

Annual report from SPAS on the Swedish arms trade To the ENAAT meeting in Nyköping, Sweden, May 2001. Covering the time since the Bremen meeting September 2000 until now

Clean investments

In connection with a new pension system in Sweden, The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society conducted an investigation into the new pension funds' share holdings in arms-producing companies. SPAS did a mapping of the nine biggest and the four ethical Swedish fund administrators' investments in the arms industry. The results were compiled in a report that was distributed to visitors on a huge "Pension Fair" and to people who after the big media publicity contacted SPAS and asked for it. The day the report was made public, SPAS had an Op-ed article in one of the biggest Swedish daily newspapers. The media showed a lot of interest in SPAS's findings, and the Chair of SPAS, Maria Ermanno, participated in many debates on TV and in the radio.

The investigation showed that 78 % of the premium pension funds invest in companies that produce military equipment and three out of four scrutinised ethical fund administrators invest as much or more in arms-producing companies than the average of all fund administrators.

The Framework agreement

The Framework agreement has been an issue that SPAS has followed and criticized quite intense since the last couple of months. As with the pension funds we started off with writing a report where we showed some possible consequences for the Swedish export control if the agreement were to be ratified. The report was published the same time as we arranged a hearing in the Swedish parliament together with SFOR among others. During the hearing all the Swedish parties declared their position regarding the framework agreement. An article in one of the biggest papers by SPAS was followed by a debate between Maria Ermanno and the defence minister. This campaign has been mainly political where SPAS has been writing papers that have been used by the three parties that opposed the agreement in some aspects. SPAS have also hold a presentation to the foreign affairs committee. The same day as the debate was held in the parliament SPAS and SFOR arranged a manifestation outside the parliament with a toilet were we symbolically flushed away the agreement.

One of our arguments has been that Sweden has to harmonize its arms export policy to the other countries for example regarding the Middle East. Therefore, aligned with the campaign against the Framework agreement, we have published a series of articles regarding Swedish arms trade to the Middle East. In the first article which led to a rather big debate we showed that Sweden now are opening up for arms trade with several countries in the region, something which the foreign ministry also admitted later on.

Transparency

As with the other two campaigns our transparency campaign started off with conducting a report regarding secrecy and transparency in Sweden in terms of arms trade issues. The report was published the same day as we organized another manifestation for increased transparency outside the parliament. After the manifestation a SPAS delegation had a meeting with the minister for democracy, Britta Lejon, where we gave her our report and a pledge for increased transparency signed by some 20 organisations. We also gave her (and the National inspectorate of strategic products and the ministry for foreign affairs) a stamp, which said "public" and encouraged them to use that one instead of the standard confidential stamp.

The government annual report

The Swedish Government reports on last year's arms trade to the parliament in an annual report every spring. The report this year was a progress for transparency since it now is showing more details. The two main categories "military equipment for combat purposes" and "other military equipment" are now broken down into some 28 sub categories. On each category there is a value of the total export, to all countries. For each country it is now possible to see which categories the export is derived from. However, the value of the export to each country is still only divided into the two main categories. Also there is an improvement regarding licenses, which also is divided into these 28 categories for each country. You may also see how many licenses that have been accepted for each country. Beside from this, the annual report is pretty much the same as before.

The report is undertaken parliamentary discussions and this year two parties have sent motions to the parliament. The conservatives is not really commenting the annual report but are demanding common and binding EU rules regarding arms exports and the establishment of an EU institution to control and supervise the arms exports from the EU. The left party added to their motion almost all the conclusions and demands that had been put forward by SPAS.

Some statistics

The arms trade for the year 2000 were higher than it ever had been during the whole of the 90's and increased by some 19% since 1999. The export increased from 3,6 billions of Swedish crowns to 4,3 2000.

With the exception of 1996-1997 the Swedish arms trade has increased every year since 1993 (when a new categorisation was introduced). The arms export year 2000 was more than 50% bigger than 1993.

Sweden has never-ever exported to as many countries during one single year as now. 1999 the number was 49 countries and was in 2000 as many as 52 countries, which can be compared with 33 countries 1990.

Regarding certain countries it seems now that both Turkey and Vietnam are open for export. Last year Sweden exported for 1,4 million crowns to Turkey and has given licence for export to Vietnam.

During 2000 there was a dramatic increase of the export to countries like Tunisia, Venezuela, Mexico, Malaysia and India. Venezuela was the forth biggest recipient country during 2000.

Some of the recipients were:

Country	1999	2000	Main Category 2000
Brasilia	362,4	248,4	(mainly "other")
India	5,0	120,9	(almost only "other")
Indonesia	0,3	< 1 million	(only "other")
Malaysia	34,6	80,8	(almost only for combat)
Mexico	64,1	231,8	(mainly for combat)
Oman	3,6	0,4	(only "other")
Pakistan	5,1	0,3	(only "other")
Saudi Arabia	0,8	0,2	(only "other")
Singapore	46,4	454,7	(mainly for combat)
Thailand	51,3	22,6	(almost only for combat)
Tunisia	1,6	20,2	(mainly for combat)
Turkey	-	1,4	(only "other")
UAE	8,3	0,3	(only "other")
Venezuela	226,0	329,2	(both)

It is worth noting that there has been a huge increase to Latin America the last years. During the first half of the 90's the export was around 1% of the total export. Since 1996 it has increased and was 1999 18%. And increased again in 2000 to 19%.

Mines

Just for your information, although it's not really an ENAAT-matter: SPAS in the main actor in Sweden when it comes to issues concerning mines. We are the only Swedish group with regular connections to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, ICBL.

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