

DEVELOPMENTS IN FINNISH EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM OVER YEARS 2004 - 2005

1. Export Control of Military Equipment

Finland implements all of the recent decisions and revised control lists adopted by the European Union and the Wassenaar Arrangement as well as the relevant OSCE decisions regarding export controls of military equipment. Along with the European Union Council's Common Position on the Control of Arms Brokering, these include the Wassenaar Arrangement documents Elements for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) and Elements for Effective Legislation on Arms Brokering, the OSCE Decision on Standard Elements of End-User Certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW Exports, the OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) as well as the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS).

2. Export Control of Dual-use Goods

The annexes of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1334/2000 were amended and updated by the Council Regulations (EC) No 885/2004 and 1504/2004 implementing the changes agreed upon in international export control regimes. As the Council Regulation and its annexes *per se* automatically are binding legislation in Finland (like in any other member state of the European Union) no separate, additional amendments to the Finnish legislation were needed.

In order to align the export control system of nuclear specific items (i.e. Category 0 of Annex I of the Dual-Use Regulation) with the recent changes to the Dual-Use Regulation and its Annexes, the Nuclear Energy Decree was amended in May 2004.

3. Enhanced enforcement

In recent years the Finnish Customs have taken a number of measures in order to enhance the enforcement of export control at the borders.

Common IT systems have been implemented in operational use by Police, Customs and Frontier Guard authorities for intelligence and investigation purposes, and their further development is under way. Furthermore, the training program on export controls provided to Customs officers has been extended in order to take into account expected future developments and better meet future requirements. Application of risk analysis techniques and increased exchange of information at national and international level are key elements taught in the extended training program.

The Finnish Customs are also making substantial investments in order to enhance their technical capacity. To support the stationary X-ray scanning facility at the Finnish-Russian border, the Customs acquired in 2005 one mobile X-ray inspection system for scanning loaded and unloaded containers as well as buses and passenger cars on that border. A similar system was acquired for Helsinki Port. In addition, the Customs intend to procure a relocatable scanner to be used at Helsinki Port.

4. Legislation on Firearm Amnesty

A legislation on Firearm Amnesty has come into force in 1 January 2004. The purpose of the legislation is to decrease the number of illegal and unregistered weapons in Finland and thereby increase public order and security.

The legislation on Firearm Amnesty makes it possible to surrender illegal small arms, ammunition and explosives to the police without any punishment. This, however, is possible only in the case where the small arm has not been used in criminal act.

An Owner of an illegal firearm can also apply for a licence to keep the gun. He or she can also donate or sell the firearm to another licence holder through the police within three months. Other possibilities are deactivation of the firearm or its re-rendering to the state. The acquired firearms are sold by the police in an official public auction on behalf of the owner to collectors and other licensed arms holders. The aim is to have all illegal firearms registered.

There are in total around 1,5 million civilian-owned registered guns. In addition, the number of illegal (unregistered) small arms was before the amnesty estimated to be more than 40 000 in the possession of individual Finnish citizens (weapons mainly from the 2nd World War). During the year 2004 altogether 8 606 firearms were surrendered to the police. In addition large quantities of firearm components, ammunition and explosives were surrendered. The amnesty is ongoing and the amount of the firearms to be surrendered during this year is estimated to be equivalent to the year 2004.
