



EU P2P
export control programme
for arms

Implementation Summary

EU Outreach Project IV on Effective Arms Export Controls

Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101

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This project is implemented by BAFA



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Foreword by the European External Action Service (EEAS)



Eran Nagan, Chair of the EU Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM), EEAS

Arms export control is both a political and a technical topic. Export licensing decisions can have far-reaching consequences. Therefore, these decisions should not be taken lightly. The EU has since many years a firm common framework in place with 8 assessment criteria, ensuring a responsible trade in military equipment that contributes to international peace and security. Assessing, inter alia, the risk of human rights and humanitarian law violations, the risk of diversion, the risk of internal or regional instability leads to responsible decision making when dealing with arms export license applications.

The EU promotes responsibility and transparency in arms trade also beyond its own borders. The COARM Outreach Project IV continued doing this in the period from 2018 to 2020. Implementing agency BAFA, with the help of many European arms control experts, has once again shown a great level of professionalism in organising a broad range of workshops, study visits and individual assistance in some 25 beneficiary countries.

Through this project both exporting and importing countries in the neighbourhood of the EU continued to further develop their arms export control systems, legal framework and reporting.

Given the flexibility of both the implementer and the beneficiary countries, the COARM Outreach Project IV could be finalised in the midst of the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic. Following limitations in international travel, BAFA managed to rearrange activities online. Sharing knowledge and discussing arms export control can also be done in a virtual setting.

This implementation summary shows that beneficiary countries have been able to accomplish many achievements over the past three years. Still, contributing to a responsible international trade in arms requires continuous engagement at all levels. The EU, as a global actor, will remain an important partner in promoting capacity building to strengthen international peace and security by ensuring the highest standards for the international trade in conventional arms.



Foreword by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA)



Torsten Safarik, President,
BAFA

The Council of the European Union once again entrusted BAFA with the technical implementation of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls. We at BAFA are proudly looking back at more than 10 years of fruitful cooperation with our partner countries of different regions.

We are also very glad that the current project phase is going to be continued under a new Council Decision from December 2020 on. On this basis, our cooperation can be carried forward even though the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic may still keep us from proceeding with “business as usual” for some time, this means from implementing face-to-face national capacity building events, study visits or regional workshops. Fortunately, digitization and modern communication technology helps us bridging these obstacles. In the meantime, BAFA has built experience organising online seminars, which, from my point of view, adds up a valuable additional communication tool to keep in contact with our partners and will certainly help us to keep productive in the months ahead.

An important emphasis of the COARM Outreach Project IV has been laid on strengthening the dialogue on arms trade controls between the EU and its neighbouring regions, on supporting partner countries’ efforts at the national and regional level to render trade in conventional weapons more responsible and transparent and to mitigate the risk of the diversion of arms to unauthorised users. Hereby, it is always important to us to offer a good balance between theoretical and practical aspects of arms trade control involving all the national agencies, experts from many EU Member States, other donors, NGOs and international organisations and to tailor the events to the actual situation of each region and each partner country.

During the fourth project phase, a total of 21 workshops in four partner regions have been successfully implemented by BAFA, supported by internationally experienced EU experts in the different areas of arms trade controls. I would like to especially highlight the inclusion of new partner countries from Central Asia as well as from the Southern Mediterranean region. Moreover, I would like to mention with sincere thanks that two study visits were hosted by third countries, Georgia and Serbia.

BAFA would like to thank the European Union and the COARM Working Group for the trust and confidence put in BAFA as implementer of this important European project. We also want to acknowledge the support of all experts who supported BAFA with their valuable expertise and knowledge. Finally, we would like to thank all partner countries, especially all focal points and participants of our events, for the strong interest and close cooperation in the last years. BAFA is looking forward to meet you again in the new project phase and to continue the constructive dialogue, which is valuable for all of us.



Review of the COARM Outreach Project IV on Effective Arms Export Controls

Objectives, contents and key results

Introduction

In April 2018, the EU outreach on the promotion of effective arms export controls was continued with a new phase under the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101. For the fourth consecutive time, the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) was entrusted by the EU with the implementation of the project, which is co-funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and BAFA.

The project had originally been scheduled to last two years. However, at this point in time no one could predict the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and all the challenges this would pose across sectors worldwide, including in the field of international cooperation. This situation led eventually to a prolongation of the fourth COARM Outreach Project until November 2020, which enabled the implementer to complete the project in spite of the difficulties.

The last months were used by BAFA to deepen the analysis of the partner countries' state of play in export control, needs and interests by preparing progress reports and by requesting further information from the countries through a questionnaire in the run-up to the Final Assessment Event.

Moreover, the technical conditions to implement online workshops were created and experience was built on how to offer capacity building activities in a virtual setting. On this basis, we are confident to offer online activities to keep on with our cooperation as long as the current pandemic will prevent us from organising face-to-face events, and beyond.

Given the advantages of this important and flexible tool, we expect that we will continue to offer online activities also in the future. The new online formats may then complement the traditional presence activities and even combinations of both formats are conceivable, depending on the best fit to the objectives and requirements of our partner countries.

Last but not least, the good news is that the COARM Working group agreed on a continuation of the COARM Outreach Project. The respective Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1464 has already been published. This allows us to renew the cooperation with all our partner countries smoothly from December 2020 on.

A focus on promoting effective arms trade controls in the European Neighbourhood, Central Asia and enlargement countries

As in the previous phases, the purpose of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101 is to promote accountability and responsibility with regard to the legal arms trade, thereby contributing to peace, security and stability in the partner countries of the project. In addition, the project sought to promote the criteria and principles set out in the European Union's Common Position (CFSP) 2008/944 and in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).



The objectives of this Decision are to promote improved controls on arms transfers by third countries and to support third countries' efforts at national and regional levels to render international trade in conventional weapons more responsible and transparent, and to mitigate the risk of the diversion of arms to unauthorised users.

The following partner countries of the European Neighbourhood, Central Asia and enlargement countries have been included:

- **South Eastern European countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia
- **North African Mediterranean countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy:** Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia
- **Eastern European and Caucasian countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- **Central Asian countries:** Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan
- **Southern Neighbourhood countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy:** Jordan and Lebanon
- Turkey

It shall be highlighted that the Central Asian countries as well as the Southern Neighbourhood countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy have been included to the project for the very first time. In both cases, it can be confirmed that the response was very positive. On this basis, the cooperation with these regions can be further developed in the future.

Tailor-made activities ranging from a cross-regional to a national level

In order to fulfil the objectives, the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101 provided for a broad range of different activities over the course of the project, including cross-regional and regional workshops, individual assistance workshops, study visits to EU Member States or project partner countries as well as remote assistance to respond to individual requests.

The overall approach is to offer tailor-made activities that respond to the specific needs, interests and situation of the trade control system of the partner countries. In tight cooperation with the national contact points, the goals for the activity are discussed, the agencies to be invited are identified, the agenda topics are selected and the specific format of the single activity is agreed on.

The cooperation is also inclusive in the way that particularly at the Regional Workshops all the countries of the region are invited to participate in the dialogue and that there are no specific conditions for partner countries to take part in the project, e.g. they do not necessarily have to be a State Party to the ATT. Usually, one regional workshop has been organised per year in each partner region.



It shall be underlined that cross-regional workshops as well as study visits to partner countries were newly incorporated as types of activities of the current phase. The cross-regional approach, promoting the dialogue between countries of different regions and with the EU, met definitely the interest of the invited countries. This set-up facilitated new insights and ideas for coordination between regions and promoted responsible arms trade, transparency and cooperation not only within one region, but also among different regions.

In addition to the activities described above, also an Experts' Meeting for partner countries from the SEE region has been organised, which provided for the opportunity to exchange new developments with the COARM Working Group in Brussels.

Last but not least, the project has been flanked by two assessment events to track and evaluate the project progress: The Final Assessment Event organised at the end of the project phase and a Mid-term Assessment Event which served to inform the COARM Working Group about the outcomes at the mid-term of the project.

The Covid-19 pandemic prevented BAFA from implementing the Final Assessment Event as a face-to-face conference as it would usually have been the case. In order to lead the fourth project phase to a good conclusion, to be able to gather the feedback from all the involved partner countries and EU experts and to discuss the opportunities for the next project phase, we opted for a combination of a virtual final meeting as well as an individual evaluation based on a questionnaire.

The following table provides an overview of the conducted activities:

Type of activity	Total number
(Cross-)Regional Workshops	8
Study Visits to EU MS/ Partner countries	6
Individual Assistance Workshops	5
Assessment Events	3
Total number of activities	22

We are very grateful to those countries that hosted (cross-) regional workshops during the fourth phase of the COARM Outreach Project: Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; Tunisia and Algeria; Ukraine and Armenia; Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Furthermore, we are very thankful to Georgia and Serbia that offered to host study visits and to open up and explain their export control systems to other partner countries. From our point of view study visits to more advanced partner countries are a very valuable instrument to enable first-hand insights about the control procedures in place and to learn how these mechanisms have been developed.

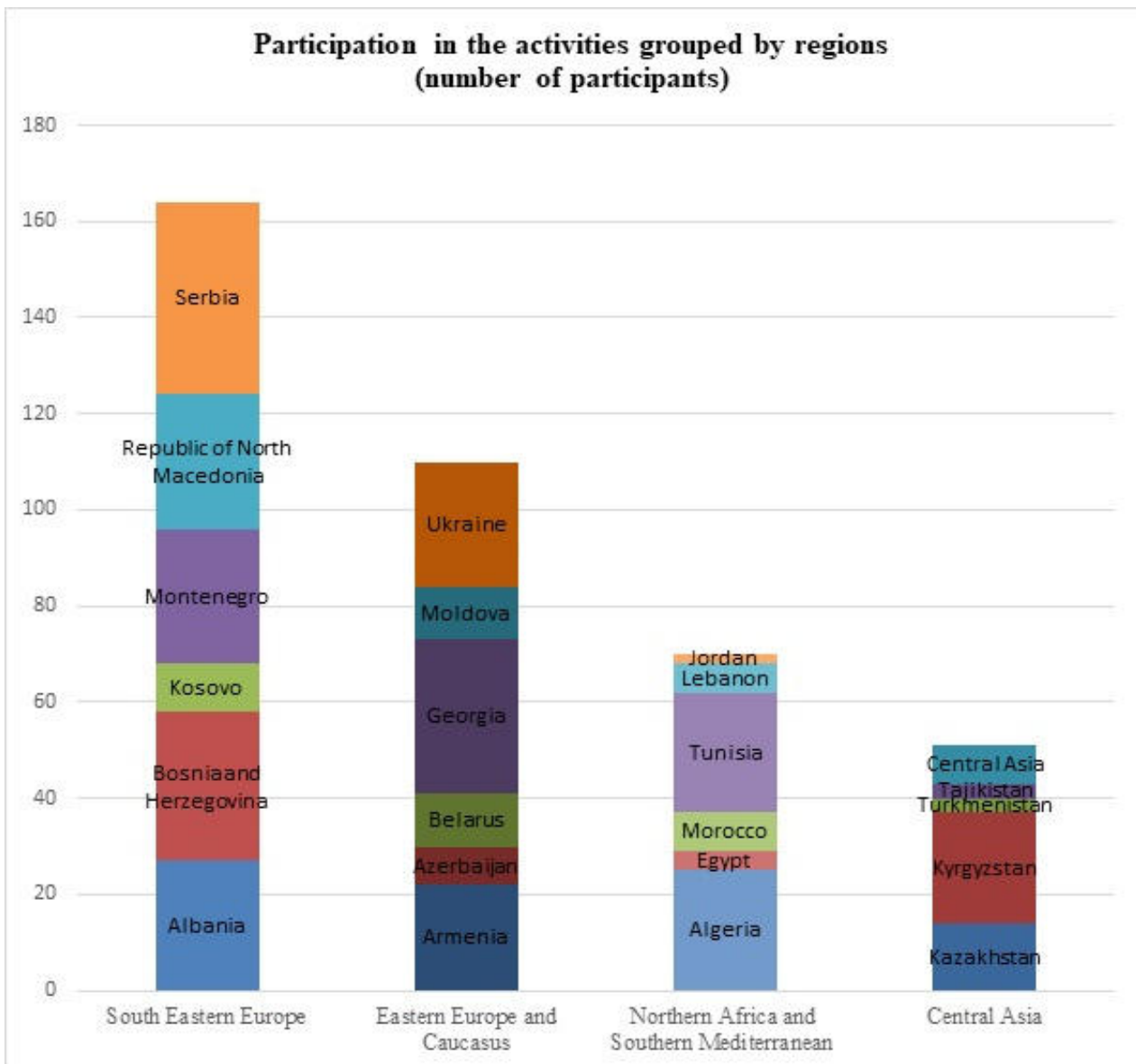
We would also like to thank EU Member States Austria, Malta and, Slovakia for hosting study visits during the fourth phase of the COARM Outreach Project and for offering an interesting programme to the participating partner countries.



Participation by partner countries, EU experts and other organisations

In total, over the course of the COARM Outreach Project IV, 395 officials of 23 partner countries attended the different project activities.

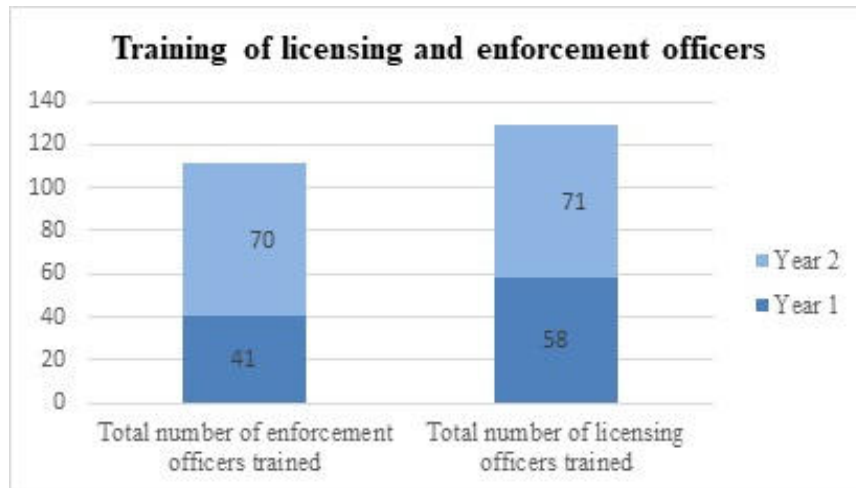
The following graphics provides includes the number of participants by partner country, grouped by regions:



As in the previous phases and given the mainly technical character of the project, the activities of the fourth project phase mainly addressed **licensing and enforcement officials** of the partner countries of the respective authorities involved in the control of arms trade.



In this regard, the following numbers of officials in licensing and enforcement functions could be reached:



Moreover, also representatives of the different Ministries and other policy officers attended regularly the events. When possible and applicable, also representatives of the national parliaments, the private sector, NGOs, research institutes and think tanks as well as regional or international organisations have been invited to the activities and/ or provided support as experts. This has proven to be crucial with regards to donor coordination and exchange of information about the work done.

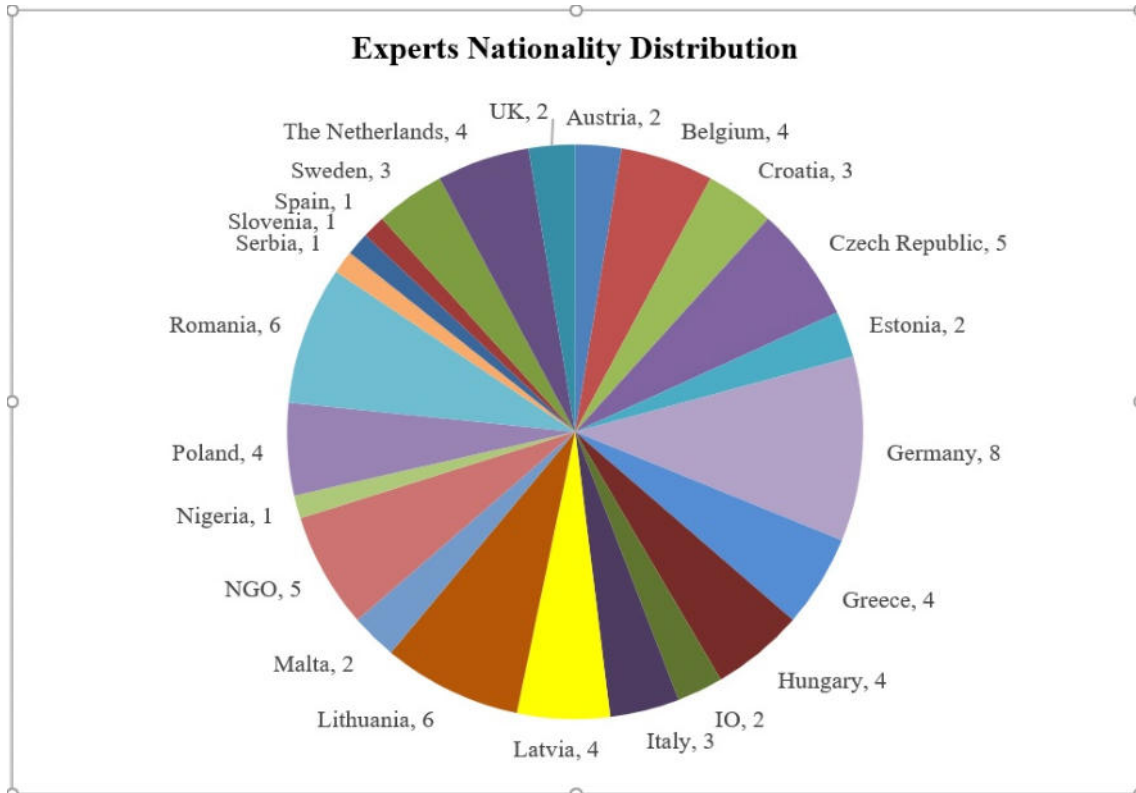
In the fourth project phase the following **external organisations** attended and contributed to the activities:

- the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT)
- the African Police Cooperation Organisation (AFRIPOL)
- the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR)
- the Centre for International Security and Policy (CISP)
- Conflict Armament Research (CAR)
- US Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS)
- the League of Arab States, the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)
- the Small Arms Survey
- the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

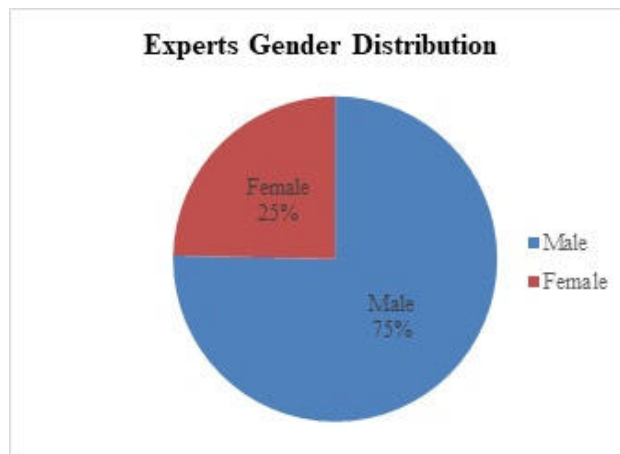
With regard to the EU experts who supported the project with their knowledge and expertise in the different disciplines of export control, it can be said that **experts from 20 different EU Member States** have been successfully involved.



The detailed distribution of experts' nationalities can be taken from the following diagram:



About one fourth of the experts were female.



We would like to thank all the points of contact in our partner countries, all the participants of our events and all the experts who supported us for your contributions and for your continued interest in our project as well as for the excellent cooperation over the last years.



Summary of the activities conducted under the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101

Regional Workshops

Cross-Regional Workshop for Eastern Europe and Caucasus in Kiev, Ukraine, 18-19 July 2018



On **18-19 July 2018** a Cross-Regional Workshop on arms export controls was conducted in **Kiev, Ukraine**. Six Partner countries of the Eastern European and Caucasus region were invited: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The workshop kicked off with welcome remarks held by representatives from the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the German Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Moreover, the scope of the new project phase was presented to the participants. Afterwards, updates of international developments in export control for military items and of the national state of play in this regard including brokering controls were presented. Also, the topic of brokering controls in the EU was discussed from a licensing and a customs perspective.

The second day of the workshop focused on electronic licensing databases, Internal Compliance Programmes (ICP) and industry audits as well as prosecutions and sanctions. Furthermore, the work of SEESAC and CAR (Conflict Armament Research) was presented.

The regional workshop was attended by 27 participants. The implementing agency BAFA was supported by the following experts: Ms Piret Tinkus (Estonia), Mr Stelios Zachariou (Greece), Mr Silvio Vitagliano (Italy), Mr Rolandas Jurgaitis (Lithuania) and Mr Deepayan Basu Rey (Centre for Armed Violence Reduction). In addition, Mr Slobodan Boskovic (SEESAC) and Mr Damien Spleeters (Conflict Armament Research) supported the event.



Regional Workshop for South Eastern Europe in Tirana, Albania, 10-11 October 2018



A Regional Workshop for South Eastern European partner countries was conducted in **Tirana, Albania**, on **10 and 11 October 2018**, in the framework of the current EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls. The participating partner countries comprised Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia.

Based on EU Council Decision 2018/101/CFSP, this Regional Workshop aimed to continue the good cooperation with the South Eastern European countries in the area of export control of conventional arms and military items. This activity was the first out of two regional workshops for this region.

The focus of the activity was on an exchange about the current state of affairs in export control in the countries of the region, electronic licensing databases, commodity identification, and transit and transshipment from both a licensing and customs perspective. Moreover, at the special request of the host country Albania, the case of export/ import control mechanisms in ECOWAS member states was discussed.

27 representatives of the six invited South Eastern European partner countries attended the event, which was supported by five EU experts: Mr Klaas Leenman (Netherlands), Mr Jan-Erik Lövgren (Sweden), Mr Dickson Orji (Nigeria), Ms Maria Petcu (Romania) and Mr Nauris Rumpe (Latvia).



Cross-Regional Workshop for Northern African Mediterranean countries and Southern Neighbourhood countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Tunis, Tunisia, 06-07 November 2018



On **06-07 November 2018** a Regional Workshop for North African Mediterranean countries and Southern Neighbourhood countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy was organised in **Tunis, Tunisia** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls. This activity was the first out of two regional workshops for this region and counted with participation from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

The activity focused on global developments and national challenges in arms transfer control, on countering illicit trafficking of weapons through international cooperation, on inter-agency cooperation for improving arms transfer controls and on commodity identification as a particular challenge. These topics had been proposed by representatives of the partner countries during the final assessment event of the previous COARM Outreach Project.

The Regional Workshop was concluded with a final discussion, during which, among other topics, the eight criteria of the Common Position were discussed and questioned as the basis for licensing decisions.

The Regional Workshop was attended by 31 representatives of the invited partner countries. It was supported by five international experts: Mr Dominik Kosary (Croatia), Ms Elli Kytomaki (United Kingdom), Mr Jan-Erik Lövgren (Sweden), Mr Salvador Rojas Platas (Spain) and Mr Ralf Wagner (World Customs Organization). Additionally, the Regional Workshop received support from Mr Emmanuel Vallens (European Commission, DG Migration and Home Affairs).



Cross-Regional Workshop for Eastern Europe and Caucasus in Yerevan, Armenia, 27-28 March 2019



On **27 – 28 March 2019**, a Cross-Regional Workshop within the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls took place in **Yerevan, Armenia**. This was the second regional activity for Eastern European and Caucasian partner countries under the COARM Outreach Project IV and counted with the participation of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Furthermore, three partner countries from South Eastern Europe participated in the event: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

The Cross-Regional Workshop kicked off with welcome remarks held by representatives of the EU Delegation to Armenia, the German Embassy as well as the Armenian authorities. The first session of the day provided updates on export controls for conventional arms in the European Union under consideration of the EU Common Position 2008/944/CFSP. In the following, the participating countries informed about their latest developments in the area of arms export controls. The EU experts' team provided presentations and case studies regarding inter-agency cooperation from a customs and licensing perspective.

The second day of the workshop addressed risk assessment and risk management. The advantages of regional and international cooperation were discussed. The activity closed with a roundtable discussion on current challenges and priorities as well as the way ahead of the cooperation within the project.

The Cross-Regional Workshop was attended by 47 participants from the seven invited countries. BAFA was supported by the following EU experts: Mr Reinhard Groschwitz (Germany), Mr Rolandas Jurgaitis (Lithuania), Mr Nauris Rumpes (Latvia), Mr Laszlo Stefan (Hungary) and Mr Stelios Zachariou (Greece).



Regional Workshop for Central Asia in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 17-18 September 2019



A Regional Workshop for Central Asian partner countries was conducted in **Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on 17 and 18 September 2019** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls.

24 participants from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Moreover, the German Embassy and the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan attended the activity.

This workshop was the first regional activity for the Central Asian partner countries as the region has been addressed for the first time under the current COARM Outreach Project. Therefore, the activity aimed, inter alia, to offer a platform of discussions to start the dialogue between the countries of Central Asian and Caucasus region and the EU.

Three EU experts, Mr Rolandas Jurgaitis (Lithuania), Ms. Elli Kytomaki (United Kingdom) and Mr. Nauris Rumpe (Latvia) supported the event. In addition, two representatives from the Center for Non-Proliferation and Export Control from Kyrgyzstan as well as a representative from the Center for International Security and Policy (CISP) attended the event.



Cross-Regional Workshop for South Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 02-03 October 2019



On **02-03 October 2019**, a Cross-Regional Workshop for South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus was conducted in **Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine attended the seminar.

One aim of the Cross-Regional Workshop was to provide a forum for dialogue for the partner countries to exchange information regarding their national approaches on export control of conventional arms and military items.

The focus of the event was on outreach to industry to discuss the cooperation between the government and the private sector. Here, different approaches were presented and good practices were discussed. Furthermore, International Compliance Programmes (ICP), prosecutions and sanctions as well as brokering were topics of the agenda.

The implementing entity BAFA was supported by the following experts in the field of export controls: Mr Rolandas Jurgaitis (Lithuania), Mr Jan-Erik Lövgren (Sweden), Mr Michael Peeters (Belgium) and Ms Mariann Vidal-Mezey (Hungary). Furthermore, Mr Nenad Boskovic (SEESAC) and Mr Callixtus Joseph (CARICOM) attended the event.



Cross-Regional Workshop for Northern African Mediterranean countries and Southern Neighbourhood countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Algiers, Algeria, 29-30 October 2019



A Cross-Regional Workshop for North African Mediterranean countries and Southern Neighbourhood countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy was implemented in **Algiers, Algeria**, on **29 and 30 October 2019** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls.

The event counted with a total of 42 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia as well as representatives of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), AFRIPOL and the League of Arab States.

The welcome remarks were provided by the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the EU Delegation and the German Embassy in Algiers. This was followed by an exchange about global developments, national export control systems and current challenges in arms transfer control. The afternoon was dedicated to industry compliance from a legal and licensing point of view as well as to transit and transshipment controls from a customs point of view.

On the second day, ways to combat illicit trafficking and diversion in conventional arms in the Member states of the League of Arab States were addressed, followed by a session about opportunities and instruments of regional cooperation.

The discussions were very active and open. The participating countries, especially the host country Algeria, contributed with own presentations to several sessions of the agenda.

This Cross-Regional Workshop in Tunis was supported by the following team of experts: Ms Marzia Conti (Italy), Mr Dominik Kozary (Croatia), Mr Martin Krüger (Austria), Mr Glenn McDonald (Small Arms Survey) and Mr Andrew Reynolds (World Customs Organisation).



Cross-Regional Workshop for Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Caucasus in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 26-27 February 2020



A Cross-Regional Workshop was conducted in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 26 and 27 February 2020** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls.

This workshop was the second regional activity for the Central Asian partner countries under the current COARM Outreach Project. 37 representatives from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the event. Moreover, the German Embassy and the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan attended the workshop.

The first day began with a presentation of the current status of the COARM Outreach Project. Following this, the attendees from the eight participant countries gave presentations on their national approaches in the area of export control for conventional arms. After a session about risk assessment and risk management from a licensing perspective, the day concluded with a session on transit and transshipment.

The second day started with a presentation about the European Common Military List followed by presentations of the countries on their national control lists. The second half of the day addressed inter-agency cooperation from EU MS perspective. The last session condensed the general requirements for effective arms control systems and regional cooperation. The activity ended with a round table discussion that serve to draw conclusions and provide feedback about the event as well as to identify topics to be tackled at future events.

The Cross-Regional Workshop was supported by five EU experts: Mr Rolandas Jurgaitis (Lithuania), Mr Axel Krickow (Germany), Mr Gatis Nastevics (Latvia), Mr Michal Sveta (Czech Republic) and Mr Stelios Zachariou (Greece).



Study Visits

Study Visit for Kosovo*, Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia to Vienna, Austria, 16-17 May 2018



On **16-17 May 2018** a Study Visit for participants from Kosovo*, Montenegro and North Macedonia took place at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs in **Vienna, Austria**.

This activity was the first one of the latest phase of the COARM Outreach Project and aimed to provide the partner countries with an insight into the Austrian export control and licensing system and to share the newest international developments related to arms export controls. For this purpose, the Austrian colleagues depicted their national licensing system and demonstrated step-by-step how export applications are being processed electronically.

In order to stress the interactive approach of this Study Visit, the partners from South East Europe were invited to share information about their respective national export control system and licensing procedures. Moreover, they actively engaged in discussing and solving case studies.

The second day was dedicated to recent updates and developments in international arms trade controls. In line with this, the partners from Kosovo*, Montenegro and North Macedonia were informed about current topics being discussed among the international community.

The Study Visit in Vienna was attended by 11 representatives from the above-mentioned partner countries, both licensing and customs officials. The implementing agency BAFA was supported by the following international experts: Mr Wolfgang Banyai (Austria), Mr Diman Dimov (Bulgaria), Mr Krzysztof Firkowski (Poland), Ambassador Philip Griffiths (New Zealand), Ms Carmen Kovac (Slovenia), Mr Martin Krüger (Austria), Mr Karl Lebeda (Austria) and Mr Christian Rupp (Austria).



Study Visit for Georgia, Serbia and Ukraine to Eschborn, Germany, 01-02 October 2018



On **01 and 02 October 2018** a Study Visit to the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) in **Eschborn, Germany**, was conducted for participants from Georgia, Serbia and Ukraine. The Study Visit formed part of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls.

The main focus of the event was to enable first-hand insights into how licensing applications are processed at the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA). The different steps of the licensing process were demonstrated alongside of a case simulation. This served to exemplify and explain the German approach to licensing as well as the procedures in detail. In a second step, comparisons were drawn to other national licensing practices, namely the practices of the participating countries and those of the EU member states Hungary and Czech Republic.

The Study Visit was attended by 12 visitors from partner countries. It was supported by BAFA colleagues from the different departments involved in export control of military goods as well as two EU experts: Ms Mariann Mezey (Hungary) and Mr Václav Prášil (Czech Republic).



Study Visit for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to Valetta, Malta, 29-30 April 2019



A Study Visit within the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls was organised to **Valletta, Malta**, on **29 and 30 April 2019**. The Study Visit was designed to build capacity among representatives from the customs services and connected enforcement authorities from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. It counted with a total of 13 participants.

The activity provided participants with knowledge and practical insights into how customs procedures are carried out in Malta, in order to efficiently control arms transfers at ports of entry. It also included a visit to the Malta Freeport Terminals, where participants could learn about risk management and scanning procedures to detect illicit imports on site.

Special attention was paid to commodity identification and transit and transshipment controls. These belong to the main challenges of controlling arms transfers in the Mediterranean region, and Malta possesses long-standing and extensive experience in dealing with these issues.

Overall, the activity offered a forum for exchanging good practices and experiences among practitioners from the Northern African Mediterranean countries, Malta and those EU MS, that supported the event: Mr Reinhard Groschwitz (Germany) and Ms Piret Tinkus (Estonia). Moreover, Mr Ian Muscat from the Customs Department of Malta and his team supported the preparation and implementation of the Study Visit.



Study Visit for Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to Belgrade, Serbia, 19-20 June 2019



A Study Visit for participants from Belarus and Kyrgyzstan was organised to **Belgrade, Serbia**, on **19 and 20 June 2019** within the COARM Outreach Project IV. This activity was prepared by BAFA in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications of Serbia.

The Study Visit counted with a total of 19 participants representing the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Security Information Agency as well as the Customs Administration of Serbia; the State Secretariat of Security Council and the State Authority for Military of Belarus; and the Ministry of Economy and the Centre for Non-Proliferation and Export Control of Kyrgyzstan.

The agenda of the two-day event was divided into six sessions, each dealing with a particular aspect of export control. Each session started with a presentation about the situation in Serbia held by a Serbian representative, followed by a presentation about the situation in the EU/ in Belgium held by the EU expert. Afterwards, the two partner countries were invited to provide information about their national system.

Overall, the Study Visit offered the invited countries the opportunity to learn first-hand about export control in Serbia and encouraged exchange about national export control practices.

The event was supported by the EU expert Mr Tom Nijs (Belgium). Additionally, Mr Nenad Boskovic (SEESAC) participated and contributed to the Study Visit.



Study Visit for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova to Batumi, Georgia, 18-19 June 2019



On **18 – 19 June 2019** a Study Visit to Georgia within the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls took place in **Batumi, Georgia**. 11 representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova attended the event which was organised by BAFA in cooperation with the Georgian Ministry of Defence and Customs and Revenue Service.

The Study Visit counted with a total of 21 participants representing the Ministry of Defence and the Customs and Revenue Service of Georgia; the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan; the Ministry of Industry, Infrastructure and Development and the Ministry of Digital Development, Defence and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan; and the Customs Service of the Republic as well as the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova.

During the workshop Georgian licensing and especially customs authorities presented their approach to export control. The event included an on-site visit to Georgian Customs facilities. Comparative views on the British and German approach to customs procedures complemented the event. In addition, the workshop provided a platform for information exchange and sharing of good practices for all countries involved.

Two EU experts supported the event: Mr Karamjit Bolina (United Kingdom) and Ms Anne Thönes (Germany).



Study Visit for Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Ukraine to Bratislava, Slovakia, 05-06 February 2020



A Study Visit for Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Ukraine took place in **Bratislava, Slovakia**, on **05 and 06 February 2020** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls.

The Study Visit aimed to facilitate the exchange on national export control practices and was organised in cooperation with the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic. A total of 11 representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Ukraine attended the event.

The aim of this activity was to provide participants with practical insights into the export control systems and customs procedures of an EU Member State, including risk management at the point of entry, but further also to provide a platform for information exchange on the respective national processes.

The Study Visit was supported by two EU experts: Ms Anne Wagner (Germany) and Mr Dominik Kozary (Croatia).



Individual Assistance Workshops

Individual Assistance Workshop for Albania in Tirana, Albania, 06-07 March 2019



On **06-07 March 2019** an Individual Assistance Workshop for Albanian Customs Officials was conducted within the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls in **Tirana, Albania**.

This Individual Assistance workshop aimed to address the needs and priorities of Albanian Customs Officials. Approximately 16 participants attended the workshop at the Customs Laboratory.

The first day kicked off with welcome remarks held by a representative from the General Directorate of Customs in Albania. This workshop day focused mainly on the control list and commodity identification as well as transit and transshipment. In this regard, the updates of the EU Common Military List were presented.

At the second day, presentations and case studies on risk assessment and inspections and audits for companies were presented. on both days, the structure of the workshop focused on an interactive approach supported by discussing various case studies with the participants.

Three EU experts supported the activity: Mr Dominik Kozary (Croatia), Mr Klaas Leenman (Netherlands) and Mr Ian Muscat (Malta).



Individual Assistance Workshop for Serbia in Belgrade, Serbia, 06-07 March 2019



An Individual Assistance Workshop within the framework of the COARM Outreach Project IV was held on **06 and 07 March 2019** in **Belgrade, Serbia**.

The Individual Assistance Workshop aimed to build capacity among representatives from the Serbian licensing and customs authorities as well as representatives from other agencies involved in arms trade controls. The agenda evolved around two central challenges: Licensing for brokering and the issuing of general or global licenses.

First, it was discussed on how to issue and specify licenses for brokering activities. Secondly, the workshop addressed practical advantages of introducing and using global and general licenses, looking at the example of how these types of licenses are anchored in the legislation and executed in the daily licensing practice in some EU member states.

The workshop provided the participants from Serbia the opportunity to engage in discussions about central challenges of the legislation and practice of licensing. The activity was supported by a team of three EU experts in arms export control Mr Martin Drew (United Kingdom), Mr Krzysztof Firkowski (Poland) and Mr László Stefan (Hungary).



Individual Assistance Workshop for the Republic of Moldova in Chisinau, Moldova, 10-11 July 2019



An Individual Assistance Workshop was conducted in **Chisinau, Moldova**, on **10 and 11 July 2019** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls. The event was organised by BAFA as technical implementing entity.

The Individual Assistance Workshop targeted individual challenges in the areas of licensing and customs. This event aimed to provide a platform for information and knowledge exchange between EU experts and Moldovan governmental stakeholders.

The first day kicked off with welcome remarks held by a representative of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representative of German Embassy. The following sessions provided an overview of the Moldovan, Czech Republic as well as Romanian arms export control systems. Moreover, the EU regulatory framework of arms export controls as well as inter-agency coordination were presented.

The second day of the workshop focused on the EU Common Military List, risk assessment and risk management. In addition, the attendees exchanged their knowledge and questions regarding cooperation between customs and licensing, discussed possibilities of regional and international cooperation as well as the next steps in this field. Overall, the Moldovan delegation came to productive results and identified some areas of interest, which might be covered by further activities.

The workshop was attended by 12 government stakeholders from the Republic of Moldova. The following three EU experts supported the Individual Assistance Workshop: Mr Rolandas Jurgaitis (Lithuania), Ms Maria Petcu (Romania) and Mr Michal Sveda (Czech Republic).



Individual Assistance Workshop for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 10-11 December 2019



On **10 – 11 December 2019**, an Individual Assistance Workshop for Bosnia and Herzegovina took place in **Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, in the framework of the EU Outreach Project IV.

The first day focused on outreach to industry. At the beginning, a representative from the MOFTER from Bosnia and Herzegovina presented the state of play of engaging with the industry. Following that, strategies for outreach to industry and academia as well as practical examples regarding challenges and approaches were depicted. In the last session of the day, further examples from the perspective of the industry were shown.

The second day of the workshop addressed Internal Compliance Programmes (ICP). After a presentation on the communication with the military industry by a representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina, an overview on EU approaches regarding the legal provisions for implementing an ICP was provided. Furthermore, ICP from the perspective of the industry and practical examples on EU standards and practices on ICP were discussed. The workshop concluded with a round table discussion in order to identify the next steps for Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding outreach to industry and ICP as well as in which topics they would be interested for upcoming activities.

11 participants from the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the event, which was supported by three EU experts: Ms Gunilla Klöhn (Germany), Ms Andrea Pokerznic (Germany) and Mr Michael Peeters (Belgium).



Individual Assistance Workshop for Montenegro in Podgorica, Montenegro, 11-12 December 2019



An Individual Assistance Workshop was conducted in **Podgorica, Montenegro**, on **11 and 12 December 2019** in the framework of the EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls based on Council Decision 2018/101/CFSP.

The event was attended by 13 participants from Montenegro. The participants represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Customs Administration, Ministry of Economy, National Security Agency, Ministry of Interior as well as Police Directorate. Moreover, the EU Delegation to Montenegro attended the activity.

The first day kicked off with welcome remarks held by a representative of the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro and by a representative of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. The presentation of the COARM Outreach Project as well as a tour de table completed the welcome session.

The agenda points of the first day comprised an overview of the state of play of the Montenegrin arms export control system, risk management from a licensing perspective, the assessment criteria of the Common Position 2008/944/CFSP and inter-agency cooperation. On the second day, the legal framework for transit and transshipment control, the implementation of sanctions as well as outreach to industry were addressed.

Three EU experts supported the event: Ms Simona Codrescu (Romania), Mr Krzysztof Firkowski (Poland) and Mr Michal Sveda (Czech Republic).



Assessment Events

Mid-term Assessment Event in Brussels, Belgium, 06 September 2019

On **6 September 2019**, a Mid-term Assessment Event took place in **Brussels, Belgium**, back-to-back with the regular COARM Working Group Meeting. This activity was organised according to Art. 5.2.5 of the Annex to the Council Decision 2018/101/CFSP.

The main objective was to review and assess the progress of the actions under this Council Decision at the halfway mark of implementation. For this purpose, an overview of the state of the implementation of the project, the completed activities so far, the way ahead and the lessons learned was provided by BAFA. This was complemented by short presentations provided by some of the EU experts that had participated in previous activities and flew eventually into an open discussion with the COARM Working Group.

They witnessed the good progress of the implementation of arms trade controls in the different partner regions in general. It was emphasized that usually a good mix of theoretical inputs and practical exercises or case studies from the daily practice seems to produce the best results during the outreach activities. The implementer was encouraged to reinforce the level of differentiation between the activities aimed at different regions, under consideration of the specific situation and in order to grant continuity including for partner countries with an advanced export control system. In general, it was said to be crucial to maintain a steady and trustful contact with the partner countries and to invest in the analysis of needs and interests in order to ensure the best benefit of the project. It was also discussed how to strengthen the coordination with other donors/ organisations implementing projects in connected areas.

Overall, it was agreed that a continuation of this European outreach project would be useful and desirable. The feedback brought up during the Mid-term Assessment Event was taken into account, as much as possible, in the drafting of the new Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1464.

The contribution of the following EU experts to the event was highly appreciated: Mr Martin Krüger (Austria), Ms Elli Kytömäki (Finland), Mr Klaas Leenman (Netherlands), Mr Tom Nijs (Belgium) and Ms Maria Petcu (Romania).

South Eastern Europe Experts' Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, 19 February 2020

On **19 February 2020**, an Experts' Meeting for partner countries from South Eastern Europe was organised back-to-back with a regular COARM Working Group Meeting in **Brussels, Belgium**. The Experts' Meeting aimed to inform the COARM Working Group about activities implemented under the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101 for South Eastern European partners, such as regional and individual assistance workshops and study visits. Moreover, the objective was to give the partner countries the possibility to share their experiences within the project and to present their lessons learnt with view on the next project phase.



11 delegates from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia attended the event and presented the state of play of their respective export control system and their focus of cooperation with the European Union with respect to the implementation of the COARM Outreach Project IV.

Furthermore, members of the COARM Working Group attended the event, and jointly discussed the progress and the topics of interest for the partner countries for future events.

This meeting was supported by two EU experts: Mr Klaas Leenman (Netherlands) and Mr Michal Sveta (Czech Republic).

Final Assessment Event, 25 November 2020 (online)

The **Final Assessment Event** will be conducted **virtually** on **25 November 2020**, as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic impedes the organisation of a face-to-face conference in Brussels as it would have been normally the case.

In the run-up of the Final Assessment Event, a comprehensive questionnaire was sent out to all the partner countries in order to collect their specific feedback about their state of play and about their experience in the fourth project phase. Moreover, the questionnaire was used to inquire their current challenges, needs and interests.

During the virtual event on 25 November, representatives of all the partner countries of the COARM Outreach Project IV as well as representatives of the European Union, EU Member States, BAFA and EU experts will be invited to exchange views.

The main goal is to evaluate the activities conducted under the Council Decision 2018/101/CFSP and to share good practices, lessons learned and current challenges among all the involved project partners.

Besides looking back at the last phase of the project, this event will also facilitate an outlook to the next project phase, which will start in December 2020, and collect ideas and proposals for the further cooperation. This input will, combined with the input gathered through the assessment questionnaire help the implementer to ensure a smooth and targeted continuation of the cooperation.



The Way Ahead: The COARM Outreach Project V

Outlook to the continuation of the cooperation

The EU Outreach Project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls will be continued under the Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1464 with a duration of two years from December 2020 on. While retaining the same general objectives and, by and large, same types of activities of the previous Council Decision, such as (cross-) regional workshops, individual assistance workshops, study visits and remote assistance, it will also introduce some important novelties.

In order to respond better to the different maturity level of the trade control systems of the partner countries, two new types of activities will be offered specifically for those countries with advanced-level control systems.

First, institutional capacity building events can be offered to provide support to advanced-level countries to assist them building their own national capacity. Measures taken will include the application of a ‘train the trainer’ approach focusing on, inter alia, didactics, knowledge transfer and institutional memory in the beneficiary country. National institutional capacity building should cover issues such as internal compliance, risk management, and the intersection between hybrid threat reduction and arms export controls.

Second, during the term of the project, one conference for partner countries with advanced export control systems will be organised in Brussels which shall enable discussions and exchange of information on the newest developments related to arms trade and challenges of their implementation to the national export control system between European Union experts and senior-level representatives of the respective countries.

At least the first part of the implementation of the new COARM Outreach Project will with certainty still be marked by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which will have an impact on the possibility for representatives of partner countries and EU experts to travel and to conduct face-to-face meetings as it would normally be envisaged. In order to mitigate the circumstances and in order to enable nevertheless a smooth and effective continuation of the cooperation, assistance can immediately be offered in online formats. As virtual settings have proven to be a very flexible tool, which by the way also allows for a wide reach, it is expected that this tool may also be kept as an additional instrument in the future, when travelling will be possible again and when we will be able return step by step to conduct face-to-face activities.

The modalities of work for the new project phase will be the same as for past phases. Any partner country interested in receiving support in a specific topic of trade control of conventional arms is invited to contact the EEAS or BAFA to request assistance and discuss the details of the cooperation.

Additionally, BAFA will base the planning of upcoming activities on the valuable information we received from the partner countries’ responses to the Questionnaire that has been part of the final assessment of the COARM Outreach Project IV.

We are looking forward to implementing the next European Outreach Project on Effective Arms Trade Controls.

BAFA Outreach Team



Contact

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the European COARM Outreach Project.

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