently embroiled in an armed conflict. Aside from the Middle East, 2006 and 2007 also witnessed the export of Walloon military goods to other Asian countries (2.8%), for example Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Singapore and Indonesia.

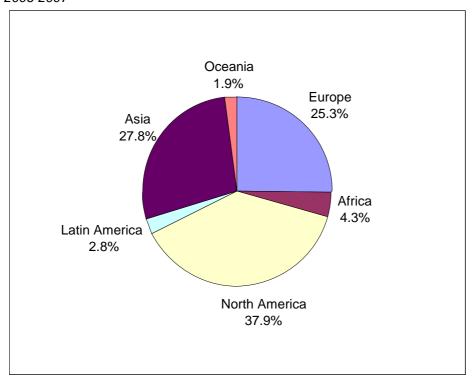


Figure 10: Recipient regions for Walloon arms exports, share of total value of exports, 2006-2007***

Source: Periodic reports by the Walloon Government to its parliament.

Walloon arms exports to Africa (4.3%) and Latin America (2.8%) are rather limited, but still larger than Flemish arms exports (see Figure 9). The African recipient countries are located primarily in North Africa (particularly Morocco, Egypt and Mauritania). In Sub-Saharan Africa, the most important recipient countries are South Africa and Nigeria. Walloon military equipment is also exported to a large number of Latin American countries, but for relatively small values. The primary recipient countries in terms of licence value are Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.

xviii For an overview of the exact figures per recipient country, see Table 8 in the annex of this background note.

8 Characteristics of arms exports from the Brussels Capital Region

8.1 Nature of the exported goods

Only a small number of firms in the Brussels Capital Region are active in the defence market, the most important of which is *SABCA*. The Brussels plant of this Belgian company manufactures components for both aircraft and spacecraft. In contrast to the Flemish Region, where the mandatory periodic reports have since 2005 become considerably more transparent, ¹⁵ the Brussels Capital Region continues to follow the old, less transparent, Belgian method of accounting in its reports. For this reason, for the Brussels Capital Region a distinction can be drawn only between 'light', 'semi-heavy', 'heavy' and 'other' military goods. The share of the various types of goods can thus be based on only the number of licences issued, not their value.

Figure 11 shows that more than four-fifths of all Brussels export licences are for light military goods. Considerably fewer licences have been issued by the Brussels Region in recent years for 'heavy' and 'other' military goods, and there are even fewer licences for the export of 'semi-heavy' goods. This does not, however, imply that the main focus of the Brussels defence-related industry is on the production and export of light military goods. XiX

In spite of the lack of adequate transparency in its reporting, the Brussels Capital Region Government has for a number of years increasingly provided additional information about its import and export licences. This supplemental information contributes to a clearer picture of the specific nature of the goods that have recently been exported under Brussels export licences. Little is known about the specific types of 'light' military goods exported from this region, but it is known that the weapons are primarily destined for arms dealers and private parties. In contrast, relatively valuable exports of 'heavy' goods consist exclusively of aircraft components (from the Brussels *SABCA* plant) destined for foreign armed forces and industry. The export of 'other' military goods pertains to communication equipment, electronic equipment and optical systems.

The analysis of the Flemish figures has demonstrated that export licences for light goods are generally of a rather low value. Analysis of specific Brussels licences where the types of military goods can be linked to amounts for the period 2004-2007 – in casu the figures for export licences where only 1 type of military material was exported per destination plan – demonstrates that in the Brussels Capital Region the average value per export licence is generally also significantly lower for 'light' material than for 'heavy' and 'other' material.

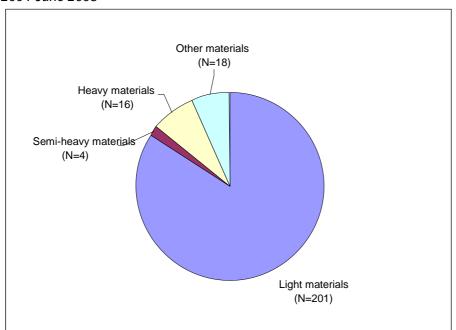


Figure 11: The number of Brussels Region arms export licences, by types of military goods, 2004-June 2008

Source: Periodic reports of the Brussels Capital Region Government to its parliament.

8.2 Recipients

Compared to the Walloon and Flemish Regions, the total value of licensed arms export from the Brussels Capital Region is small: it accounts annually for a maximum of 2.5% of total Belgian licensed arms exports. Arms from the Brussels Region are not imported so much by European or North American countries as by Asian countries: no less than two-thirds of the Brussels export goes to Asia (67%). As in Wallonia, but in contrast to Flanders, Brussels exports a large share of its military goods to the Middle East (37% - primarily, but not exclusively, aircraft components destined for the Israeli industry, and light military goods and aircraft components for Turkish individual parties, arms dealers and local industry. Among the other recipient countries in the Middle East are Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and, to a lesser extent, Saudi Arabia. Aside from the Middle East, Brussels also exports military goods to other Asian countries (30%), particularly Pakistan. In recent years, two Brussels licences for a combined value of €16.1 million were issued for the export of aircraft components to the Pakistani Air Force. This makes Pakistan the primary recipient of Brussels' military goods, followed by Israel (€9.9 million) and Portugal (€9.2 million). Licences were also issued for exports to countries in South-East Asia (aircraft components for Indonesia) and Central Asia (light goods for private parties in Georgia and for the Armenian President).

After Asia, Europe (18%), particularly EU member states (17%), is the most important regional market for the rather limited volume of Brussels' arms exports. Among the 12 recipient countries in this region, Portugal ('heavy' and 'other' equipment) is the most important.

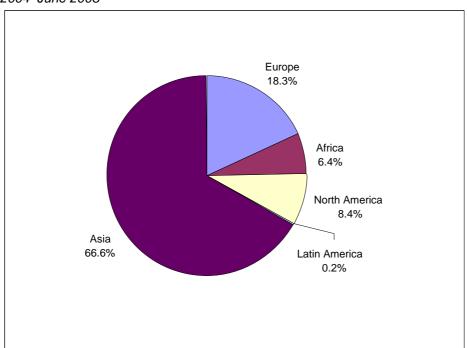


Figure 12: Recipient regions for arms exports from the Brussels Region, share of total value, 2004–June 2008^{xx}

Source: Periodic reports of the Brussels Capital Region Government to its parliament.

Arms exports to North America accounted for only 8% of all licensed arms exports from the Brussels Region since 2004. The exports are primarily of heavy goods destined for American industry and the <u>US</u> armed forces.

Arms exports from the Brussels Region to Africa (6%) are rather limited but constitute a relatively larger share than Wallonia's (4%) or Flanders' (1%). The most important African recipient countries are Morocco (semi-heavy and heavy goods for the Moroccan Government) and Cameroon (optical systems for the armed forces and light goods for a private party). Brussels also exported military goods to Algeria, Libya, Ghana, Tanzania, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Since 2004, exports to Latin America (0.2%) in this period were confined to only one licence for the export of heavy goods to the Chilean Government.

xx For an overview of the exact figures per recipient country, see Table 9 in the annex of this background note.

9 Characteristics of Federal arms exports

At the time of the regionalization of the competence for the control of foreign arms trade, the Belgian Federal Government decided not to transfer one particular segment of this control to the Regions but to retain it at Federal level: applications for export licences that are submitted by the Belgian Armed Forces or the police are still assessed and processed by the Federal Government. The Federal periodic reports show that, since the regionalization of the summer of 2003, nearly all the Federal export licences have been applied for by the Belgian Army. Exports consist of second-hand surplus Belgian Army military equipment to countries worldwide, either as a gift or as sales. However, it is not always entirely clear which specific types of equipment are involved because of the lack of transparency in the periodic reports of the Federal Government to the Belgian Parliament: xxi no detailed or complete overview of the share of the different types of equipment can therefore be gleaned from public documents. However, on the basis of reports of parliamentary activities and the media it can be deduced that Federal arms exports consist of among other goods aircraft, vehicles, vessels, machineguns, transmitters, military clothing and equipment

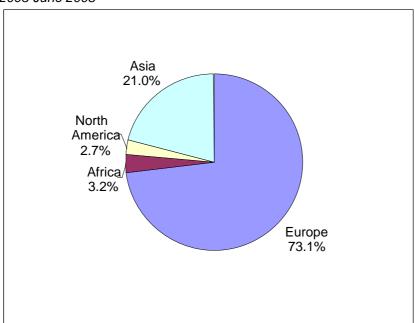


Figure 13: Recipient regions for Belgian Federal arms exports, share of total value, September 2003-June 2008^{xxii}

Source: Periodic reports of the Federal Government to the Belgian Parliament.

xxi The type of military material for which export licences were issued is not systematically specified in these reports.

xxii For an overview of the exact figures per recipient country, see Table 10 in the annex of this background note.

Federal arms exports go mainly to other European countries (see Figure 13). About three-quarters of the military goods exported by the Belgian Armed Forces were destined for European countries (73%), mainly the EU member states – and in particular high-value exports to Italy, but also exports to Bulgaria (e.g. a Belgian frigate¹⁶), France, the United Kingdom and Germany.

The second most important recipient region for second-hand military goods from the Belgian Armed Forces is Asia, particularly the Jordanian Army (armoured vehicles, machineguns, F16 aircraft, trailers and semi-trailers). The Belgian Army also exported military goods to Bahrain and Turkey. In 2008, this may have been complemented by e.g. the export of surplus armoured vehicles to the Lebanonese Armed Forces.¹⁷

The shares of Belgian Federal arms exports to North America (3%) and Africa (3%) are small. Licensed exports to Africa were imported by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (gift and sale of army vehicles, revolvers, pistols, transmitters, gas masks, clothing and equipment for the Congolese Armed Forces), Benin (including exports in the context of operations of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, MONUC), Burundi (sale of trucks and motor bicycles to the Burundi Armed Forces) and Morocco.

10 Conclusions

In the summer of 2003, the then ruling Belgian Federal Government decided to transfer most functions of the competence for control of the foreign trade in military goods and dual-use goods to the jurisdiction of the respective Regional Governments. Since then, the three Belgian Regions have exercised control of the foreign trade within their respective territories. Only the import and export of military goods relating to the Belgian Armed Forces and the police have remained a Federal competence. On the basis of official figures gleaned from public documents, this background note presents a detailed picture of both Regional and Federal Belgian licensed arms exports since the time of the regionalization.

A comparison of Belgium with the other EU member states reveals that in 2007 Belgium ranked eighth among the top arms-exporting countries. At the end of the 1990s, both the Wallonia and Flanders Regions experienced strong growth in the size of their exports. In the period after the regionalization, however, these two regions differed in their export patterns: Walloon arms exports rose by 50%, while the level of Flemish arms exports fluctuated greatly.

Over the five-year period 2003-2007, the various competent Belgian authorities issued export licences for a value of over €4.5 billion. In the last two years of the period, the value of licences exceeded €1 billion.

In 2005 most Belgian licensed arms exports came from Wallonia (62%). The Flemish Region accounted for about a quarter of all all arms exports (27%) and the Belgian Armed Forces for 10%. Arms exports from the Brussels Capital Region were small-scale (at only 1%). The predominance of Wallonia was not new: its licensed arms exports have traditionally been higher than exports from Flanders. Nonetheless, the present study shows that during the years prior to the regionalization Flemish arms exports were clearly approaching the size of Walloon exports. Flanders' increase reached its zenith in 2004, when for the first time the value of Flemish licensed arms exports exceeded Wallonia's. In the following year Flemish arms exports dropped sharply, and since then the Flemish share has shifted between 20% and 27%. The pronounced fluctuations in the value of Federal arms exports is also noteworthy. The share of the Brussels Region has consistently been very low and has recently amounted to at most 2.5% of all Belgian arms exports.

Belgium has exported a wide range of military goods, but small arms and light weapons are clearly its most important military export product (31% of all Belgian arms exports). In addition, Belgium exports substantial quantities of (components for) military aircraft and vehicles, bombs and other explosive devices, ammunition for SALW, military electronics, and visualization screens. These goods are primarily exported to countries in Europe (33%), North America (32%) and the Middle East (23%). Countries in the Far East, Latin America, Africa and Oceania are smaller customers of Belgium. The most important recipient by far is the United States, but Saudi Arabia, Germany, France and the United Kingdom were also high-value recipients in the period 2003-2007.

There are notable differences between the military exports of the three Belgian Regions and the Federal level as regards both the nature of the goods and the recipients.

The nature of the Flemish and Walloon defence-related industries is very different, which has an impact on the nature of the recipients of their exports. While Flanders' defence-related industry is made up primarily of enterprises that are first and foremost oriented towards the civil market but are also of manufacturers of high-tech components for larger weapon systems, Wallonia's industry, in which the Walloon Regional Government is an important actor, is oriented principally towards such 'conventional' defence products as small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosive devices such as grenades and mortars. These products account for about two-thirds of the region's arms exports, and Walloon arms exports consist mainly of (components for) military aircraft and electronics, destined primarily for the United States but also for EU member states and countries in the Middle East (especially Saudi Arabia). Flemish arms exports are not dominated by 'conventional' military equipment but rather by visualization screens, electronic systems, (components for) vehicles and target acquisition systems. This Flemish arms export of mainly components is imported primarily by industries in European and North American countries as well as relatively industrialized countries in the Far East. Export to the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Oceania is fairly limited.

The Brussels Capital Region exports primarily aircraft components (heavy goods); the main recipients are industries and foreign governments. In addition, many licences are issued for light goods – primarily for export to foreign arms dealers and private parties mainly in Asia, in particular Middle Eastern countries (especially Israel and Turkey) and in the other Asian subregions (especially Pakistan). Compared with the other Belgian Regions, the Brussels Region has only limited arms exports to European and North American countries but a relatively greater share of the exports to Africa.

Federal arms exports are almost exclusively linked with licences that the Belgian Armed Forces have applied for in order to export surplus military equipment such as vehicles, aircraft, vessels, machineguns, transmitters, military clothing and equipment. The recipients of these military goods are primarily other EU countries such as Italy, Bulgaria, France, the United Kingdom and Germany as well as countries in the Middle East, such as Jordan. Federal arms exports to Africa and North America are rather limited.

This background note of the Flemish Peace Institute presents, for the first time since Belgium's regionalization of competencies for the arms trade, a *status quaestionis* of Belgian arms exports. In view of Belgium's foreign policy in general, and the position of the country in the EU in particular, this is an important study. It shows that the Belgian arms trade is increasingly becoming determined by international and European agendas. The data overview and analysis fill an important gap in information that can help shape Belgian policy decisions and enhance parliamentary control.

Annex

Table 5: Overview of the value of Belgian licensed arms exports, by region and at Federal level, in million euros. September 2003 – August 2008

Period	Flemish	Walloon	Brussels Capital	Federal level	Total Belgian
	Region (€)	Region (€)	Region (€)	(€)	exports (€)
Sep. 2003-Dec. 2004	631,852	573,018	17,893	6,222	1,228,983
2005	155,451	446,022	10,203	36,749	648,425
2006	199,577	760,408	25,834	27,528	1,013,347
2007	270,311	620,994	8,915	99,780	1,000,001
Jan. 2008-June 2008	148,106	311,6	0,649	190,948	651,303
July-Aug. 2008	26,962	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26,962
Total	1,432,259	2,712,042	63,495	361,226	4,569,021

Source: Periodic reports of the competent Regional Governments to their respective parliaments.

Table 6: The value of Belgian licensed arms exports on the basis of the statutorily mandated periodic reports of the competent Regional governments to their respective parliaments, publicly released in the annual COARM reports^{xxiii}

Year	Value in Belgian periodic reports (€)	Value in COARM reports (€)
1994	786,442,207	-
1995	679,834,320	-
1996	656,532,221	-
1997	1,583,234,262	-
1998	649,671,652	649,671,652
1999	622,026,369	622,021,411
2000	779,393,408	779,393,408
2001	848,606,597	848,606,597
2002	1,145,839,299	1,145,839,299
2003	n.a. ^{xxiv}	666,083,692
2004*	910,519,581	543,544,520
2005	648,424,583	551,970,999
2006	1,013,346,883	879,043,274
2007	1,000,000,697	899,780,327

Source: COARM and periodic reports of the competent Regional Governments to their respective parliaments.

^{xxiii} 2004*: The value for 2004 is based on the data provided by the Walloon, Brussels and Federal periodic reports for 2004 and on an estimation of the Flemish figures for 2004. Since the Flemish periodic reports did not relate to the period from January to December 2004, but rather to the periods September 2003-February 2004, March-August 2004 and September-December 2004, there is no accurate information available for the period January-December 2004. For more information about the estimation procedure used, see Castryck, G., Depauw, S. & Duquet, N. (2007), *Profile of foreign trade in military material and the defence-related industry in Flanders*. Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute.

This value is not available (n.a.) because the obligated (semi-annual) report of the Federal Government for the period January-August 2003 was never published. In addition, a separate report of the Flemish Government for the period September–December 2003 is lacking (the Flemish report deals with the period September 2003–February 2004).

Table 7: Recipients of Belgian arms exports (ML1 to ML22), 2004-2007

Recipient	Number of	Value of	Share of the value
Region/Country	licences	licences (€)	of all issued
			licences (%)
Europe	1,839	948,045,976	33.0%
European Union	1,591	847,591,824	29.5%
Austria	54	1,654,128	
Bulgaria	4	33,019,850	
Cyprus	17	11,207,599	
Czech Republic	29	9,380,819	
Denmark	42	39,349,616	
Finland	22	1,726,897	
France	398	181,898,158	
Germany	283	284,953,699	
Greece	24	19,154,332	
Hungary	5	1,410,000	
Iceland	12	1,682,910	
Ireland	18	7,436,240	
Italy	102	18,472,883	
Latvia	2	1,043,737	
Lithuania	6	958,522	
Malta	1	946	
Netherlands	2	423,738	
Poland	30	12,588,542	
Portugal	14	54,068,690	
Romania	1	8,193	
Slovakia	1	25,000	
Slovenia	33	22,480,402	
Spain	124	5,822,092	
Sweden	103	11,602,073	
United Kingdom	264	127,222,758	
Other European countries	248	100,454,152	3.5%
Andorra	6	103,899	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	1,000,000	
Croatia	2	25,842	
Norway	67	30,026,624	
Russia	11	892,812	
Serbia	13	3,485,647	
Serbia and Montenegro	2	31,215	
(Note: 2 separate states since 2006)			
Switzerland	144	64,716,113	
Ukraine	2	172,000	

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Africa	114	87,026,380	3,0%
North Africa	64	68,357,901	2,4%
Algeria	8	1,292,909	
Egypt	12	22,037,731	
Libya	1	205,579	
Morocco	22	37,376,774	
Mauritania	12	6,085,494	
Tunisia	9	1,359,414	
Sub-Saharan Africa	50	18,668,479	0,6%
Benin	4	3,550,000	
Botswana	1	449,000	
Burundi	2	161,000	
Burkina Faso	2	4,200	
Cameroon	3	1,134,831	
Democratic Republic of the	6	3,571,697	
Congo Ghana	2	27,829	
Liberia	1	0	
Madagascar	1	200	
Mauritius	2	29,365	
Niger	5	2,709	
Nigeria	5	2,965,425	
Republic Congo	1	1,410	
Senegal	1	16,226	
Tanzania	1	12,476	
South Africa	13	6,742,111	
North America	606	905,256,332	31.5%
Canada	182	38,171,381	
United States	424	867,084,951	
Latin America	234	90,954,736	3.2%
Argentina	11	1,310,413	
Barbados	3	16,076	
Brazil	58	18,290,696	
Chile	63	24,392,117	
Dominican Republic	2	47,649	
El Salvador	6	105,350	
Guatemala	5	115,543	
Jamaica	4	539,948	
Mexico	41	17,542,533	
Panama	3	111,206	
Peru	15	381,453	

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Trinidad & Tobago	5	280,636	
Uruguay	4	104,511	
Venezuela	14	27,716,605	
Asia	607	786,170,689	27.4%
Middle East	382	664,165,830	23.1%
Bahrain	19	6,841,515	
Iraq	1	5,032	
Israel	27	20,153,798	
Jordan	21	99,790,738	
Kuwait	20	12,846,614	
Lebanon	16	621,885	
Oman	67	5,596,631	
Qatar	17	5,424,412	
Saudi Arabia	71	458,695,358	
Turkey	69	25,759,003	
United Arab Emirates	54	28,430,844	
Other Asian countries	225	122,004,859	4.2%
Armenia	1	4,500	
Brunei-Darussalam	47	2,443,264	
Georgia	3	67,200	
India	26	49,550,217	
Indonesia	20	10,909,085	
Japan	30	1,262,934	
Malaysia	24	18,606,840	
Maldives	1	42,300	
Pakistan	13	23,712,163	
Philippines	6	176,467	
Singapore	26	7,588,997	
South Korea	9	2,720,674	
Taiwan	10	4,017,712	
Thailand	7	620,125	
Vietnam	2	282,381	
Oceania	80	56,674,637	2.0%
Australia	52	37,572,147	2.370
New Zealand	28	19,102,490	

Source: COARM.

Table 8: Nature of Flemish arms exports, by type of military equipment, 2005-August 2008

Type of military equipment	Number of	Value of	Share of the
	licences	licences	value of all
			issued
			licences
Target acquisition and related systems (ML5)	6	48,698,766	7.6%
- Weapon sights et al (ML5a)	2	10,136,365	
- Target acquisition systems (ML5b)	4	38,562,401	
Ground vehicles and components (ML6a)	35	49,637,690	7.7%
Military aircrafts and components (ML10)	11	18,859,530	2.9%
- Other military aircraft (ML10b)	7	18,330,495	
- Aircraft engines (ML10d)	4	529,035	
Electronic equipment (ML11a)	33	115,413,174	17.9%
Armoured/protective equipment and	15	17,954,102	2.8%
components (ML13)			
- Armoured plates (ML 13a)	3	6,539,242	
- Ballistic protection materials for military systems (ML13b)	3	805,115	
- Body armour and protective garments (ML13d)	9	10,609,745	
Imaging equipment (ML15)	66	6,843,072	1.1%
- Cameras and photo equipment (ML15b)	4	409,200	
- Image intensifier equipment (ML15c)	36	1,924,755	
- Infrared and thermal imaging equipment (ML15d)	26	4,509,117	
Visualization screens (ML24)	275	277,739,722	43.1%
Other catch-all (ML25)	72	20,322,913	3.2%
- Airfield lighting systems and airfield perimeter barriers	47	18,037,578	
- Software	4	443,530	
- Components and parts for vessels, vehicles, and airplanes	15	677,440	
- Construction materials	1	2,670	
- Electronics	3	632,100	
- Other catch-all	2	529,594	
Other types	19	2,440,797	0.4%
- Small arms and light weapons (ML1a)	8	47,065	
- Equipment for small arms and light weapons (ML1d)	2	21,609	
- Guns (ML2a)	1	150,000	
- Biological agents and radio-active materials (ML7.a)	1	1,435,256	
- Military vessels and components (ML9)	2	735,430	
- Rifles and ammunition not included in the European list	5	51,436	
(ML23)			

Source: Periodic reports of the Flemish Government to the Parliament.

Table 9: Recipients of Flemish arms exports, September 2003-August 2008

Recipient	Number of	Value of	Share of value
Region/Country	licences	Licences	of all issued
		(€)	licences (%)
Europe	685	750,481,114	52.4%
European Union	639	682,897,715	47.7%
Austria	10	390,243	
Cyprus	1	25,380	
Czech Republic	9	8,774,955	
Denmark	10	2,655,555	
Finland	2	124	
France	79	129,817,798	
Germany	193	327,441,139	
Greece	7	27,790,180	
Hungary	2	22,000	
Ireland	8	227,508	
Italy	40	10,582,885	
Lithuania	1	117,300	
Malta	1	946	
Poland	8	117,263	
Romania	1	114,096	
Slovenia	5	2,145,267	
Spain	44	6,872,531	
Sweden	90	17,095,762	
United Kingdom	128	148,706,783	
Other European	46	67,583,399	4.7%
countries			
Andorra	1	1,800	
Belarus	1	500	
Norway	16	24,736,985	
Russia	2	122,450	
Switzerland	26	42,721,664	
Africa	23	9,884,771	0.7%
North Africa	7	7,536,474	0.5%
Algeria	5	6,578,286	
Morocco	2	958,188	
Sub-Saharan Africa	16	2,348,297	0.2%
Liberia	1	0	
Malawi	1	210,824	
Senegal	1	0	

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Total	1,057	1,432,258,809	
Australia New Zealand	17 3	15,262,477 181,072	12.070
Oceania	160	175,694,752	12.3%
Thailand	1	9,810	
Taiwan	4	109,927	
South Korea	26	4,042,424	
Singapore	16	77,222,530	
Pakistan	37	6,407,402	
Malaysia	3	3,950,080	
Japan	13	28,326,198	
Indonesia	1	29,831	
India	57	55,486,038	
Brunei Darussalam	1	105,000	
Afghanistan	100	5,512	12.3%
Other Asian countries	160	175,694,752	12.3%
Turkey	21	9,395,375	
Saudi Arabia	1	451,718	
Oman	2	259,291	
Kuwait	2	9,528,848	
Jordan	2	40,950	
Israel	24	2,021,681	
Iran	1	19,140	
Iraq	1	2,295,286	
Middle East Bahrain	56 2	24,097,832 85,543	1.7%
Asia	216	199,792,584	13.9%
Colombia	7	141,113	
Chile	32	2,412,810	
Latin America Argentina	42 3	3,555,374 1,001,451	0.2%
United States	68	453,039,860	
Canada	3	61,557	31.0/0
North America	71	453,101,417	31.6%
Zambia	1	120,000	
Tanzania		1,645,907	

Source: Periodic reports of the Flemish Government to its parliament.

Table 10: Recipients of Walloon arms exports, 2006-2007

Recipient	Number of	Value of	Share of value
Region/Country	licences	Licences	of all issued
		(€)	licences (%)
Europe	874	349,348,130	25.3%
European Union	748	200 240 546	21.6%
European Union		298,218,516	21.0%
Austria	26	1,281,703	
Croatia	1	12,842	
Cyprus	8	171,582	
Czech Republic	12	2,251,325	
Denmark	17	25,835,161	
Finland	16	723,553	
France	183	101,912,222	
Germany	122	84,744,892	
Greece	9	9,125,093	
Hungary	2	760,000	
Ireland	10	7,260,723	
Italy	43	8,159,663	
Latvia	2	1,043,737	
Lithuania	5	841,222	
Poland	13	8,918,343	
Portugal	4	12,038,467	
Romania	1	8,193	
Slovenia	12	12,406,466	
Spain	72	3,028,939	
Sweden	25	579,925	
United Kingdom	165	17,114,465	
Other European countries	126	51,129,614	3.7%
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	1,000,000	
Iceland	10	1,681,910	
Norway	28	26,823,585	
Russia	7	593,977	
Serbia	13	3,485,647	
Switzerland	66	17,427,495	
Ukraine	1	117,000	

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Africa	51	59,103,818	4.3%
North Africa	37	52,385,884	3.8%
Algeria	3	41,616	
Egypt	8	10,781,504	
Morocco	12	35,037,848	
Mauritania	10	5,987,407	
Tunisia	4	537,509	
Sub-Saharan Africa	14	6,717,934	0.5%
Botswana	1	449,000	
Cameroon	1	4,248	
Ghana	1	1,635	
Madagascar	1	200	
Nigeria	5	2,965,425	
Senegal	1	16,226	
South Africa	4	3,281,200	
North America	283	523,434,417	37.9%
Canada	100	7,160,094	
United States	183	516,274,323	
Latin America	128	20 249 720	2.8%
Argentina	3	39,318,739 624,159	2.0%
Barbados	3 1	1,200	
Brazil	50	12,214,610	
Chile	16	2,648,911	
El Salvador	6	105,320	
		·	
Guatemala	1	79,528	
Guatemala Jamaica	1 1	79,528 39,571	
Guatemala Jamaica Mexico	1 1 24	79,528 39,571 11,297,764	
Guatemala Jamaica Mexico Panama	1 1 24 1	79,528 39,571 11,297,764 1,117	
Guatemala Jamaica Mexico Panama Peru	1 1 24 1 13	79,528 39,571 11,297,764 1,117 368,015	
Guatemala Jamaica Mexico Panama	1 1 24 1	79,528 39,571 11,297,764 1,117	

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Asia	282	383,743,426	27.8%
Middle East	178	345,204,877	25.0%
Bahrain	13	6,507,997	
Israel	6	1,323,679	
Jordan	4	8,126,001	
Kuwait	14	11,459,074	
Lebanon	9	66,378	
Oman	26	2,321,763	
Qatar	14	5,130,795	
Saudi Arabia	38	277,393,448	
Turkey	24	10,531,896	
United Arab Emirates	30	22,343,846	
Other Asian countries	104	38,538,549	2.8%
Brunei Darussalam	17	1,432,517	
Georgia	1	66,200	
India	12	8,141,563	
Indonesia	11	5,155,073	
Japan	14	578,344	
Malaysia	12	8,441,240	
Pakistan	6	6,670,822	
Philippines	5	139,169	
Singapore	16	5,754,169	
South Korea	6	1,925,400	
Taiwan	3	132,652	
Thailand	1	101,400	
Oceania	35	26,453,373	1.9%
Australia	21	13,628,880	
New Zealand	14	12,824,493	
Total	1,653	1,381,401,903	100%

Source: Periodic reports of the Walloon government to its parliament.

Table 11: Recipients of arms exports from the Brussels Capital Region, 2004-June 2008

Recipient	Number of	Value of	Share of value
Region/Country	licences	Licences (€)	of all issued
			licences (€)
Europe	171	11,534,998	18.3%
European Union	156	10,477,660	16.6%
Bulgaria	1	19,850	
Czech Republic	2	16,625	
Denmark	1	500,000	
France	112	284,178	
Germany	8	9,200	
Italy	15	158,242	
Portugal	4	9,152,500	
Spain	7	23,100	
United Kingdom	6	313,965	
Other European countries	15	1,057,338	1.7%
Norway	1	1,000,000	
Russia	2	35,000	
Switzerland	12	22,338	
Africa	22	4,049,926	6.4%
North Africa	10	2,872,514	4.6%
Algeria	3	669,980	
Libya	2	651,611	
Morocco	5	1,550,923	
Sub-Saharan Africa	12	1,177,412	1.9%
Burkina Faso	3	5,450	
Cameroon	2	1,130,583	
Ghana	1	26,194	
Niger	5	2,709	
Tanzania	1	12,476	
North America	9	5,299,176	8.4%
United States	9	5,299,176	
		, , -	
Latin America	1	121,425	0.2%
Chile	1	121,425	

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Asia	36	41,943,191	66.6%
Middle East	26	23,026,358	36.6%
Israel	2	9,928,601	
Jordan	1	3,119,563	
Qatar	1	8,500	
Saudi Arabia	3	7,944	
Turkey	15	7,506,750	
United Arab Emirates	4	2,455,000	
Other Asian countries	10	18,916,833	30.1%
Armenia	1	4,500	
Georgia	4	2,200	
Indonesia	2	2,839,279	
Pakistan	3	16,070,854	
Oceania	0	-	-
Total	239	62,948,716	

Source: Periodic reports of the Brussels Capital Region government to its parliament.

Table 12: Belgian Federal arms exports, September 2003-June 2008

Destination	Number of	Value of	Share of value
	licences	Licences (€)	of all issued
			licences (%)
Europe	64	263,907,654	73.1%
Bulgaria	3	33,000,000	
Denmark	4	1,000,000	
France	14	24,939,500	
Germany	12	6,146,620	
Italy	7	174,036,078	
Netherlands	1	61,973	
Norway	3	3,500,000	
Slovakia	1	25,000	
Spain	3	614,640	
Switzerland	3	5,250,000	
United Kingdom	13	15,333,843	
Africa	16	11,544,292	3.2%
Benin	5	3,554,000	
Burundi	2	161,000	
Democratic Republic of the	8	5,129,292	
Congo			
Morocco	1	2,700,000	
North America	15	9,922,624	2.7%
Canada	3	1,004,546	
United States	12	8,918,078	
		, ,	
Asia	11	75,851,050	21.0%
Bahrain	2	1,160,000	
Jordan	6	74,587,800	
Turkey	3	103,250	
Total	106	361,225,620	

Source: Periodic reports of the Federal Government to its parliament.

End notes

- In the context of the European Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, the EU member states are expected to inform the other member states on an annual basis of their export figures for the past year and their follow-up of the Code of Conduct. Every member state, including Belgium, is expected to report these figures about conventional arms to a particular EU working group, COARM, which then collates all these EU figures and publishes them in annual reports. COARM has published 10 such reports, covering the period 1998-2007; they are available at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.asp?id=1484&lang=en&mode=g ((a), third paragraph).
- According to Agoria, the total turnover for this sector amounted to €294 million in 2006 and €317 mllion in 2007. Agoria (2008), Activiteiten van de technologische industrie 2007-2008.
- Caution is advised in the interpretation of this table since a previous study showed that not all EU member states report their arms exports to COARM in an identical manner. In this respect, see Bauer, S. & Bromley, M. (2004), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, The European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports: Improving the Annual Report, Stockholm: SIPRI Policy Paper no. 8.
- ⁴ The current version of the Common Military List of the European Union (adopted on 10 March 2008) is available in: Official Journal of the European Union (C98/1), 18 April 2008, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:098:SOM:EN:HTML.
- Walloon Government (2008), Rapport au Parlement wallon sur l'application de la loi du 05 août 1991, modifiée par les lois du 25 et 26 mars 2003 relatives à l'importation, à l'exportation et au transit d'armes, de munitions et de matériel devant servir spécialement à un usage militaire, et de la technologie y afférente: Rapport Annuel 2007.
- In 2007, the United States accounted for 45% of world military expenditures. For more information, see Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2008), SIPRI Yearbook 2008: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security, Stockholm: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2008), SIPRI Yearbook 2008: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security, Stockholm: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
- The Flemish Government has so far not issued a conclusive statement on the spectacular drop in the value of Flemish licensed arms exports in 2005. For an overview of the various hypotheses, the interested reader may consult the background note "The decline of Flemish licensed arms export in 2005: testing hypotheses" by the Flemish Peace Institute, available at http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/get_pdf.php?ID=200&lang=EN.
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- Castryck, G., Depauw, S. & Duquet, N. (2007), Profile of foreign trade in military material and the defence-related industry in Flanders, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, p. 99, http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/get_pdf.php?ID=194&lang=EN.
- Moerman, F., Answer to written question no. 67 (28 April 2006) from De Loor, K., Flemish Parliament.
- Duquet, N., Castryck, G. & Depauw, S. (2007), Flemish foreign arms trade 2006, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/get_pdf.php?ID=90&lang=EN; and Duquet, N. (2008), Flemish foreign trade in arms and trade in dualuse goods 2007, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/get_pdf.php?ID=227&lang=EN
- For more on the role of end-use in the Flemish licensing procedure, see Flemish Peace Institute, End-use as a factor in the licensing procedure for arms export in Flanders. Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, background note, 19 November 2008.
- For an overview of the Walloon firms that are active in the military electronics business, see Dumas, Clément & Mampaey, Luc (2007), Radiographie de l'industrie d'armements en Belgique, Brussels: Groupe de recherche et d'information sur la paix et la sécurité (GRIP).
- For an overview of these amendments to the reporting method in the Flemish periodic reports, see Flemish Peace Institute (2006),
 Transparency in reporting on the Flemish foreign arms trade, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, Advice, 13 November 2006,
 http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/get_pdf.php?ID=221&lang=EN. For an overview of the subsequent adaptations to the reporting method in the Flemish periodic reporting, see Duquet, N. (2008), Flemish foreign trade in arms and trade in dual-use goods 2007,
 Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute, pp. 8-10, http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/get_pdf.php?ID=227&lang=EN.
- In principle, the two remaining Belgian frigates and a mine-hunter will also be sold to Bulgaria in 2008, for a price of €54 million. De Tijd, Bulgarije koop Belgische fregatten, 15 April 2008.
- De Crem, P., Answer to parliamentary question no. 4-68 from Lambert, G. Belgian Senate, 10 January 2008, Parliamentary proceedings no. 4-12.