

13. INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH WEAPONS AND STRATEGIC MILITARY GOODS

CTP Cyprus, DSU Denmark, SDY Estonia, SDY Finland, SONK Finland, UJ Iceland, GD Italy, Societas Hungary, SSF Sweden, SSU Sweden

In the world today there are too many, not too few weapons. Annually the weapon industries sell weapons and strategic military goods for billions of euros and employ thousands in our countries. This increases our moral, ethical and political responsibility for how these products come to use. They are used in armed conflicts every day around the world, and harm not only active participants of war, but also civilians. Trade of weapons and strategic military goods raise many political and ethical problems.

Weapons and strategic military goods should not be sold to countries that break the human rights on a daily basis. Therefore YES works for strict laws on trade with weapons and strategic military goods in the European Union. Trade of weapons and strategic military goods are often separated between A and B materials. The laws and regulations should be strict on both categories. Many European countries lack this kind of legislation on B material, and there is also weaknesses in legislation on A material goods.

International weapon trade today is affected by differences in laws and rules for export in different countries. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a UN treaty that entered into force on the 24th of December 2014. This is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough to tackle the many political and ethical challenges with arms trade globally. European Union should be in the forefront of making a new international treaty on trade with weapons and strategic military goods. This treaty must contain rules and regulations giving criteria for export of these goods. Human rights and the conditions for the civilians in the buying country must decide whether or not a sale can be done.

We, Young European Socialists, argue that:

- Many organizations and member countries also deliver financial assistance to a broad array of organizations. At all cost, it must be avoided that with these funds weapons can be **secured**, be it in member states of the European Union or others. It is therefore essential to monitor to what end development aid and/or other financial assistance is used.
- Laws and regulations on export of weapons and strategic military goods must be strict in European countries.
- Export of both A and B material must be regulated strictly
- European countries should be on the forefront for a new international treaty on trade with weapons and strategic military goods