

Militarisation of Europe: in short

Economic project is the core of the EU → overshadows all other considerations

EU-Mantra: “We need strong arms industry!”

Brussels Bubble: Arms company representatives are close friends with policy makers, and consider themselves *experts* who know what is best for us all (*Democracy? Never heard of!*)

This leads to:

- * Company interests influence decisions on **arms trade**
- * Defence&security companies introduce their **military logic in all policy domains**
- * Company interests determine **military expenditures**
- * **EU subsidies** for development of weapons technology



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EU = Economic project

The origins:

- European Community of Steel and Coal (1951)
(en: ECSC fr: CECA nl: EGKS)
- European Economic Community (1957)
(en: EEC fr: CEE nl: EEG)

The core:

- Strongest administrations and most power: Trade, Enterprise and Industry, Internal Market
- “Create the most competitive knowledge economy in the world” → overshadows all other considerations

Essential elements:

- Create a single “free” market in the EU
- Create mega-corporations that can compete with US, Japan, China, ...
- Promote company interest with international trade policy

Mantra: “We need a strong arms industry”

EDA – European defence agency:

- Official EU-institution (2004) – child of the defence industry
- Official Function: create “*a competitive European Defence and security industry*”

European Commission

- “Task force defence industries”: *How to support the arms industry to become globally more competitive?*
- Drones working group: Eurocrats invent civil applications of military technology *in order to* increase profitability of arms industry.
- FP7-security. 'research' program, intended to stimulate defence industry

SDA - Security and defence agenda

- Think Tank of the arms industry, with top politicians in advisory board
- Promotes itself as 'neutral', but promotes interests of the arms industry on the highest political level.



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8+1 Criteria for arms export

According to the EU Common Position on arms export, the following criteria need to be “taken into consideration” when granting export licences

1. Respect for international treaties and obligations
2. Respect for human rights
3. Tensions or armed conflicts in receiving country
4. The degree to which new arms influence peace and security in the region
5. The National security of member states and allies
6. Attitude of the receiving country toward the international community and international law
7. The risk for re-exporting in unwanted circumstances
8. Sustainable development

Elsewhere we read: “the member states wish to maintain a defence industry as part of their industrial base” and “The strengthening of a European defence [industry] contributes to the Common Foreign and Security Policy”.

9. So, the important, implicit criteria number 9 is: we need a strong EU arms industry



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Military logic in all policy domains

Arms industry is a sector as any other (or so it believes):

- Objectives: growing, making more profit, becoming active in ever more market sectors.
- Core business? Selling weapon and security technology
- Threats? Declining military spending, competition from US, China, ...
- How to grow? Frame as many social phenomena as security problems that have a technological solution = promote military logic

The military logic

- Intruders, enemies, dangerous threats everywhere!
- These have to be identified, controlled, monitored, neutralised, eliminated
- Therefore we need 'situational awareness', 'intervention capabilities', ...

Examples of militarized policy domains

- Immigration policy is narrowly defined as border militarization
- On-line privacy is framed as cyber security



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EU Military-Industrial Complex

Military-Industrial Complex

- Emerging
- Seemingly military decisions are motivated by economic interests
- Political decision making and industrial policy become intertwined

Example: nEUROn

- Combat drone development, headed by Dassault
- **“Everybody knows that the answer is the [fighter drone], but nobody knows what the question is”** Yves Robin, top manager at Dassault
- No military and security analysis for the need for a combat drone
- Objective: *“to provide workload”* to the companies that contribute to the project [taken from project website]

Example: defence spending

- Personnel cost in EU armies declining, but weapon spending increases



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EU subsidizes new weapon technology

FP7 security 'research program'

- Officially only civil applications
- Many dubious projects exclusively carried out by arms manufacturers
- No guarantees that results will not end-up in military applications.
- Coordinated by DG Enterprise (not DG Research) → **objective is clear: subsidize technology development to stimulate defence industry**

Example project OPARUS (1 mio euro)

- Development of part of drone technology, officially “surveillance drone”
- Partners: all big EU arms manufacturers, not any research institution.

Next research program: Horizon 2020

- Europarlementarians succesfully lobbied to allow military projects, so now also explicit military technology will get EU funding