

**Working Group on Transparency and Reporting  
Netherlands' questionnaire on gathering information to compile annual reports**

1. During its meeting on 8 March 2018, the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR) welcomed the Netherlands' proposal to have a brief and concrete questionnaire on how States Parties collect the necessary data to compile their annual reports on exports and imports, as required in article 13 (3) of the Arms Trade Treaty.
2. In that regard, States Parties are requested to answer the following questions on a voluntary basis. Annex A contains the Netherlands' response.
  - a. Which department(s) within your State is or are responsible for collecting the data on arms transfers and submitting the Annual Report to the ATT secretariat?
  - b. Which national databases do you consult and which stakeholders are involved?
  - c. Do you report *authorized* exports and imports or *actual* exports and imports?<sup>1</sup>
  - d. Did you encounter difficulties or challenges during this process? If so, please describe them.
  - e. Were you able to overcome these difficulties or challenges? If so, please explain how.  
*Note: this question is designed to share experiences and best practices.*
  - f. Whom could other States Parties contact in case of further questions about this topic?
3. States Parties who wish to contribute to this exchange of information can opt to do so in writing or orally during the meeting of the WGTR on 31 May 2018, or both. States Parties wishing to contribute in writing are kindly invited to submit their contributions directly to ATT Secretariat before 25 May 2018. The ATT Secretariat will publish these contributions on the public ATT website. If States Parties wish their contribution only to be published on the restricted ATT website (accessible only for States Parties), they should inform the ATT Secretariat about this request.
4. The agenda for the meeting of the WGTR on 31 May 2018 will include a specific item on this questionnaire in order to allow the WGTR co-chairs to present the written feedback that was received in summary form and to allow States Parties to contribute orally to this exchange of information.

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<sup>1</sup> *Authorized* exports and imports imply that the State Party in question in some way permitted the export or import to take place – generally in the form of an export or import licence; *actual* exports and imports are those that have effectively taken place. For more information, see questions 9 and 10 of the document "[Reporting Authorized or Actual Exports and Imports of Conventional Arms under the ATT: Questions and Answers](#)".

**Annex A, Netherlands' response**

- A) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- B) In the Netherlands, three governmental organisations provide all the information needed to fill in the Annual Report. All have their own databases.
- a. Ministry of Defense (MoD) reports based upon changes in their inventory database. This still requires manual checking and adjusting by MoD employees. This is a permanent and ongoing process.
  - b. National Police reports upon their database of (by Customs) granted import and export certificates.
  - c. Customs reports based upon the Customs database on actual exports/imports, which is verified against the database with licensed exports.
- C) The Netherlands reports actual imports and exports. Though reporting on authorized imports and exports would probably be easier, the Netherlands would lose synergy benefits, as the Netherlands also reports to the UN Registry of Conventional Arms, which requires actual imports and exports.
- D) Yes.
- 1) The databases have partially overlapping data. The benefit of overlapping data is that other stakeholders can improve their administration and data collection process. A disadvantage is that this requires manual review by all stakeholders.
  - 2) Not all stakeholders were aware of the difference between licensed imports and exports and actual import and exports.
  - 3) Within the governmental organisations, responsible officers also rely on colleagues to deliver/verify the data. This makes the overall process time consuming.
  - 4) Customs data on actuals is not always accurate.
- E) The way the Netherlands has solved most of the issues is by:
- Clearly stating what is expected in terms of data (e.g. actuals) and when (the ATT reporting process follows the same schedule every year).
  - Organising joint meetings in person.
  - Creating a national document that contains all reporting obligations, including time schedule and contact persons.
  - The accurateness of Customs' data on actual imports and exports is improved by using data from the Ministry of Defense and the National police (and vice versa).
- F) Martijn Reubzaet, [dvb-wapenexport@minbuza.nl](mailto:dvb-wapenexport@minbuza.nl) or +31 70 348 6271.

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