

THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND ITS POLICY ON SENSITIVE EXPORTS

The Republic of Argentina has maintained controls on the sale of armaments since 1941.

In order to update the regime, the National Commission on the Control of Sensitive Exports, Dual Use and War Material was created in 1992, broadening the spectrum of control on argentine exports and imports of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

This means that from that moment, licences were required prior to export or import at controlling the final destination of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile transfers of materials, equipment, technology, technical assistance and/or services.

The new legislation is consistent with the controls established by other countries with advanced capacity in this area and adopts relevant international standards (such as the guidelines of the MTCR, Australia Group, NSG and Wassenaar Arrangement).

The Commission has representation from the Ministry of Defense (in which is based the Secretariat), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Economy and related technical agencies.

In 2006 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a new Unit (within the Directorate of International Security) to consolidate policies, administrative procedures, outreach and international liaison on all matters related to export/import controls and non proliferation.

We agree that the different controls regimes, both at the national and international levels, play a relevant role in complementing and supporting the provisions of the multilateral non-proliferation treaties, making it difficult for a State or non-State actor to acquire WMD.

Each application for a licence is analysed on a case by case basis and the decisions on them take into account the solid commitment of the Republic of Argentina to non-proliferation international conditions including individual and regional circumstances and the specific conditions established for each concrete proposal.

The Republic of Argentina coordinates with other States on exports that could contribute to the production of WMD with a view to consolidate an effective international regime.

The new regulations do not restrict legitimate trade, instead they incorporate at a national level international standards on non-proliferation.

In this context, we are convinced that joint international action is essential as it would be politically and commercially unfair if other international providers adopted a more permissive attitude.

We are expecting in the first part of the year the rapid adoption by our Parliament of legislation that deals with the questions of transit, trans-shipment and brokering.

The basic objective of our policy is to harmonise national and international efforts to ensure that exports of sensitive items do not contribute, or be diverted, to WMD programmes.

When more countries are prepared to share information and to harmonise their control regimes, there will be fewer opportunities for proliferating States or non-State actors to obtain materials and technologies for their WMD programmes.

It is also necessary for export control regimes to anticipate emerging challenges posed by new technologies that could be adopted for the purposes of proliferation, since in recent years proliferators have sought new ways of circumventing control regimes.

The Republic of Argentina has been working for many years on this subject on a continuous basis, its control regime and legislation. One might say that it has become a leading country on this matter within Latin America, as a consequence of its constant efforts and work.

The Republic of Argentina has begun to take steps to improve the standards applied in the region through active cooperation with Latin American countries with the aim of assisting them to establish the necessary legal and administrative regimes, offering its experience and joining forces with them in order to fulfill the obligations set out in UNSC Resolution 1540.