

OSCE Questionnaire on Participating States Policy and/or National Practices and Procedures for the Export of Conventional Arms and Related Technology

REPORT BY THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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1. Their basic principles, policies and/or national practices on the export of conventional arms and related technology.

A: One of the fundamental goals of the Security Policy of Latvia is a responsible arms control policy, compliance with international norms and regimes in nuclear, conventional and chemical fields. Latvia's arms control policy and export control policy is aimed at prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery, as well as reduction of threats posed by the destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms and technologies thus ensuring that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which undermine international security and stability. Latvia coordinates its arms control and non-proliferation policy within the EU, NATO, UN and OSCE in order to promote security and stability internationally and in the region.

Latvian Government has developed an efficient export control based on the requirements of the EU and international export control regimes. Latvian authorities control export, import, transit, brokering and transfer of conventional arms and related technologies

between the EU member states. Licences are required for each of all the aforementioned transactions.

Latvia has ratified Arms Trade Treaty in April, 2014.

2. Their national legislation governing the export of conventional arms and related technology. If applicable, report changes and/or update to the data provided in 1995 including any relevant subsidiary legislation.

A: The legal basis for control of export, import and transit of strategic goods including conventional arms is made up by the following legislative acts:

- The procedure for export, import and transit in wholesale and retail of small arms and light weapons is provided in the Law on the Handling of Weapons and Special Means (passed on October 28, 2010, in force since January 1, 2011);
- The Law on the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance (in force since July 19, 2007) was designed to ensure control of the circulation of strategic goods in accordance with national and international requirements for monitoring their export, import, transfer, brokering and transit. The Law provides the division of authority among institutions in charge of strategic goods control, their responsibilities and co-operation, as well as terms used in the law, including brokering. The Law defines the authority of Strategic Goods Control Committee regarding assessing licence applications, issuing licences and denials, as well as procedure of expertise and identification of certain goods.
- Law on Implementation of Sanctions of International Organizations (in force since January 1, 2007) determines order of application of sanctions imposed by the UN, the EU or the OSCE in Latvia. The sanctions imposed by the United Nations Organization or the European Union are implemented in Latvia by Regulations of the European Union or the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia. The Cabinet of Ministers has broad authority to determine measures necessary to implement the sanctions and their duration in the Republic of Latvia.

There are several regulations issued by Cabinet of Ministers (CM):

- Cabinet of Ministers Regulation of July 20, 2010, No.657 “Procedures by Which Licenses and Other Documents of the Control of Strategic Goods Are Issued or Denied” sets down procedures of issuance, denying or annulment of import, export, transfer or transit licenses of military or dual-use goods, as well as of end use certificates, international import certificates and delivery verifications. It contains also provisions set out in EU Council Regulation 428/2009 and EU Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP. The Cabinet determine the procedures for the manufacturer's certification to establish the reliability of the recipient undertaking, in particular as regards its capacity to observe export limitations of defence-related products received under a transfer licence from another Member State. The above mentioned regulations determines certification in compliance with Directive 2009/43/EC of the European Parliament to simplify terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products within the Community.
- Cabinet of Ministers Regulation of July 20, 2010, No. 656 “Regulations on Duties for Issue of experts certificates, end use certificates, international import certificates, delivery verifications and import, export, transfer or transit licenses” contains

provisions on the amount of duties for each type of document as well as determines procedure when and how the duty should be paid.

- **Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 866 of August 4, 2009, “Regulation on the Control Committee of Strategic Goods”.** Committee is inter-institutional body responsible for export control issues. Regulation determines functions and responsibilities of the Committee as well as sets out duties of various representatives from institutions involved in export control. Regulation is amended on regular basis according to changes in different institutions involved in the control process.
- **Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 645 of September 25, 2007, “On The National List of Goods and Services of Strategic Significance”.** Regulation provides the list of goods to be controlled additional to those included in the EU Council Regulation 428/2009 Annex I and Common Military List of the EU. For example, rim fire firearms and ammunition as well as military services are included in the list. According to the law, the National list is approved by government.
- **Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 736 of October 11, 2007 “Procedure by Which the State Police Issues Prior Consents for Transfer of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives between the EU Member States”.** The regulation contains norms of EU Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and Council Directive 93/15/EEC of 5 April 1993 on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses.
- **Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 331 of May 8, 2012 “Procedures for Issue of Special permits (licences) for business with the EU Common Military List of Goods”.** The regulations set down procedures of issuance, denying or annulment of special licenses for business with the EU Common Military List of Goods. The special licences are issued by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia.
- **Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 495 of July 26, 2016 “Procedures for Issuing, Suspending and Withdrawing prior permit for the transfer of firearms and ammunition or explosives among European Union Member States”.** The regulation set down procedures for issuing, suspending and withdrawing prior permit for the transfer of firearms and ammunition or explosives among European Union Member States. The prior permits are issued by the State Police.

Legislative act pursuant to the Law on the Handling of Weapons and Special Means, in force since January 1, 2011, strictly regulating the circulation of arms in Latvia:

Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 1001 of December 27, 2011, “Regulations Regarding the Acquisition, Registration, Recording, Possession, Transportation, Conveyance, Carrying, Sale of Weapons and Ammunition and Possession of Collections of Weapons” (in force since December 30, 2011.

This Regulation prescribes:

- the conditions and the procedures by which individual persons shall acquire, register, possess, transport, convey and sell firearms, the removable barrels, ammunition and component parts thereof, as well as high energy pneumatic weapons;
- the conditions and the procedures by which individual persons shall carry firearms and ammunition thereof;

- the conditions and the procedures by which individual person shall acquire, possess, carry and sell gas pistols (revolvers) and ammunition thereof;
- the conditions and the procedures by which legal persons shall acquire, register, possess, transport, convey and sell firearms, the removable barrels, ammunition and component parts thereof, as well as high energy pneumatic weapons;
- the conditions and the procedures, by which legal persons shall issue firearms and ammunition for the fulfilment of service or work duties, accept firearms, the ammunition thereof and high pneumatic weapons into possession;
- the requirements for weapons depositories and the regulations for the possession of collections of weapons and ammunition; and
- the procedures by which the legal persons who have received an authorisation for the keeping wild animals in the fenced off areas in the ownership or possession thereof shall acquire, possess, issue and use mufflers of shooting noise (silencers) and firearms equipped therewith for the acquisition of wild animal species in the fenced off areas under conditions similar to the wild.

3. Any international agreements or guidelines, other than OSCE commitments, covering the export of conventional arms to which they are a party?

A: Latvian Government fully supports the EU initiatives regarding the non-proliferation and arms control and has aligned itself with the EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition, EU Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technologies and equipment, EU Council Decision 2012/711/CFSP of 19 November 2012 on support for Union activities in order to promote, among third countries, the control of arms exports and the principles and criteria of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, EU Council Directive 2008/51/CE of 21 May 2008 on Control of the Acquisition and Possession of Weapons and EU Council Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the Control of Arms Brokering. Latvia implements the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and is a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and all its additional Protocols.

4. The procedure for processing an application to export conventional arms and related technology:

- Who is the issuing authority?

A: The Control Committee of Strategic Goods consistent of representatives from the responsible national authorities is in charge of controlling the circulation of conventional arms in the territory of the Republic of Latvia, controlling manufacture, storage, use, export, import, brokering and transit of conventional arms and related technologies, examining licence application and issuing licences. In accordance with Cabinet of Ministers Regulation of July 20, 2010, No.657 "Procedures by Which Licenses and Other Documents of the Control of Strategic Goods Are Issued or Denied" application to export conventional arms and related technology can be processed if applicant has a permit issued according to the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation of August 20, 2008 "Procedures for Issue of Special permits (licences) for business with the EU Common Military List of Goods", as exporters of military items and brokers require special permission from the Ministry of Defence. Licence has to be issued within one month after receiving an application and all additional documents. If additional information or investigation is required, this period may be firstly

prolonged for 1 month and then as far as all necessary information is received. Amendments were made to the regulation in July, 2011 foreseeing that licences can be issued in electronic form.

- What other authorities are involved and what is their function?

A: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - international commitments, export control regimes, export control policy, coordination of work of The Control Committee of Strategic Goods;

Ministry of Defence – issues special permits (licences) to individual merchants or commercial companies for commercial activities with goods specified in the Common Military List of the European Union as well as ensures certification of the licenced companies for the transfer of defence-related-products within the European Union;

Ministry of Interior - issuing special permissions to exporters and importers of civilian firearms, ammunition, industrial explosives and pyrotechnical devices;

National Revenue Service - Customs Board – control of circulation of goods;

State Police and Security Police – information exchange and risk analysis;

Intelligence service – information exchange and risk analysis.

- Who deals with compliance?

A: The Control Committee of Strategic Goods and the Division of Export Control of Strategic Goods of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

5. Lists of conventional weaponry under national export controls and the basis for their control. If applicable, report changes and/or updates to the data provided in 1995.

The conventional arms and the related technologies are controlled according to the following lists:

- 1) EU Common Military List 2013/C90/01;**
- 2) The Wassenaar Arrangement Munitions List;**
- 3) Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 645 25.09.2007 The National List of Goods and Services of Strategic Significance.**

The Law on the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance states that control of circulation of these goods shall take place in accordance with this law, the international obligations of the Republic of Latvia, the requirements of international export control regimes, including the Wassenaar Arrangement.

6. Principles and national regulations on the destination or end – user of the equipment. Is there a complete *erga omnes* system or a published list of:

- destinations of concerns?
- embargoed countries?
- Differentiation between destinations (e.g. is there any preferential treatment of groups or countries?).

A: According to the Law On the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance the Committee on Control of Strategic Goods is entitled to refuse the issuance of licences for

such goods, including conventional arms, if the issuance thereof is in conflict with the general foreign policy guidelines of the Republic of Latvia, embargos determined by the European Union, the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe or the objectives of this Law. The Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers based on this law includes criterions set out by Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technologies and equipment. Transactions with military technologies and equipment can be carried out only after careful analysis of the situation in the receiving state, consultation with experts and receiving credible guarantees from the end-user.

Latvia has no so-called "blacklist" and each application for export or transit licence is analysed on case-by-case basis.

There is however data base of denials issued by European Union members and this data base is referred to when application is processed and there is information that another country has issued denial for the particular goods, state, entity or person.

There is a list of international sanctions and embargoes in force published on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

7. Requirements for the provision of an end-user certificate in an export license application, or of non-re-exportation clause, or of any other type of certification before and after delivery for conventional arms export contracts. If applicable, please specify any verification of end-user certificate and/or non-re-exportation clause before and after delivery.

A: For every export and transit transactions with strategic goods the end-user certificate is required.

The importer shall provide Import Certificate or the End Use Certificate in which the importer certifies that the goods shall not be used in any relation to weapons of mass destruction or means for their delivery, as well as acknowledges that he is aware that these goods are controlled in accordance with the laws of Latvia and the exporting country and that violation of those laws is a criminal offence. The importer also undertakes not to divert, re-export or trans-ship the goods without a written permission of the export control authorities and the export control authorities of the exporting country, as well as to inform the export control authorities, in case it has come to their knowledge that the goods might be used for production of WMD or means for their delivery.

Delivery Verification Certificates in standard form are issued by the export control authorities on request of the applicant stating the date and place of arrival, mode of transport, the number of corresponding import certificate and customs declaration. By signing the Delivery Verification Certificate the export control authorities undertakes to control the further use of goods by the applicant.

8. National definition of transit and transshipment (including free zones) of conventional arms, together with associated national legislation and compliance procedures.

A: Being EU member state Latvia follows EU Customs Code.

Latvia does not differ between conventional arms and general strategic goods policy, so the definition is as follows:

The external transit procedure shall allow the movement from one point to another within the customs territory of the EU Community of:

- a) non-EU Community goods without such goods being subject to import duties and other charges or to commercial policy measures;**
- b) EU Community goods, in cases and on conditions determined in accordance with the EU Communities procedure in order to prevent products covered by or benefiting from export measures.**

The internal transit procedure shall under the conditions allow the movement of EU Community goods from one point to another within the customs territory of the Community passing through the territory of a third country without any change in their customs status.

If a company registered in Latvia is involved in transit of strategic goods the transit licence is needed even if strategic goods do not pass the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

Transit licences are not required if strategic goods pass the territory of the Republic of Latvia by foreign forwarder. In such case export license from exporting state and import license or import certificate from importing state is necessary for decision making.

9. The procedures governing companies wishing to export arms. Are companies obliged to seek official governmental authority to enter into contract negotiations or to sign contracts with foreign customers?

A: Companies may enter into contract negotiations without official governmental authority; however companies have to have a special permission (licence) issued by the Ministry of Defence and export licence issued by the Control Committee of Strategic Goods to export arms by the time they make transaction.

10. Policy on the revocation of export licenses once they have been approved; please list any published regulations.

A: According to the Law on Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance (in force since July 19, 2007) export control authorities may revoke license, even after the licence has been approved, if state of emergency including armed conflict brakes out in a respective recipient country.

According to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 495 of July 26, 2016 "Procedures for Issuing, Suspending and Withdrawing prior permit for the transfer of firearms and ammunition or explosives among European Union Member States", the State Police may suspend or withdraw prior permit for the transfer of firearms and ammunition or explosives among European Union Member States in following cases:

- a) Special permits (licences) period of validity has ended or Special permit (licence) is suspended;**
- b) Ongoing examination of the facts the result of which may be the basis for the revoke of the Special permit (licence);**
- c) Firearms and ammunition or explosives import into the Republic of Latvia is prohibited with the national regulation or international agreements;**

d) There is a reasonable suspicion that the firearms, ammunition and explosives will be used illegally, creating a threat to public safety.

11. The penal and administrative implications for any exporter failing to comply with national controls. If applicable, report changes and/or updates to the data provided in 1995.

A:

The Criminal Law states for liability:

- **For the illegal manufacture, acquisition, possession and sale of arms, ammunition and explosive substances. Article 233 of the Criminal Law defines punishment for the violation of regulations on the sale of firearms or ammunition of a prison sentence for up to four years or a fine up to eighty minimum monthly salaries, and depriving of the right to engage in certain types of business for a time of up to five years, or without. The manufacture, acquisition, possession, carrying, transporting or selling of firearms, ammunition, explosive substances without the appropriate permit is punishable by imprisonment of up to ten years, or arrest, and depriving of the right to engage in certain types of business for a time of two to five years, or without it.**
- **The careless possession, carrying, transport or shipping of firearms or ammunition in violation of regulations, if by so doing an opportunity is given to another person to obtain such arms or ammunition, is punishable by a prison sentence of up to two years or arrest, or a fine up to fifty minimum monthly salaries, and deprivation of the right to engage in certain types of business for a period of up to three years. In the case of a similar offence causing grave consequences is punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years or a fine of up to a hundred minimum monthly salaries, and deprivation of the right to engage in certain types of business for a period of up to five years. (*Article 236 of the Criminal Law*)**
- **Violation of regulations or procedure for the use of firearms, if committed by a person permitted to acquire, possess or carry firearms and if such violation has caused grave consequences, shall be punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years or arrest or forced labour or a fine of up to one hundred minimum monthly salaries. (*Article 237 of the Criminal Law*)**
- **Violation of provisions on circulation of strategic goods - for a person who commits the violation of the provisions for the circulation of goods of strategic significance, if substantial harm has been caused thereby, the applicable punishment is temporary deprivation of liberty or community service, or a fine. For a person who commits the violation of the prohibition of the circulation of equipment, devices or instruments or the components thereof specially created or adapted for investigatory operational measures to be performed by a specific method, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding two years or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine, with deprivation of the right to engage in specific employment for a period not exceeding five years (*Article 237.¹*).**
- **In addition, Articles of the Criminal Law on committing various crimes provide that the use of arms in committing such crimes is considered an aggravating circumstance.**

- Movement of goods of strategic importance or other valuable property, explosives, weapons and ammunition across the State border of the Republic of Latvia in any illegal way is punishable by a deprivation of liberty for a term up to twelve years, with confiscation of property, with deprivation of the right to engage in entrepreneurial activity of a specific type or of all types or to engage in specific employment or the right to take up a specific office for a term not exceeding five years, and with police supervision for a term not exceeding three years (Article 190.¹).

The Administrative Violations Code provides for liability:

- Article 179.¹ Violation of the procedure for circulation of strategic goods (except ionising radiation sources).

For violation of the procedure for circulation of strategic goods a fine of 210-700 EUR is imposed on individual persons, however a fine of 280-7100 EUR is imposed on legal entities, with or without confiscation of the goods.

- Article 181. Violation of the procedure for circulation of arms, ammunition, special devices and pyrotechnic products.

In the case of violation of the procedures for circulation of a firearm, munitions or components of firearm or ammunition, or high-energy airguns, or firearm sound suppressors, committed by a individual person, who has a relevant permit – a fine shall be imposed in an amount from 35-700 EUR or suspension of the right to obtain, store and carry a firearm and high-energy airgun shall be applied for a time period from one year up to three years, with confiscation of firearm, ammunition or components of firearm, or without confiscation.

In the case of violation of the procedures for circulation of a firearm, munitions or components of firearm or ammunition, or high-energy airgun, or firearm sound suppressors committed by a legal person, who has a relevant permit – a fine shall be imposed in an amount from 70 to 1400 EUR or suspension of the right to obtain and store a firearm and high-energy airgun for a time period from one year up to three years, with confiscation of firearm, ammunition or components of firearm, or without confiscation.

In the case of violation of circulation of a gas pistol (revolver), cold weapon, low-energy airgun or deactivated weapon, high-energy airgun copies, or firearms for fireworks ammunition or medication filled capsules – a fine shall be imposed for individual person in an amount from 35 to 350 EUR with or without confiscation or firearm, ammunition or components; for individual persons in an amount from 70 to 700 EUR with or without confiscation or firearm, ammunition or components.

- Article 183. Violation of regulations of commercial circulation of arms, ammunition, special means, explosives, dynamite equipment and pyrotechnic products.
In cases of violation of regulations of commercial circulation of arms, ammunition, special means, explosives, dynamite equipment and pyrotechnic products committed by a legal entity holding a special permit (licence) or registration certificate to perform certain commercial operations - a fine may be imposed from 35 to 1400 EUR with or without confiscation or firearm, ammunition or components.
- Article 201¹⁰. Violation of Customs regime regulations.

For violation of legislation on imports, exports, transfer or transit of goods of strategic significance a fine of 70-570 EUR is imposed on individual persons, however a fine of 350-7100 EUR is imposed on legal entities, with or without confiscation of the goods. If violation is repeated within a year, a fine of 350-700 EUR is imposed on individual persons and a fine of 1400-14000 EUR on legal entities with confiscation of the goods.

12. Any circumstances in which the export of arms does not require an export licence?

A: There is one exception with regard to import - if Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior transfers goods specified in the Common Military List of the European Union from another European Union Member State or import for their use directly from producer then import licence for such transaction is not required.

The Constitution Protection Bureau, institutions under subordination of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence, Prison Administration and Security Department of the Bank of Latvia is not required to obtain a special permit (licence) for commercial activities with goods specified in the Common Military List of the European Union.

A special permit (licence) issued by the Ministry of Defence for commercial activities with goods specified in the Common Military List of the European Union is not required if licence for the transfer, export, import or transit of military goods specified in the Common Military List of the European Union is requested by individual person, who exports, imports or transfers firearm aids for his/her own use, taking into consideration, that these aids are not specially manufactured or adjusted for military purposes, but designed for installation on firearm owned by person.

There are some exceptions in place concerning transfers within EU applied to military as well as dual-use goods. Accordingly National General Export Authorisation for dual-use goods and General Transfer Licence for military goods are both published in official paper by Control Committee and do not require to obtain individual export licence. Those general licences require that entities meet some specific criteria. General Transfer Licence, for example, can be used by entities for transfers of military goods within EU if they are certified by Ministry of Defence as producers of those military goods.

13. Licences for temporary export (e.g. demonstration or testing), the period allowed and any special conditions attached to the license, including verification or return procedures.

A: State Police issue a prior consent for legal entities valid for time period the legal entity requires and Control Committee of Strategic Goods issue licence accordingly.

All firearms are registered in State Police Register and every time policemen can check every gun. After returning from demonstrations or testing which took place abroad the legal person has to inform State Police about returned guns and firearms.

14. Licence documents and any standard conditions attached to it (copies to be provided).

A: Licenses are issued to applicants registered with the Latvian Commercial Register or Government institutions for each separate export, import, transfer, brokering or transit transaction in strategic goods, including arms and weapons, valid for 6 months. The

licensing procedure is similar for arms, weaponry, ammunition and military technology. There are no restrictions on quantity or value.

In order to receive a license, an applicant or Government institution shall submit to the Division of Export Control of Strategic Goods of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia a license application addressed to the Committee on a specific form, attaching:

- special permit (licence) for individual types of commercial operations (if necessary according to Law on Circulation of Strategic Goods);
- contract or invoice (or copies thereof);
- international import certificate of the importing country and/or end-use certificate, permit or other equivalent document - only for export and transit.

The foreign international import certificate (or equivalent document) may be in any language. If not in English or Russian, a notarized translation must be attached.

Strategic Goods, including arms, may be re-transferred with the permission of the Committee in accordance with the laws of the country of origin of the goods on export control.

The Division of export control of strategic goods of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia may request additional information from applicant on the origin of goods, their technical description and certification of end-use. In addition, the Division may note on the licenses, import certificates or end-use certificates conditions whose compliance is compulsory to the merchant.

When signing the license application, applicant certifies with his signature that according to information at his disposal, the goods will not be used in relation to weapons of mass destruction or devices for their delivery, and also that he is aware of the regulations controlling strategic goods in the Republic of Latvia and the liability for violating these regulations or providing false information.

15. Different types (e.g. individual, general, restricted, full, permanent, etc.) of licences and what they are used for.

A: Types of licenses issued in Latvia:

- 1) Individual export, import and transit licence for goods listed in the annex 1 of EU regulation 428/2009, EU Common Military List and Latvian National List.
- 2) EU inter-Community transfer licence for goods listed in the Annex IV of the EU regulation 428/2009, EU Common Military List and Latvian National List.
- 3) General export and transit licences for goods listed in the Annex 1 of EU regulation 428/2009;
- 4) National General Exports Authorisation (NGEA) for goods listed in the Annex 1 of EU regulation 428/2009 to countries outside EU;
- 5) Global Transfer Licence for goods listed in EU Common Military List for transfer to one or more EU countries;
- 6) General Transfer Licence for goods listed in EU Common Military List issued in accordance with Directive 2009/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the

Council of 6 May 2009 simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products within the Community.

16. Advice given to exporters as to licencensability, such as the likelihood of approval for a possible transaction.

A: The export control authorities of the Republic of Latvia encourage companies to undergo consultations concerning particular transaction and end-user before signing the contract and applying for a licence.

In Latvia we have approximately 50 companies which are regularly engaged in export of controlled strategic goods.

Latvia regularly organizes seminars for the industry and entities involved in trade with strategic goods.

17. The average number of export licences issued annually and the staff engaged in the export licensing procedure.

Latvia issues on average about 100 export licences to third countries per year; military goods exports make up to 10% of those licences and about 20-30 transfer licences for military goods from Latvia to EU countries.

Export control staff:

Licensing officers who consult applicants applying for licenses both for military and dual-use goods - 1

Technical experts -2

Head of the Division - 1

Chairman of the Control Committee who signs the licenses - 1

Officials of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior who give approval for export licensing – 2

Members of the Control Committee - 14

18. Any other relevant information pertaining to the export of conventional arms and related technology, additional laws, reports to Parliament, special procedures for certain goods.

A: Latvia fully shares the concern of the international community regarding the arms brokers' activities that may contribute to excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms and military technologies. We believe that by the introduction of appropriate laws and regulations, as well as relevant international legal instruments and effective law enforcement controls the international community could effectively address the problem of unauthorized and illicit arms trafficking.

To that end, Latvia already in 1997 established registration and special permissions for arms brokering. A company must apply for a license for every export/import, brokering or transit transaction of strategic goods. The license is also required if goods are transferred by the company in transit outside the Republic of Latvia.

19. Are all guidelines governing conventional arms transfers nationally published?

A: All guidelines are included in national laws and regulations and they are nationally published, including on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia making them easily accessible for public.