

## ENAAT Country report: "Norway"

*Written by Alexander Harang,*

*Leader of the Norwegian Peace Associations Arms Trade Group*

### 1. Norwegian arms exports in 2007

According to the governments last white paper on arms exports<sup>1</sup>, Norway exported strategic goods and services worth 3,6 billion Norwegian kroner (ca 454 million euro) in 2007. The growth in the exports of war materials was 9,59 % from 2006 to 2007. However, when breaking down the numbers we find that the increase in arms and ammunition exports in 2007 amounts to 45 %, while exports of other war materials declined by 22 %. The Norwegian arms export was worth 2,053 billion NOK (256 million Euro) in 2007.

The exports of complete weapons from Norway are limited. 58 % of the strategic exports consist of parts and components, 20 % is electronics and 13 % is ammunition and explosives. The main weapon system being exported is the Kongsberg produced PROTECTOR arms mounting system. Kongsberg has signed contracts worth more than 8 billion NOK over the last years, primarily with the US Army. Within missiles, large caliber ammunition and military software we are also experiencing substantial growth in the Norwegian military industry at the moment.

US is still the biggest buyer of Norwegian arms by far. The Americans are buying more than half of the Norwegian arms being exported, and this proportion is growing. Since 2000 the American share of the market has been rising steadily, seemingly independent of the overall volume of the Norwegian arms export. The US imported war materials from Norway worth 1,5 billion NOK in 2007, and 2/3 of this export consisted of arms and ammunition. Except for the growth in the US exports, the Norwegian producers of war material are experiencing growth in the Middle Eastern countries. Particularly Saudi Arabia and UAE have been importing more Norwegian war materials in 2007. The exports to Saudi Arabia increased by 96 million NOK from 2006 to 2007. No new countries were receiving Norwegian strategic goods and services in 2007, but many new Norwegian exporters came about. 80 companies are now exporting war materials from Norway.

### 2. Norwegian official export control policies since April 2007

In terms of transparency we have seen some minor improvements in governmental reporting over this period of time. The government has also strengthened the democracy and human rights clauses in the export regulation. In addition they have also introduced a

---

<sup>1</sup> Stortingsmelding 29 (2006-2007)

more active ownership in one of the country's biggest arms producers – Nammo - as a direct consequence of popular pressure. On the other hand, the same government has strengthened its corporation with the industry, and increased their pressure for buy back schemes and other measures to strengthen the defense industry.

After strong pressure from the Norwegian Peace Association over several years, the government is now in working on how to establish a parliamentary export control council, (after the Swedish model), and the introduction of end user certificates with re-export clauses for “close allies” are. However, we have not seen any evidence of institution building or real policy change on these two issues so far.

### **3. Norwegian peace work against the arms trade since April 2007**

The Norwegian Peace Association Arms Trade Group has been an important part of this picture - also in 2007/ 2008. We have been visible in the media and public debate on arms trade throughout the year, even though our media-work has not been as extensive as the year before. We managed to get funding for arms trade activities from the ministry of foreign affairs for the first time in 2007. This support has been used to raise awareness by giving talks on the Norwegian arms trade issues all over the country, as well as increase our own knowledge in the field by subscribing to an e-journal and participating in seminars on the topic. In 2008 we even managed to get funding for organizing the ENAAT conference in Oslo (the support amounted to 50 000 NOK).

Politically speaking there has been two major issues forming the arms trade debate in 2007. Both came about and were driven from the civil society, and both issues started up through writing reports on the issues. The first one regards Norwegian arms exports to undemocratic destinations. A report by Norwatch on such exports from the Norwegian arms manufacturer Kongsberg Group to Arabic dictatorships since 1991 was published in late April 2007. A public debate spun out from this, and it was all very effective in shaping the parliamentary debate on export controls in November and December of 2007. It all ended up with a new regulation being introduced by the government, strengthening the regulations of arms exports to undemocratic states and human rights abusers. The Norwatch report is available here: [http://www.norwatch.no/filer/Krigsmateriell\\_eksport.pdf](http://www.norwatch.no/filer/Krigsmateriell_eksport.pdf).

A second report – on the Norwegian export of small arms ammunition, and the Norwegian states responsibility in this, was published by the Norwegian Church Aid in early 2008. This report gives an extensive analysis of Nammos exports, and the Norwegian government's ownership in this company. From the basis of this report the Norwegian Church aid ran a large campaign on responsible ownership in the arms industry, as well as marking and tracing of military small arms ammunition. As a direct effect of the campaign the government has revised its ownership in Nammo, and come up with ethical guidelines for the company that is med public. The report is available here <http://www.nca.no/article/view/7516/1/538>

For more detailed information on arms trade activities in Norway, see: [www.fredslaget.no](http://www.fredslaget.no)