

## **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. Each application for a licence is carefully analysed on a case-by-case basis.

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 Republic of Argentina is the only State in the Latin American region member to all the international export control regimes.

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 next year the rapid adoption by our Parliament of legislation that deals with the question 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 American, 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 regulations, offering its experience and joining forces with them in order to fulfill the obligations set out in UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004).

Within this framework the Republic of Argentina has also actively supported the approval of resolution XXXI of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in support of resolution 1540 (2004) which requested, among other activities, the convening of a Regional Workshop on the application of this UN Security Council resolution.

The Regional Workshop took place from 13 to 14 May in Buenos Aires, Argentina, contributing to the promotion of the resolution's implementation in the American continent.

As a result of technical cooperation between the Republic of Argentina and the US Department of State and the Department of Energy, a Working Group has been created in our country for training in the identification of commodities subject to control (CIT-CIME).

This Working Group is made up of all the organizations of the Argentine State involved in the control of exports or imports of this type of material and technologies, in particular the organizations responsible for licensing and enforcement.

During 2007 and 2008 regular seminars and Working Groups, have been organized as a consequence of this collaboration as well as practical exercises. These culminated in the graduation of an important number of National Instructors in the subject (approximately 30 officials).

Various government agencies are gradually incorporating these training modules into their own up-skilling courses covering the four technologies related to weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, chemical, biological and missile technology.

We were pleased to welcome in Buenos Aires the presence of technicians from South Africa during the activities that took place in 2007, at the invitation of the Republic of Argentina and the US.

During the most recent instructors course we welcomed the active participation of colleagues from Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

We have also undertaken seminars in the subjects of End Use- End User and intangible technology.

We anticipate, as a consequence of this active Argentine initiative, similar activities with the participation of MERCOSUR and Associated States.

In the first meeting of the Working Group on Non-Proliferation and Weapons of Mass Destruction of MERCOSUR and its Associated States, chaired by Argentina and held in Buenos Aires in past July, the export control of sensitive materials was included as a theme for future work, with the aim of promoting regional cooperation efforts in the subject, in fulfillment of the objectives of resolution 1540.

Finally, it is relevant to mention that the Republic of Argentina together with the US Department of Energy, the Chamber of Exporters and the NGO Argentine Council for International Relations are organizing the second seminar aimed at outreach to the Argentine business community.

The Republic of Argentina is convinced that effective export control systems rely on four main elements: transparent and standardized national licensing system, enforcement of national export controls, enterprise awareness compliance and regional cooperation. With this aim we are working dynamically at local and regional level.