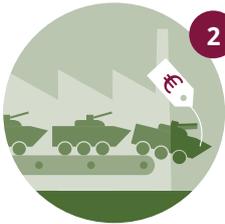


# Why European arms keep fuelling war and repression around the world



## 1 Foreign and military policy

Arms are exported to support regimes in countries where Europe has economic and military interests. For example countries with raw material supplies such as oil. Even if those regimes do not take human rights very seriously or are involved in wars.



## 2 Economic interests

Profit and employment in the military industry is often considered more important than peace and human rights elsewhere in the world. Exports will increase production volumes which makes the arms industry more competitive.



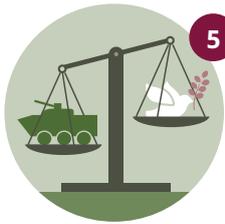
## 3 Strategic autonomy

European countries want their own independent arms industry. To this aim military research and arms production is subsidized. Arms exports are supported for example by providing export credit, by supporting arms fairs or by taking arms companies on trade missions.



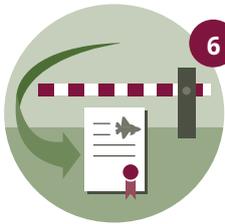
## 4 Lobby of the arms industry

Major arms companies are lobbying their government and the European Union against strict application of arms export treaties and for trade and industry support. The influence of arms companies is huge and difficult to control.



## 5 Peace and human rights are undervalued

It is wrongly assumed that countries become more stable and safe if they have more arms. Rather the opposite: more weapons means more conflicts are likely to be settled by force. Money could better be spend on investments helping to build stable countries, such as for education.



## 6 Rules can be circumvented

Rules are seldom watertight, and this certainly applies to arms export rules. Arms companies use loopholes of all kinds. For example, by exporting via a branch abroad, or by exporting arms components instead of an entire military system.



## 7 Corruption

Arms trade is extremely sensitive to corruption. Deals often involves huge amounts of money and only a small group of people are involved in decision-making.