

PUBLIC STATEMENT

**2004 PLENARY MEETING
OF
THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT
ON EXPORT CONTROLS FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND
DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES**

The tenth Plenary meeting of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)* was held in Vienna, 8-9 December 2004, chaired by Ambassador Elsa Kelly (Argentina). The meeting reviewed the accomplishments of the year and considered further export control measures.

In the course of 2004, Participating States worked diligently to implement and expand upon the progress achieved during the 2003 Assessment Year. At this plenary, they committed themselves to further develop and undertake, as a matter of high priority, measures to implement initiatives e.g. work conducted against terrorism.

The Plenary welcomed the adoption of the UNSCR 1540 by the Security Council on 28 April, 2004.

Participating States noted that the resolution decides that all states shall establish, develop and maintain appropriate and effective export and trans-shipment controls, which is also a primary objective of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The Wassenaar Arrangement stands ready to respond to any approach from the Chair of the UNSCR 1540 Committee, and Participating States in a position to do so expressed their willingness to provide assistance on the development of effective export controls to those States that request it.

Participating States reaffirmed their intention to intensify efforts to prevent the acquisition of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies by terrorist groups and

* The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies was established in July 1996 by 33 Participating States on the basis of the Initial Elements (see web site: www.wassenaar.org). Meetings are normally held in Vienna, Austria, where the Arrangement is based. The Participating States of the Wassenaar Arrangement are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States.

organisations, as well as viewing them as an integral part of the global fight against terrorism. In this context they also exchanged information on national measures taken in accordance with the 2003 decision to tighten controls on the exports of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) and called again on other countries to apply similar principles in order to prevent proliferation of these dangerous weapons.

In order to keep pace with advances in technology, market availability and developments in the international security situation, the Plenary agreed to a number of amendments to the control lists, which will be published shortly. Particular attention has been given to items that might be used for terrorism purposes. Participating States also worked actively to make the existing control text more easily understood and 'user friendly' for commercial exporters and licensing authorities.

The Plenary welcomed Slovenia as a new Participating State to the Wassenaar Arrangement. Participating States reiterated that the Arrangement is open, on a global and non-discriminatory basis, to prospective adherents that comply with the agreed criteria and that pending membership applications will continue to be examined with a view of determining the possibility of their acceptance on a case by case basis.

The Plenary reiterated its intention to broaden the Arrangement's outreach to countries not participating in the Arrangement, other export control regimes and international and regional organizations. Outreach activities in 2004 have also included engagement with industry. Further meetings were held by the Plenary Chair to explain the goals of the Arrangement and to encourage them to apply similar measures. The Plenary agreed to endorse a continuation of these important activities in 2005.

For the first time in WA's history, a major outreach initiative was undertaken in the form of the Outreach Seminar. This successful seminar took place in Vienna on 19 October 2004. Participants represented more than 50 organizations covering a number of non-participating states, non-governmental organizations, academic institutes, the media and industry. The seminar raised awareness of the positive contribution that the WA makes to responsible transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies. Participants recognised the importance of the event in increasing the transparency of WA. An important lesson that was taken away by Participating States was the need for greater engagement with industry representatives. Participating States welcomed the Outreach Seminar's

success and agreed to another event to be held next autumn in Vienna.

The Plenary thanked Ambassador Elsa Kelly (Argentina) for her major contributions as Plenary Chair to the work of the Wassenaar Arrangement in 2004, Ambassador Seiji Morimoto (Japan) for his leadership of the General Working Group, and Mr. Ioannis Anastasakis (Greece) for a successful Experts Group list-review process in 2003-2004.

The next regular WA Plenary meeting will take place in Vienna in December 2005. Ambassador Dorothea Auer (Austria) will assume the Chair of the Plenary on 1st January 2005. In support of outreach activities the Austrian Chair envisages the launch of a WA publication containing contributions pertaining to various topics of importance to the WA.

Vienna, 9 December 2004