

Berlin, 19 January 2000

**Policy Principles of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany  
for the Export of War Weapons and Other Military Equipment**

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, desiring

- to pursue a restrictive policy on arms exports,
- with regard to the international and statutory obligations of the Federal Republic of Germany, to gear arms exports to Germany's security needs and foreign policy interests,
- through the restriction and control of such exports to contribute to safeguarding peace, preventing the threat or use of force, securing respect for human rights and promoting sustainable development in all parts of the world,
- hence to take account also of decisions adopted by international institutions with a view to disarmament and designed to restrict the international arms trade,
- to press for such decisions to be made legally binding at the international as well as the European level,

has modified its principles for the export of war weapons and other military equipment as follows:

## I General Principles

1. The Federal Government's decisions regarding the export of war weapons<sup>1</sup> and other military equipment<sup>2</sup> are made in accordance with the provisions of the War Weapons Control Act and the Foreign Trade and Payments Act as well as the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports adopted by the European Council on 8 June 1998<sup>3</sup> and such arrangements as may be agreed subsequently as well as the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers adopted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 25 November 1993. The criteria laid down in the EU Code of Conduct are an integral part of these Policy Principles. The standards stipulated in the Code of Conduct will be superseded by any more stringent standards that may be derived from the following principles:
2. The issue of respect for human rights in the countries of destination and end-use is a key factor in deciding whether or not to grant licences for the export of war weapons and other military equipment.
3. On principle export licences for war weapons and other military equipment will not be granted where there are reasonable grounds to suspect they may be used for internal repression as defined in the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports or the sustained and systematic abuse of human rights. In this context the assessment of the human rights situation in the recipient country is an important factor to be considered.
4. Such assessments will take into account the views of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations (UN), the OSCE and other international bodies. Reports issued by international human rights organizations will also be taken into consideration.
5. The end-use of war weapons and other military equipment must be definitively determined.

---

<sup>1</sup> Weapons (complete weapons as well as components classed separately as weapons) listed in the Schedule of War Weapons (Annex to the War Weapons Control Act)

<sup>2</sup> Goods specified in Part I, Section A of the Schedule of Exports (Annex to the Foreign Trade and Payment Act) with the exception of war weapons

<sup>3</sup> enclosed as annex

II NATO countries<sup>4</sup>, EU member states, countries with NATO-equivalent status<sup>5</sup>

1. The export of war weapons and other military equipment to these countries will be geared to the security interests of the Federal Republic of Germany with regard to the Alliance and the European Union.

In principle such exports will not be restricted unless in specific cases this is warranted on particular political grounds.

2. Cooperative ventures in this area should be in the interest of the Alliance and/or European policy

In the case of coproduction projects covered by intergovernmental agreements with countries referred to in this Section, these arms export principles will be given practical effect as far as possible. While mindful of its special interest in its cooperation standing, the Federal Government will not forgo any opportunities it may have to influence export projects envisaged by its cooperation partners (Section II (3)).

3. Before concluding any cooperation agreement, a timely joint assessment of its export policy implications is to be made.

To give effect to its arms exports policy principles, the Federal Government reserves the right by way of consultations to object to particular export projects envisaged by its cooperation partners. All new cooperation agreements should therefore aim in principle to incorporate a consultations procedure enabling the Federal Government to raise effectively any objections it might have to exports envisaged by its partner country. In so doing the Federal Government will seek, in the light of the human rights criterion, to strike a balance between its interest in cooperation and its fundamentally restrictive arms exports policy.

4. Before any exports of war weapons or other military equipment involving German components take place, the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Economics and the Federal Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with the Federal Chancellery, will evaluate whether in any specific case the relevant conditions for initiating such consultations exist.

---

<sup>4</sup> Area of application of NATO Treaty, Article 6

<sup>5</sup> Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland

The Federal Government will raise objections - generally following consideration of the matter by the Federal Security Council - against such exports involving the use of German components in the following cases:

- exports to countries involved in armed conflict, unless such conflict is covered by Article 51 of the UN Charter,
- exports to countries where an outbreak of armed conflict is imminent or where exports may stir up, perpetuate or exacerbate latent tensions and conflicts,
- exports where there are reasonable grounds to suspect they may be used for internal repression as defined by the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports or the sustained and systematic abuse of human rights,
- exports that would impair vital security interests of the Federal Republic of Germany,
- exports that would impose such a strain on relations with third countries that even Germany's own interest in the cooperative venture and in maintaining good relations with its cooperation partner must rank second.

Objections will not be raised if in the light of the considerations outlined in Section III (4) to (7) below licences for the export of direct deliveries of war weapons and other military equipment are likely to be granted.

5. In the case of cooperative ventures between German companies and companies in countries referred to in Section II above not covered by intergovernmental agreements, supplies of components will, as with direct deliveries of war weapons and other military equipment to those countries, in principle not be restricted. The Federal Government will, however, as in the case of cooperative ventures covered by intergovernmental agreements, bring its influence to bear in the matter of exports resulting from cooperative ventures between commercial companies.

To that end it will require German cooperative venture partners to enter a contractual obligation that, should they supply components of a quantity or type that could be relevant to the manufacture of war weapons, they will inform the Federal Government

in good time as to their partners' export intentions and seek legally binding arrangements on end-use.

6. In the case of German supplies of components (separate components or sub-systems) that constitute war weapons or other military equipment, the partner country is in terms of exports law both purchaser and user. Where such components are built into a weapons system as fixed features, that process in terms of exports law makes the partner country the country of origin of the goods in question.

### III Other countries

1. A restrictive policy will be pursued regarding exports of war weapons and other military equipment to countries other than those covered by Section II. Notably the development of additional, specifically export-oriented capacities must be avoided. The Federal Government will not take the initiative to privilege any specific country or region.
2. Export licences for war weapons (subject to licensing under the War Weapons Control Act and the Foreign Trade and Payments Act) will not be granted unless in a specific case this is exceptionally warranted on particular foreign and security policy grounds, having due regard to Alliance interests. Labour policy considerations must not be a decisive factor.
3. Export licences for other military equipment (subject to licensing under the Foreign Trade and Payments Act) will be granted only where such exports will not prejudice interests that German law on foreign trade and payments serves to protect, namely, security, peace among the nations and Germany's foreign relations.

The protection of these interests takes priority over economic interests as defined in Section 3(1) of the Foreign Trade and Payments Act.

4. Export licences pursuant to the War Weapons Control Act and/or the Foreign Trade and Payments Act will not be granted where the internal situation in the country concerned precludes such action, e.g. in the case of armed conflict or where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting such exports may be used for internal repression or the sustained and systematic abuse of human rights. In this context the human rights situation in the recipient country is a major factor to be considered.

5. No licences will be granted for the export of war weapons and other military equipment related to war weapons<sup>6</sup> to countries
  - involved in armed conflict or where armed conflict is imminent,
  - where the outbreak of armed conflict is imminent or where such exports would stir up, perpetuate or exacerbate latent tensions and conflicts.

Exports to countries involved in external armed conflicts or where there is a danger such conflicts may erupt are therefore ruled out on principle except in cases covered by Article 51 of the UN Charter.

6. Decisions on whether to grant export licences for war weapons and other military equipment will take into account whether sustainable development in the recipient country is being seriously impeded by excessive arms spending.
7. Also to be taken into account is the recipient country's conduct in terms of whether it
  - supports and promotes terrorism and international organized crime,
  - complies with international obligations, especially renunciation of the threat or use of force, including obligations under humanitarian law on international or non-international conflicts,
  - has assumed obligations in the area of non-proliferation and other aspects of arms control and disarmament, notably by signing, ratifying and implementing the arms control and disarmament arrangements specified in the EU Code of Conduct for arms exports,
  - supports the UN Arms Register

#### IV Definitive determination of end-use

1. Export licences for war weapons and other military equipment will be granted only on the basis of prior knowledge of definitive end-use in the country of final destination.

---

<sup>6</sup> Plant and documentation for the manufacturer of war weapons

This will generally require a written assurance by the end-user as well as other appropriate documentation.

2. Export licences for war weapons or other military equipment of a quantity and type relevant to war weapons may be granted only on presentation of governmental end-use certificates that preclude re-exports without prior authorization. This applies mutatis mutandis to any other military equipment related to war weapons exported in connection with a manufacturing licence. For the export of such equipment used for the manufacture of war weapons definitive end-use certificates must be furnished.

Stringent standards are to be applied in assessing whether the recipient country is capable of carrying out effective export controls.

3. War weapons and other military equipment relevant to war weapons may only be re-exported to third countries or transferred inside the EU Internal Market with the written approval of the Federal Government.
4. A recipient country that, in breach of an end-use certificate, authorizes or does not seek to prevent or sanction the unauthorized re-export of war weapons or other military equipment relevant to war weapons will on principle, as long as such conditions persist, be excluded from receiving any further deliveries of war weapons or other military equipment related to war weapons.

#### V Arms exports report

The Federal Government will submit to the German Bundestag an annual report on the principle and practice of its arms exports policy listing, with details of the relevant legislation, the export licences for war weapons and other military equipment it has granted over the past year.