

Romania's Arms Exports to Israel

The military bilateral cooperation between Romania and Israel started in 2000 and it is regulated by the Romanian and Israeli Ministries of National Defense. The agreement has entered into force on 10th October 2000. Regarding the bilateral agreement from 2006, it was approved by the Romanian Government but it still awaits ratification.¹ In addition to this, on 17th June 2001, a bilateral agreement with the purpose of developing and strengthening the cooperation against organized crime has been concluded between the two states.²

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Department for Export Controls (ANCEX), the value of armament exports from Romania to Israel almost doubled between 2003 and 2010 from a roughly sum of 6 millions to a roughly sum of 11 billion.

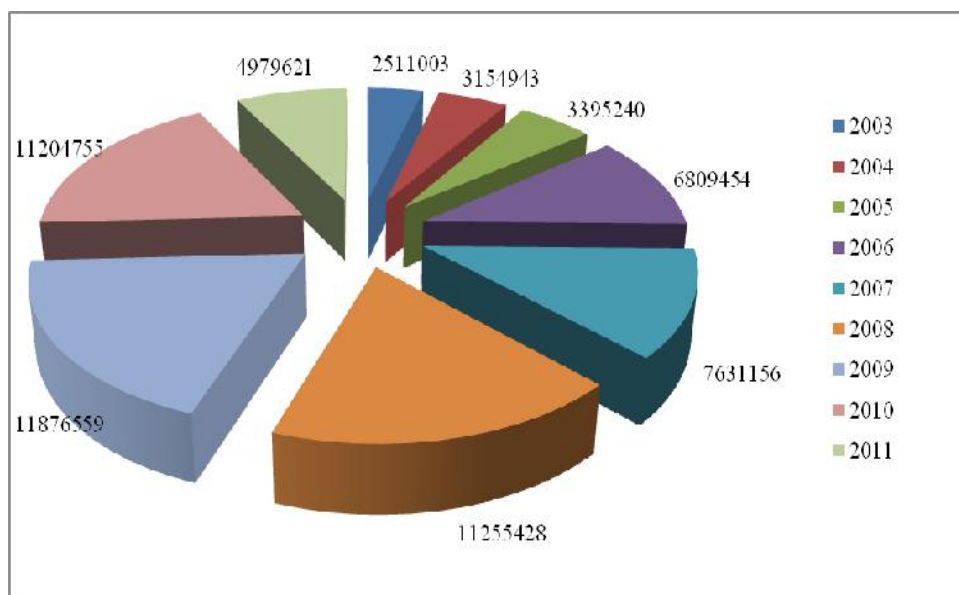


Fig.1- Values, in Euros, of arms exports to Israel between 2003 and 2011.³

¹Press release, no.144, 10.06.2010, http://www.mapn.ro/cpresa/13437_Ca-urmare-a-solicitarilor-de-informatii-ale-unor-jurnalisti-privind-cooperarea-militara-bilaterală-dintre-ministerele-apărării-din-România-și-Statul-Israel,-facem-următoarele-precizări.

²South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, "South Eastern Europe Small Arms and Light Weapons Monitor," 2004
http://www.seesac.org/uploads/salw_monitor_2004/Romania.pdf.

³Based on ANCEX 2003-2011 reports.

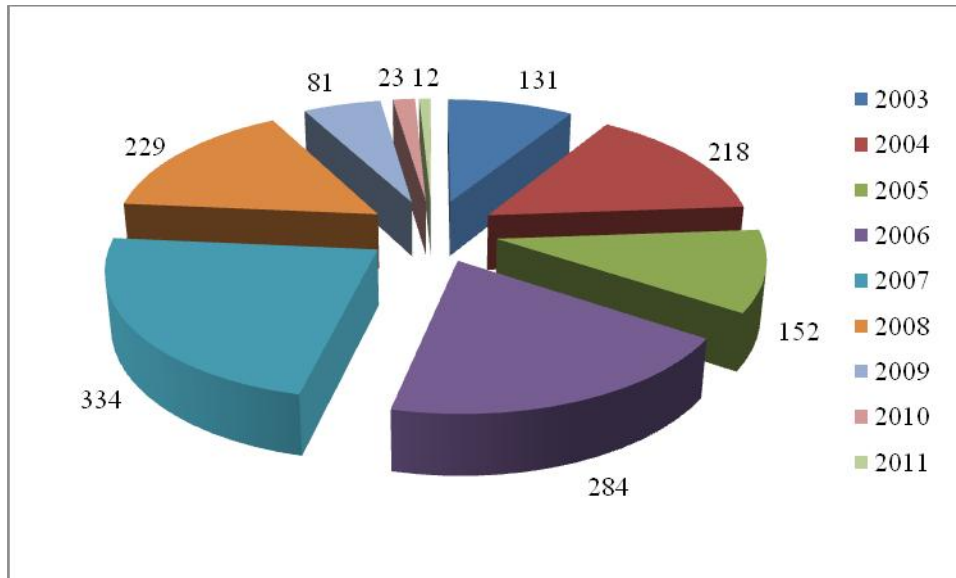


Fig.2 Number of issued licences, according to ANCEX reports data.⁴

Regarding the issue of approved licences, in the case of Israel, Romania did not decline any.⁵ According to a point of view expressed by Amnesty International in reference to the EU Member States' exports to Israel: "Export authorisations from states do not necessarily correspond to actual arms export data in any one year for a variety of reasons, but licence authorisations do show the willingness of governments of exporting States to equip Israel's armed forces."⁶

Although Romania published its first report on arms exports in 2002, more detailed information is visible only from 2003 onwards. However, the amount of arms delivered to Israel in 2002 represents 3 % out of the total deliveries and in financial language it means more than 1 million USD.⁷

⁴Idem.

⁵As emphasized in a document published by Amnesty International, the action of the EU states to sell arms to Israel stands against the arms regulation norms. Under Criterion 2 of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, Member States are supposed to "deny an export licence if there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression" or "be used in the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law". The term "internal repression" "includes, inter alia, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary or arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions and other major violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in relevant international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," in Amnesty international, "Israel/OPT Fuelling Conflict: Foreign Arms Suppliers to Israel/Gaza," <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE15/012/2009/en/5be86fc2-994e-4eeb-a6e8-3ddf68c28b31/mde150122009en.html>.

⁶Idem.

⁷ANCEX report, 2002. The report uses categories from 1 to 6 as a means to present the financial aspect of arms trade, the 6th being the largest, with sales over 1 million USD.

According to the EU COARM Reports as of 2007, 2008 and 2009, Romania is one of Israel's major exporters of armament, in 2009 being ranked on the 3rd place, after France and Germany.⁸ However, ANCEX states that Romania does not export arms systems to Israel. What Romania provides to Israel are components and subsets. Apart from that, the exports during 2007 were conducted by 6 companies with a private capital and only two companies with state capital.⁹

Elbit Systems in Romania

Elbit operations in Romania have a 15 years history and has 4 wholly-owned subsidiaries: Elbit Systeme S.A., A-E Electronics S.A, Elmet International SRL and Simultec SRL.¹⁰ The cooperation between the above mentioned entities strikes again, after Elbit Systems (Israel's largest private arm company) gained a contract valuing 18.6 million \$ in May, this year. The object of this contract is to upgrade Romanian Air Forces C-130 Transport Aircraft. Local partners include Aerostar, Avioane Craiova, IAR Brasov.¹¹ Since it began to operate in Romania, Elbit had supplied eight IAR-99 lead- in trainer aircraft on the basis of a 43 million \$ contract (3 years and half the contract), in 2007 Elbit received a contract to supply unmanned turrets and electro-optic systems valued at approximately 15 million \$. Israel sold Romania an OWS-25 weapon system for anti-personnel carriers in 1997; a ground radar in 2000, and upgraded the Romanian army's tanks. Elbit Systems, in partnership with Romanian company Aerostar, has just completed the modernisation of 102 upgraded MiG-21:ancers for the Romanian air force.

⁸For more detailed information, see: Tenth Annual Report According to Operative Provision 8 of the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, 2008/C300/01 in the official Journal of the European Union, 22.11.2008; Eleventh Annual Report according to Article 8(2) of Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment , (2009/C 265/01) in the Official Journal of the European Union, 06.11.2009; Twelfth Annual Report according to Article 8(2) of Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP Defining Common Rules Governing Control of Exports of Military Technology and Equipment, (2011/C 9/01) in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, 13.01.2011.

⁹<http://www.mediafax.ro/politic/ancex-romania-nu-a-exportat-sisteme-de-arme-in-israel-ci-componente-si-subansamble-7760383/>.

¹⁰Press release, Haifa, Israel, May 24, 2011,

http://ir.elbitsystems.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=61849&p=irol-newsArticle_pf&ID=1567001&highlight=.

¹¹Idem.