

flemish
peaceInstitute



2007

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

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The Flemish Peace Institute has reached cruising speed

In 2007, the Flemish Peace Institute concluded its first full operating year. While the year 2006 was still dominated by the demands of an operational start-up and a search for a proper orientation for the Institute, the year 2007 witnessed an optimisation of operations during which the substantive working parameters were established and streamlined. Even though the Peace Institute is still a young institution, we are in a position to present an overview of substantial research projects, advisories, reports and various public activities.

Its founding decree entrusts the Flemish Peace Institute with a fourfold mission: the Institute engages in scientific research, documents relevant information sources, and informs and advises the Flemish Parliament and the public at large on questions of peace. The Peace Institute's objectives thus encompass scientific as well as socio-political endeavours. In order to realize these objectives, the Institute aims to achieve and combine a scientific specialisation level according to international standards with a social relevance within the Flemish community. The Institute analyses and advises on policy and establishes a link between scientific research, the world of politics, civil society, and the general public at large.

With a view to a clear profiling and a practical management, the Peace Institute has opted for a programmed approach to its research mission. Within the parameters of its study assignments, the Institute develops the various projects with all due flexibility, keeping its finger on the pulse of academic peace research and current trends and developments; new trends may be found to be emerging, overlapping with existing research endeavours, or research results may generate entirely new questions.

Based on its research, the Institute initiated and published several advisories, among others, advices concerning arms export control and government support for military projects. Other advisories followed the requests from Parliament and government agencies. A summary overview of the current state of affairs related to the issued advice indicates a real impact on various policy domains.

That the Peace Institute reached cruising speed in 2007 was not lost on various stakeholders. Flemish parliamentarians, administrations, social organisations, the press and media, academic circles and the business world became in 2007 aware of the existence of the Institute and its achievements through its presentations and its research work. Via the Institute's website and its electronic newsletter, all of its study results are unrestrictedly accessible. Also, the publication of a readily accessible brochure about the survey study 'Peace in Flanders' signified the Institute's first attempt to make its findings accessible to the public at large.

The present annual report summarizes the most important developments thus far in the evolution of the Peace Institute. A first section outlines the tasks entrusted to the Peace Institute: research programmes, support services provided to Parliament, and an evaluation report. The second part of this report presents an overview of the Institute's most significant organisational developments.

A para-parliamentary Peace Institute that engages in well-founded scientific activities that fit in with a long-term vision can formulate reasoned advisories, appropriately inform the citizenry, and enhance the workings of the Flemish institutions. The Institute's basic philosophy is to contribute to a more peaceful global society, on the basis of its research with concern for maintaining a high quality of research and in dialogue with stakeholders in Flanders and in the rest of the world.

Tomas Baum
Director



#1

Arms Trade and Arms Production

Within the 'Arms Trade and Arms Production' programme, the Peace Institute examines the national and international legal framework for foreign arms trade and follows up on the evolutions in the arms production and arms trade in Flanders.

In August 2003, Flanders was given the competence to issue licences for the import, export, and transit of arms. The research undertaken by the Peace Institute focuses, among other aspects, on the international legal framework within which the control on foreign arms trade is carried out. As a member of international organisations and control regimes, the Belgian federal government assumes a large array of obligations and commitments concerning control practices and reporting. An inventory of such obligations and commitments is drawn up and their importance for Flemish policy is denoted. In addition, a state of affairs is made up about existing legislation, the processing of licences, and quality of reporting in Flanders. The current control policy is held up and compared to the policies in effect in our neighbouring countries. Moreover, the Peace Institute outlines the profile of foreign trade in military goods and of the defence-related industry in Flanders. The Institute publishes its research results via reports or background notes. The viewpoints embraced by the Peace Institute on the subject of arms trade are published in advices.

In 2007, the Peace Institute further expanded its research programme. A comparative study concerning the arms export policy of Flanders and of its neighbours was completed and complements the analysis of the legal context and the profile sketch published previously in 2006. Also, the English translation of this triptych was released and formed the subject of an international seminar about the Flemish arms trade within a European context. At the same time, the databanks wherein the Institute enters data concerning approved and denied arms trade licences were expanded further. On the basis of information contained therein, an annual report about the Flemish foreign arms trade in 2006 was published, amongst various other kinds of information.

In the aftermath of an advisory released by the Institute on government support for military projects, a research study was initiated at the request of the Sub-commission on Arms Trade of the Flemish Parliament to determine the economic impact of research and development (R&D) on behalf of the military market.

Further research looked into the drop in arms export trade during 2005, and a summary of the findings of the SIPRI Yearbook 2007 was published.

Details about publications, networking, and activities within this research programme can be consulted in the second part of this annual report. This chapter deals with the set-up and actual implementation of the Institute's research activities.

1.1

The arms export policy of Flanders and of its neighbours

In 2006, the Peace Institute embarked upon a comparison of the current legislation on arms export controls in Flanders (Belgium), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. In 2007, it published the results of this comparative research. A study of the export control regimes in the partner countries provides insight into 'best practices' and in this way is able to contribute to an improvement in the organisation of the arms trade control in Flanders and to the development of a coherent European control policy. The basis of the study consists of a comparison of the following 10 topics: legislation, lists of military goods, the export of military goods and dual-use products, trans-shipment control, control on brokering, catch-all clauses, types of licences, time limits, transparency, and penalties. An overview is provided for each one of these topics as it relates to the situation in Flanders and the surrounding countries. The research results were referred to in the report 'Benchmarking Arms Export Controls: a region and its neighbours'.

As all of the countries involved are members of the international regimes and the European Union, both of which are attempting to streamline the control on arms trade, it is natural to find a number of similarities in the relevant legislations of those countries. For instance, the control on the **trade in dual-use goods** falls under the first pillar of the European Union and is regulated by the European Community legislation. The member states assume responsibility for the implementation of the European policy. The basis of the legislation concerning the trade in dual-use products is therefore identical in all of the member states of the European Union. Nonetheless, there does exist the possibility to complement this legislation with national provisions. France, Germany, and the UK have already done so, amongst other measures, by adding extra products to the list of goods subject to control. The differences in the systems used by European member states to exercise control on the trade in dual-use products are, however, minor only.

The **trade in military material** is not a part of the first pillar of the European Union and falls under the national competence of the member states. The European Union and the international regimes are trying to streamline the national control by listing the goods subject to inspection and criteria against which the applications for licences need to be checked. The European Code of Conduct has established a jointly accepted list of goods and assessment criteria that has to serve as a guide in the processing of licence applications for the export of military goods.

In Belgium, the European Code of Conduct has been converted into legislation. In the other countries discussed, this has not been the case and, as such, the code there is

not enforceable by law. In these member states, reference is nevertheless made to the criteria adopted by the **EU Code of Conduct** in political documents wherein the national assessment criteria are described. By entering political criteria in its legislation, Belgium leaves less room for the executory powers than is the case in other countries. This does not, however, imply that the assessment criteria used in Flanders are any more stringent than elsewhere. All countries discussed in the report admit to their practical implementation of the European criteria. In a number of instances, the European Code of Conduct criteria are being complemented by national criteria.

Each individual country follows its own particular **procedure**. Two countries are conspicuous in a comparison between procedures for the assessment of licence applications. In France, the export licence is the final step in a licensing procedure that encompasses four different phases. First, the reliability of the dealer is checked, then a licence is required for the negotiation of a contract, subsequently a licence is necessary for concluding the contract, and only in the final phase can an actual export licence be applied for. Germany deviates from the norm because of its more stringent control on weapons of war. These, in addition to the control on the trade in military materials, are subject to a stricter regime under the Weapons Act. Included in the weapons classification are nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, which likewise in all other countries fall under a stricter control regime, but also included are other military materials such as hand grenades, machineguns, tanks, or fighter planes.

Fixed time limits for the processing of export licences are rather exceptional. Within the scope of the study, the United Kingdom is found to be the sole country that sets specific administrative deadlines for the processing of licence applications. In the Netherlands, General Administrative Law places limits on what might be considered a reasonable term required for the administrative processing of dossiers. Although it is difficult to establish legal or statutory time-fixed deadlines for the completion of these procedures, the advance determination of a limiting term for the processing of an application offers some measure of assurance for businesses, which are thus able to estimate how long it will take the administration to finalize their applications.

Flanders is not fundamentally different from other countries for what concerns the processing of applications. What is, nonetheless, notable is the fact that in Flanders no multiple ministries are involved in their assessment. In such a procedure, aspects and elements from various policy domains need to be taken into consideration. Likewise, as it is the case in other countries, the control on arms trade in Flanders is a politically sensitive issue. In the case of the so-called sensitive dossiers, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands ask different ministries for their opinion and advice, so that optimum use is made of available expertise and there is some sharing of the political accountability. Mostly, it concerns exchanges amongst the ministry of External Affairs, the ministry for the Economy, and the ministry of Defence. In the Netherlands, Germany, and the United Kingdom, likewise the ministry for Cooperative Development may sometimes be involved. Germany has formed a control agency for the assessment of licence

applications. This agency is subordinate to the ministry of Economy and Technology and may ask advice from the ministry of Defence and External Affairs. In France and Germany, additional special committees have been formed to occupy themselves with sensitive dossiers and wherein all relevant ministries are participating. Since recently, also the Flemish minister for the Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade, who assumes the political responsibility, is being assisted by an advisory committee for such sensitive dossiers. This committee is composed of senior officials of the department 'Internationaal Vlaanderen', the department of the Economy, Science and Innovation, and the Institute for the promotion of Innovation through Science and Technology in Flanders. These departments are in part operated under the aegis of the same minister. Although the formation of such an advisory committee makes good sense, its composition deviates from what is customary practice in other countries.

The list of controlled military goods that is used in Flanders does not greatly deviate from the European list. Flanders does, however, employ a broadly interpreted **catch-all clause**, whereby goods that are not included on the list of military goods or on the European list of dual-use products can still be made subject to control for reason of their intended military end-use. Only Germany has a similar catch-all clause that applies to military material. Germany has much more strictly defined this clause in its legislation, which makes it applicable to fewer goods. Firstly, Germany uses a clear definition of what constitutes military use. Secondly, the German catch-all clause is only applicable to goods that are to be included on the German list of the most sensitive recipient countries, which complements the list of countries under an arms embargo. The catch-all clause for dual-use products has been established in the European Regulation 1334/2000 and is therefore identical for all member states.

The control on the **transit** of military goods is in Flanders only subject to a licence if the country of origin and/or the recipient country is a non-EU member state, and, when in addition there is question of a defined activity, or a change in the transport mode takes place. The comparison with the transit policy in the partner countries reveals an interesting complementary feature in the Dutch policy. In the Netherlands, transit is subject to a licence when the country of origin and the recipient country are non-EU or NATO member states (and likewise not a friendly member state), and when the goods are undergoing extra processing or remain within the Dutch territory for a protracted period of time. The Netherlands does, however, have a reporting requirement for the transit of goods that are not subject to a licence. This pertains to transit where the goods are transferred and remain in the country for only a short time, and this regardless of their origin or their destination. This way, the Dutch authorities maintain an appropriate control on the military goods that are being transported via their country. In addition, it enables them to impose, if needed, an ad-hoc licence requirement for transit that is normally not subject to such a licence.

The BLEU and the Benelux are economic unions within the European Union that operate on a set of different rules for the export and transit of goods with a military application.

The Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) and the Economic Union between Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg (Benelux) have been called into existence in order to eliminate the internal frontier impediments to foreign trade. Trade amongst these Benelux countries is free, including therein also the trade in military goods. In contrast to the regulations within the European Union, there thus are no exceptions in the Benelux for trade in military materials.

On the European level, in June 2003, a Community Standpoint was adopted to reinforce the **control on brokering**. All member states committed themselves politically to undertake national steps to maintain control on brokering. Like Luxembourg, Belgium has not yet implemented this Community Standpoint. In contrast, legislation in the Netherlands, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom is in harmony with the European agreements. In Belgium, the control on brokering was not part of the competence transfer to the regions and thus remains under federal jurisdiction. The only way in which brokering in Belgium is currently controlled is through the issuance of a prior licence by the federal Minister of Justice. A Belgian national, a resident of Belgium, or someone conducting business in Belgium, is prohibited from dealing in, exporting, providing, or acting as a broker in, military materials without this licence. In the process, while the brokers-dealers are being placed under control in Belgium, the brokering business itself is not. For that reason, Belgian legislation is contrary to the Community Standpoint of the European Union, which provides that licences are required for specific brokering transactions. In the development of legislation to combat illicit brokering, it is pertinent to ask the following questions: does the brokering control relate only to transactions between two non-EU member states such as is the case in Germany, or does it pertain to transactions between two third countries (outside of the own state) as in the United Kingdom, or do the goods have to be found within the country's own territory, as is the case in France? In addition, the extra-territorial application of the control on brokering needs to be clearly defined, and it is also important to determine whether also the brokering in dual-use products is made subject to control.

An important element in the control regime in Flanders and in Belgium's partner countries is the aspect of **transparency**. Since the regionalisation of the control on the import, export, and transit of goods for military use, Flanders has devoted much attention to transparency by supplying detailed information about applications for licensed and denied import, export, and transit. Whilst the legal provisions are currently identical for the three regions in Belgium, the actual reporting practices are strongly divergent. The reports by the Walloon and the Brussels Capital Regions are less detailed than those presented by Flanders. Like the Netherlands, Flanders reports on individual licences, whereas, in the other regions, and likewise in the other countries under discussion, licences are being grouped by recipient country. Through this practice, detailed information is available for the Flemish trade in military goods. Since March 2007, the Flemish government has also been reporting on licences for dual-use products. Nevertheless, there remains room for further improvement. Firstly, the other countries under discussion include temporary licences in their reporting, which is not the case in Flanders and in the other Belgian

regions. Secondly, denied licences, while entered in the Flemish reporting, are not accompanied by an explanation for their denials, this in contrast to Belgium's partner countries.

Finally, all countries maintain a ***set of penalties*** that are implemented in cases of violations of the arms trade legislation. The maximum penalties in force in Flanders are comparable to those in Belgium's partner countries. The Belgian legislation has established the maximum fine at a relatively high level (5.500.000 euro), although there are maximum fines in the United Kingdom and Germany without a defined limit. Flanders, like most of the countries under discussion, also imposes administrative penalties. The maximum prison term for violations of the import, export, and transit law for military materials is fixed at 5 years, while in Belgium's partner countries this varies from 5 to 10 years.

The influence of the international context on the legislation in the countries under discussion with respect to control on arms export is clear. In a number of areas, such as the definition of the notions 'import' and 'export', the lists of controlled goods, the control on the trade in dual-use products, or the criteria for the assessment of licence applications, the EU member states under discussion have more or less attuned their policies to the international agreements that were concluded within the European Union, or to international regimes. It is important to interpret the international proposed regulation as a minimum delineation, as a framework of only minimal conditions and requirements. Export control regimes within the member states must at least meet the proposed European or other international requirements. With regard to themes for which no international legislation exists as yet, such as the transit of military goods, the implementation of deadlines for the processing of licence applications, or for penal provisions, the policies in the countries under discussion in this study are very divergent.

From the results of the research, it further appears that also in the drafting of a Flemish decree on arms trade, the international reference framework is of prime importance. The drafting of an own decree further offers the possibility to extend the European and international logic and to adopt the best practices of other EU member states. The evaluation arrived at by the research of the Peace Institute reveals clearly that the current Flemish export control policy, based on the Belgian legislation, is comparable to that of the partner countries and is not the most stringent within the European Union. With respect to inter-ministerial cooperation, transit control, control on brokering and reporting, new legislation would offer the opportunity to adopt best-practices from other countries and improve the framework structure for export control.

Further information

Benchmarking Arms Export Controls: a region and its neighbours

(Research Report)

Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 26 March 2007

ISBN 9789078864028 – 160 p.

1.2

Flemish foreign arms trade 2006

In 2007, the Peace Institute published its first annual report 'Flemish foreign arms trade'. The annual report contains figures relating to the import, export, and transit of military materials in 2006, and a thorough analysis of those figures.

In 2006, licences for foreign arms trade worth some 370 million EUR were issued in Flanders. It pertains to 256 import licences (28.5 million EUR), 181 export licences (199.6 million EUR), and 34 transit licences (142.3 million EUR). In 2006, 9 applications were refused (1.9% of the total number of applications) for a combined value of 18.7 million EUR (4.8% of the total value).

The value of Flemish **import licences** in 2006 has risen compared to 2005 (+17%). It particularly concerned import licences for small arms, ammunition and accessories for these weapons, with Flemish dealers and private parties as end users, and to a number of high-value import licences for (parts of) military vehicles, with the Flemish defence-related industry as end user. These imports of military goods primarily originate from the United States and European nations (especially Germany and Switzerland). Notable also is the import of military material from Israel (imaging equipment and *target acquisition material*) and China (small arms, ammunition and accessories for these weapons).

The year 2006 witnessed a significant rise in the value of the Flemish **arms exports** compared to 2005 (+28%). This increase is due to four factors: a rise in the value of exported visualisation screens, the first export licences for aircraft parts in the context of the A400M project by Airbus, and two export licences of exceptional value (one licence for infrared and thermal vision intensifying equipment and military electronics destined for Germany, and one licence for airport lighting systems and perimeter security barriers

for American military bases in Kuwait).

Applications for **export licences** were primarily submitted for visualisation screens (more than half of the total number and total value of the issued export licences in 2006).

Further, in 2006, a significant number of export licences were requested for military electronics, imaging equipment, airplane parts, (parts for) military vehicles, and airport lighting systems and perimeter security barriers falling under the Belgian catch-all clause. These military goods are mainly destined for customers in the European Union (especially Germany, the United Kingdom and France) and North America (United States). Together, these two regions represent more than 80% of the total value of the arms export in 2006. To a lesser extent, also military material was exported to the Middle East (Israel and Kuwait), the other Asian countries (e.g., India, Japan and Singapore) and Latin America (especially Chile).

Flemish military goods are primarily destined for incorporation into larger systems. As a result, quite often, the export of these goods is destined for foreign defence-related firms. The three most important end users of military material exported from Flanders are the United States, Germany and France. Since industry is frequently listed as the end user of Flemish military products, the problem of monitoring the end use and re-export of its goods is very relevant for Flanders. Analyses by the Peace Institute have shown that, in countries for which only an international import certificate is required, for more than three quarters of the value of the Flemish arms export, industry or a dealer is listed as the end user of the licensed goods. This means that for over three quarters of the Flemish arms export, the ethical considerations about the ultimate end use and re-export are delegated to the foreign authorities. Moreover, it is unclear to what extent the follow-up control on the end use and re-export in cases where no other public authority assumes responsibility (e.g. countries for which an end use certificate is needed), is being exercised by the Flemish authorities.

During the past years, Flanders has suffered a strong drop in the number of issued **transit licences** for military goods. In 2006, this decline has levelled off (-3%). In contrast, a strong increase in the value of the transit licences was registered. The value of transit licences fluctuates greatly from one year to the next. The increased value in 2006 is mainly due to the transit of military vehicles from Sweden to Liberia and then back to Sweden. Given the small number of transit licences in 2006, it is difficult to trace a reliable pattern for Flemish transits. However, we can deduce from the available data that often military vehicles are being shipped in transit via Flanders and that armed forces are the most important end users for military goods in transit via the region. It is further striking that, while Flemish arms exports were mainly destined for customers in the European Union and the United States, Flemish transit requiring a licence was destined also for less obvious countries and regions such as Sub-Sahara Africa.

In 2006, a number of Flemish export and transit licences were issued for **conspicuous recipient countries and end users**. However, there is at this moment too little public information available to allow us to evaluate the advisability of such licences. In spite

of the improvements in the reporting methodology used by the Flemish Government in 2006, significant shortcomings remain as to the transparency in the Flemish arms export. This transparency is absolutely indispensable to ensure proper parliamentary scrutiny on the Flemish arms export policy.

Although often of a high-tech nature and not always perceived as ‘weapons’, goods that require a licence are not exactly your ‘everyday’ or ‘innocent’ products, witness also the European and international attention paid to establishing a legislative framework and implementation control. Owing to their use or possible military application, the trade in these goods has important implications for the security of Flanders and for the world at large, and not least for the well-being of all citizenry in general. The trade in military material, the relevant licensing policy, and the considerations obtaining therefore deserve the utmost attention. Through its publication of the present annual report, the Peace Institute wants to proffer an instrument that will contribute to the enhancement of parliamentary and societal scrutiny of and control on Flanders’ foreign arms trade. Flanders is hereby offered the opportunity to strive for the attainment of the highest standards and to actively cooperate in the development of a peace economy.

Further information

Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006 (Research Report)

Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 15 March 2007

ISBN 9789078864059 – 96 p.

1.3

Macro-economic research into investments in military R&D

On the initiative of the Sub-commission on Arms Trade, the Flemish Parliament requested the Peace Institute to conduct a comparative study of international scope into investments devoted to Research and Development (R&D) beneficial to the defence industry. At the meeting of the Sub-commission on 1 March 2007, and during a subsequent discussion with the members and the secretary of the said Sub-commission on 19 April 2007, the issue was turned into a practical exercise in the form of a study into the macro-economic impact of investments in military R&D.

The choice to adopt an economic focus for this research is compatible with the political reality in Flanders. Given that within the Belgian federal state structure, the Flemish authorities do not possess the competence in matters of national defence and international security, the actual political-strategic decision to determine if and how much is invested in the military apparatus does not fall within the scope of consideration of the Flemish administrative level. Within the Flemish context, the debate about military investments is confined to a weighing of economic opportunities, whereby arguments such as employment, technological innovation, and economic growth are major concerns. But within the context of a debate about investments by companies or by investors, one needs furthermore to consider also the underlying argument about the allocation of tax payers' money in the form of risk guarantees by the authorities, tax benefits, or direct government investments.

The decision to approach the impact of military R&D investments from an economic perspective in this study possesses not only an intra-Belgian relevance but also relates to a scientific debate conducted among economists. A number of recent studies have drawn attention to the fact that different researchers, depending on the starting premises, models or data that they employed, have arrived at diametrically contrasting estimates as to the economic impact of military expenditures and military R&D in particular. It remains equally undecided whether or not there is an impact and if any possible impact happens to be positive or negative. It appears that there are not as yet indisputable models available as guidelines and there is no evidence at hand that would generate reliable data.

It lies beyond the scope of this research study to compose a reliable general set of data. Nor is it the Institute's intention to apply a model, or to develop one that is doomed from the outset to be considered disputable. Rather, the fundamental scientific debate itself will form the subject of this research. Consequently, the research material does not consist of the empirical data about military investments per se, but instead centres on the scientific output and expertise about this topic. The differences in approach will be disclosed and analysed.

Aside from an analysis of, and contribution to, the scientific debates among economists, we will further situate the economic aspect of the task within the broader social debate on the subject. Outlining the context in which the economic debate unfolds, and the interaction between science and society, will allow us to also introduce ethical, strategic, or security considerations into the argument.

At the basis of the scientific demarcation lie two arguments that are frequently proffered in the social debate about the advisability or desirability of government support for R&D in the military sector.

An argument used by *believers* in added value to be gained from military R&D holds that ground-breaking technological research takes place mostly within the military sector, followed subsequently by applications within the civil sector (*spin-offs*). A great number

of technological developments within our society would never have seen or see the light of day without investments in military research projects. Reference here is made to the Internet, GPS, satellite applications, et cetera. The innovative R&D environment in the military sector is, so it is claimed by this camp, the result of the fact that time pressures, financial restrictions, and the need for a return on investment are less pronounced in the military sector than is the case in the civil sector. As a result, the military market acts as an avant-garde medium that is an impetus for technological development.

In contrast, an argument used by *disbelievers* in any added value to be derived from military R&D holds that investments in military R&D are not profitable from a macro-economic viewpoint. Both the direct results of military research and any of its possible civil applications are negligible in proportion to the resources that were invested in order to achieve them. The disproportionately high cost of innovation via the military sector cannot be justified on the grounds of a purely economic cost-benefit analysis. Some even claim that military R&D does not (any longer) drive the civil technological innovation but that, rather, the opposite is true (*spin-ins*), that investments in the military R&D exert an adverse effect on the civil sector (*crowding-out*), that the eventual military results are very slow in their public release (secrecy for reasons of security considerations), and that any possible contribution is due only to the expenditure of tax payers' money (both for the R&D and for the acquisition of the end product).

While not exactly diametrically opposed to one another, both points of view nonetheless demonstrate a paradoxical relationship. Does military R&D lead to technological breakthroughs that are impossible to achieve within the civil sector? Or would direct civil R&D, provided it were granted the same access to the same available resources, arrive at identical or even superior results? To what extent do military projects lead to a civil application? Does it make sense, on the basis of economic considerations, to invest in military R&D? Who benefits from such R&D and who foots the bills?

In order to illuminate such questions and to analyse possible approaches to the question, we have opted for a macro-economic approach. If one were to focus strictly on the business aspect or on the profitability factor at the business level within the defence-related industry, one might possibly arrive at different conclusions. However, with an eye on possible government support that may be provided, it is more relevant to consider the impact on employment, growth, or innovation on the macro-economic plane.

The starting point of this research is the existing scientific knowledge about macro-economic costs and benefits pertaining to investments in military R&D. The objective is to enhance the debate about this subject by gathering a number of different arguments and to range their merits one against the other.

In 2007, the available literature was examined whereby the relevant scientific writings on the subject were inventoried, analysed and synthesized. In the analysis, attention is paid, for instance, to models already used, the weight that has been assigned to the various

factors, the causal connection, the account taken of civil R&D, and other such elements. The synthesis is primarily meant to show what kinds of debates are conducted and, possibly, what sorts of different debates exist in juxtaposition to one another. At the same time, the study may lead to generating new research questions or suggestions for future study. The study of the literature was assigned to professors Paul Dunne and Derek Braddon of the University of West England.

1.4

The decrease in the Flemish licensed arms export in 2005

It appears from the periodic reports released by the government that, starting in 1994, the licensed Flemish arms export entered upon a sustained period of exponential growth. However, this upward trend came to an abrupt halt in 2005 when such exports suffered a spectacular reversal instead. In barely one year, the value of Flemish arms export licences declined by no less than 67% (a drop exceeding 300 million EUR in absolute terms). Until today, it remains unclear what exactly caused this drastic decline. In 2007, the Peace Institute investigated and discussed the reasons for the decline in a background note. The reporting of accurate figures, insight into its practice, and explanations of significant trends are essential requirements to ensure proper parliamentary control on the Flemish licensing policy. With this background note, the Peace Institute aims to contribute to the debate by a systematic approach to and an analysis of this problem.

In the first instance, the lessons to be drawn from the available public figures were scrutinized; subsequently, the most important hypotheses for this decline were analyzed. To the degree that is feasible, these hypotheses were tested out against the figures at our disposal. Based on this exercise, the institute was able to reject a number of hypotheses or, at least, place nuances on their impact. In contrast, other hypotheses could not (yet) be negated based on currently published information. In principle, the government must, therefore, be in a position to now offer a conclusive account for the decline. Nonetheless, questions asked by Parliament have not yet received satisfactory and convincing answers.

Further information

The decline of Flemish Arms Export in 2005: testing hypotheses (Background note)
Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 5 October 2007

1.5

SIPRI yearbook 2007

Ever since 1969, the Swedish SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) has published a 'SIPRI Yearbook'. SIPRI researchers and independent experts amalgamate in the yearbook objective data and extensive analyses about the most important aspects of arms control, peace, and security.

Since 2005, the Flemish Peace Institute has undertaken the Dutch translation and the publication of the summary of this yearbook. Its most recent edition was published by the Institute in October 2007.

The SIPRI Yearbook 2007 contains source information about subjects that encompass worldwide military expenditures, international arms deliveries, arms production, nuclear armament, multilateral peace operations, in combination with an overview analysis of the major aspects of arms control, peace, and international security.

The central topic in the SIPRI Yearbook 2007 is the notion of 'risk' and the associated language use that opens up new perspectives for the public security policy. A more profound study is made of the risk frame of reference, the challenges to be faced when establishing priorities, the danger of miscalculation, and the benefits of a risk perspective to adjust the manner by which governments and regional and international cooperative organisations attempt to improve security. One advantage of a security analysis that takes the risk factor as its point of departure is that it is possible to take account of a fast evolving series of policy challenges, many of which are not necessarily considered as 'threatening' in the conventional sense of the word.

A few of these challenges are scrutinized in the Yearbook. For instance, emphasis is put on the connection between energy and security. Also, a study is made of the risk posed by the many types of non-military materials that can have destructive military applications. Recommendations are formulated on ways to limit the possibilities that this kind of material would fall in the hands of terrorist groups. In addition, attention is given to the never-before seen influence exercised by transnational factors such as refugees and other migrant groups, the new, widespread availability of global communication media, and the secret influence of foreign states on major armed conflicts.

A risk approach to security analyses also has consequences for government expenditures. The Yearbook asks specific questions with respect to what profit derives from military expenditures to limit the loss of human life. Reliable information is essential to correctly estimate the risks: a study is made to determine how countries try to ensure that their intelligence and security services remain liable for their actions within the context of a democratic system.

Aside from the customary chapters concerning the control on conventional, chemical, and biological weapons, this edition of the Yearbook also contains in attachment a list of all current worldwide stockpiles of nuclear fissile materials and of the risks they present to security, and also the international efforts meant to limit the employment of portable air defence systems or MANPADS by terrorists. There is further an examination of the implementation and the content of Resolution 1540 of the United Nations Security Council (concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction with reference to non-state actors), and some problems centered on this renewed attempt to draw up generally applicable laws via the UN Security Council are explained further.

The Yearbook further contains an overview of the developments in the Euro-Atlantic security. Four regional institutions from the former Soviet region who are cooperating on security issues are being compared by means of new analytical methods developed by SIPRI for the evaluation of regional cooperation. For instance, the question is posed whether the standard definition of armed conflict, which emphasizes the criterion that at least one of the conflict parties be a state, is currently not too limited to render relevant data on present-day conflicts.

Further informaton

*SIPRI Yearbook 2007 – Armaments, Disarmament and International Security –
(Summary in Dutch)
Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 25 October 2007*



#2

Peace in society

2.1

'Peace in Flanders' research project

2.1.1 Peace in Flanders: opinions and commitments of people on the issues of peace and violence

The starting point for the programme 'Peace in Society' is the project 'Peace in Flanders'. This project encompasses a sociological study into the meaning of peace as interpreted by the Flemish population and their attitude vis-à-vis the use of violence. Aspects of both 'International Peace' (international relations) and 'Inter-personal peace' (our daily environment) and the relationship that exists between the two are being examined. This survey conducted in collaboration with the research group M²P (University of Antwerp) ran from September 2006 until May 2007.

The report 'Peace in Flanders' is based on the results of a detailed telephone survey conducted among over one thousand Flemish residents. Also, the opinions of a number of parties from the civil society, the political landscape, and industry were included in the analyses through focus groups. The data gathered in this way were categorised by the researchers on the basis of other available data. The report 'Peace in Flanders' was presented on 31 May 2007.

How do we define Peace?

The concept 'peace' knows of many definitions in literature, and how it is variably defined is linked to an array of societal circumstances plus individual characteristics. Peace also means many things for people. When the concept is mentioned, it spontaneously evokes an array of things, the most important of which appears to be the absence of war and of violence. Some people, in turn, define the concept in a broader ('agreement amongst all peoples'), abstracter ('the peace dove') or quite concrete ('peace starts within oneself' or 'peace and tranquillity' starts within your own family') sense. Generally, the people agree that peace is in any event something of positive value, something that is worth pursuing.

What do we think about peace?

People conceive of war as an inescapable reality in our present world. Nonetheless, for many people this does not mean that we are completely powerless and cannot do anything about the situation. It is incumbent on the authorities to inform people about the horrors of war and to mediate in international conflicts. People expect from industry that the latter will assume its responsibilities and not export weapons to countries at war. The majority of people believe that it is possible to make a personal contribution to the cause of peace, primarily by assuming a respectful attitude towards others and by raising children in a proper and appropriate manner.

Many people find war in the world not entirely removed from the practice of violence in our society. Violence is rejected and only a minority looks upon it as a means for solving problems. Yet, a notable number of people admit that in certain circumstances they themselves would resort to the use of force, mostly to defend themselves or their loved ones. Nearly 40% are of the opinion that violence is justifiable when it pertains to safeguarding one's personal possessions. Women see themselves using violence as readily as men. This is an observation valid for nearly all findings in this study: the ideas that women entertain about peace and non-violence are generally barely different from the opinions of men. That violence and war are, in essence, identical phenomena may be deduced from the attitude towards military intervention.

The more quickly one would resort to personal violence, the more quickly one also considers military intervention acceptable. In general, the Flemish people are not readily inclined to justify military action.

What are we doing (are prepared to do) to promote Peace?

The results of this study indicate that there still exists quite a bit of potential for peace engagement. Many people state that they have already become engaged politically in actions for peace, but an even greater number state that they are not engaged yet but are prepared to join. Such declarations of intentions do not go far in building up a peaceful society. It is very easy indeed for people to state that they 'would be prepared' to engage themselves for peace; it puts no commitment on them. Nonetheless, it does demonstrate that a large segment of the population is favourably disposed towards the idea of a peaceful and violence-free society. Especially with respect to petitions, the displaying of posters, and the participation in demonstrations, there appears to still exist a very large potential for supportive action. What the peace movement has to achieve as a prime objective is to convert that potential into active engagement and participation.

To actually bring about the swing from consensus mobilisation – support in principle for a theme or an issue – to active participation in a peace activity, organisations and membership in organisations are essential features. Membership in reputed peace organisations

exerts a strong influence on one's participation in political actions in support of peace. This then means that people do not want to engage themselves for peace in a vacuum, but rather do so because they were asked, because they were contacted, because there exist organisations that approach them with a 'proposition' for such an engagement. Of course, it is true that there are people who do get involved without prodding or incentives by peace organisations, but, no doubt, membership in an organisation is the best first step to convert potential commitment into a true personal commitment.

Aside from the logical observation that attitudes about peace have an effect on the active involvement in peace activities – it is probable that the causality here lies likewise in a reverse direction – it is clear that active peace engagement is strongly coincidental with a number of general attitudes that, at first glance, do not have a true relation to specific peace attitudes. What throughout the analyses may perhaps have proved most striking has been the large impact of the 'social capital' variable. People with a lot of social capital – in other words those who can call upon a strong social network and commit themselves on behalf of the local community via volunteer work and similar endeavours – are more inclined to take a stronger stand in favour of peace and the absence of violence in society. And the same holds true for people that have a rather post-materialistic life vision. For people that scored high on the scale of adherence to government policy and law abidance, and are thus strongly supportive of government-imposed public order, the opposite is true; these people are notably less inclined to become actively involved in peace movements. In conclusion, there also appears to exist a modest, yet significant, role reserved for following the news and watching television newscasts, and for a knowledge of international politics, in terms of its influence on the degree in which the people engage themselves actively in support of peace and non-violence. The more one becomes informed, and the higher the (resulting) knowledge, the more one becomes inclined to actively participate in actions for peace and non-violence.

Further information

Peace in Flanders (Research Report)

Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 31 May 2007

ISBN 9789078864035 – 138 p.

2.1.2 The 'Peace in Flanders' conference

On 2 October 2007, in the course of the Flemish Peace Week, the Peace Institute hosted a wide and diversified audience representing policy makers, academics, and members

of the civil society at the Flemish Parliament for the purpose of debating the results and subsequent analysis of the survey 'Peace in Flanders' and exploring practical initiatives. In two working groups and during a plenary closing session, the more than fifty attendees at the conference challenged one another with a variety of perspectives on the topic. In each working group, facilitators got the ball rolling with a brief introduction. The two themes to be treated by the working groups were products of the survey results: the difference between what people think about the notion of peace and what they are actively doing to promote it, and the link that exists between international peace and peace within one's own civil society. During the closing session, reports were presented on the endeavours of both of the working groups. In the following two sections, some of the conclusions reached by the working group sessions are detailed.

2.1.2.1 Thinking and Action

When we examine the nature of people's engagement in peace issues, it is quite clear that 'thinking' and 'action' are two entirely different matters. While it is indeed true that a fairly large number of people proclaim to have committed themselves in one way or another to supporting the cause of peace, yet opinions that favour peace do not always lead to an actual active engagement. The study 'Peace in Flanders' has taught us that there still remains great untapped potential for peace engagement on the part of people in Flanders. How can we bridge that divide between what people think about peace and what they are actively prepared to do about it?

(Peace)organisations play an important role in the transition from thinking towards action. They are in a position to offer information, knowledge, and analysis that can considerably sharpen the individual's awareness of the issues involved. Moreover, they can supply instruments that will allow people to achieve something concrete in a given situation and hence possess the means and capability to mobilize followers to their cause. In this, the element of permanence plays a crucial role to stimulate and bring about a structural change in a person's mind-set and mentality. Also attention paid to the young, credibility, being seen as genuine, and appropriately thought-out and reasoned communications are factors of great importance.

In order to be successful in attempts to mobilize people, it is necessary for peace organisations to collaborate with others in a variety of different areas and mutually attune their individual actions to one another. As such, it is highly recommended that they make an effort to cooperate on a broad platform with several reliable partner associations, here in Flanders as well as in conflict regions.

Organisations from the civil society should not be content to collaborate amongst themselves only but also work with other societal sectors such as industry, the financial world, the government, and the individual citizenry in order to achieve a successful and fruitful

peace engagement. Also the media are indispensable partners. The relationship with a commercialized and competitive media world is not easy, but thorough and well-nuanced information can form the basis for engagement and mobilisation.

But the issue of 'peace engagement' and the gap between 'thinking' and 'doing' is not necessarily just an issue for organisations. As has also been clearly demonstrated by the study 'Peace in Flanders', a lot of people believe that peace starts within oneself. These are, in fact, actions that spring from within and have nothing to do with organisation from without: in other words, to live one's own peaceful life and to deal with other people in a respectful manner.

2.1.2.2 Inter-personal & International Peace

From the results of the 'Peace in Flanders' survey, it appears that the acceptability of personal violence and the acceptability of military force are strongly related. The more people are inclined to accept the possible use of personal force in their own environment, the more ready they are to accept military intervention. This is a strong indication that the notions of 'International Peace' and of 'Inter-personal peace' are highly related. Who can be mediators between 'Inter-personal' and 'International' peace and how should one go about achieving this?

Not immediately obvious, yet nonetheless important, is the business world factor. The interests of industry in matters of war and peace lead us to some reflection. Is it possible to influence the behaviour of industry via the private consumer? The challenge lies in being able to demonstrate the importance and benefits of peace for business in the long term. We can call upon consumers to relay the message and via their actions influence the conduct of business. The discussion unequivocally recognizes the role of industry.

As industry is a mediator between Inter-personal and International peace, so is education. Depending on the society involved, one can have recourse to various ways to teach a peace culture, for instance, through recall/recognition education. Every culture can recall its own historical conflicts. For the Westhoek, the Great World War is the central focus; for Antwerp and Malines it centres primarily on World War II. The starting point for this is a broad and wide-ranging tale wherein the public at large is collectively involved. The lessons that can be drawn from such a tale can be used in peace education.

Also for 'Inter-personal peace' and 'International Peace' and the link between the two, the media play an important role. At the present time, two opposing trends are at play: the trend towards globalisation of our world versus the localisation of the news. Those with inside knowledge go looking for more information, while others are kept uninformed. Qualitative and in-depth reporting is generally problematic. In that regard, we may well emphasize that, at the least, people might expect Public Broadcasting Services to guaran-

tee the transmission of quality news. Here lies an opportunity for the Flemish Parliament to define and follow-up on the mission assigned to the Public Broadcasting stations.

Further information

Peace in Flanders Conference Report

Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 15 November 2007

2.2

Peace Education

With its research programme 'Peace in Society', the Peace Institute wishes to stimulate both the individual and the community to pursue the quest for a non-violent society. From societal contacts it appears that the civil society sees a distinct role reserved for the Peace Institute in educating people about peace and the prevention of violence. Likewise, the results of the 'Peace in Flanders' survey and the conclusions reached at the similarly named conference have demonstrated the importance of the role played by people's education and upbringing in general. Towards that end, the Peace Institute assists the Flemish Parliament and enhances the expertise of the involved civil society via scientific research. The project 'Peace Education' complements the above endeavour.

Within the programme 'Peace in Society', CESOR, VUB, and the Institute of Education and Information Sciences (UA) have, on assignment from the Peace Institute, been composing a sample card of recent peace education initiatives undertaken by the educational sector and the civil society in Flanders. In this context, 300 primary and 300 secondary schools were asked about the ways in which they conduct projects in peace education (bottom-up). Parallel to this, organisations from the civil society that are engaged in peace work are surveyed about the kinds of different projects they are offering (top-down).

In a second phase, the recorded projects are evaluated: which of the projects have proven most effective? What are good practical examples? And where can one achieve improvements? Recommendations will be formulated on the basis of the performed task for the relevant actors and policy makers. The research project will run from September 2007 until September 2008.

Peace Education working group

In order to substantively support the Board of Directors in their decision-making processes and the formulation of advisories, the Board can set up a study group that adopts a theme-focused approach. This group will also admit external parties to proffer expert advice. In 2007, the Peace Education study group brought together a wide range of experts for round-table discussions. Within the study group, the results of 'Peace in Flanders' were scrutinized, amongst others. In addition, attention was paid to the assigned project about peace education and some advance thought was already devoted to the manner in which the results of that project might be put to good use in order to more satisfactorily promote peace education in Flanders and broaden its scope. In addition, also information was exchanged about relevant activities in which the involved organisations were occupied.



#3

*Supporting
Parliamentary activities*

The Peace Institute provides support services for the Flemish Parliament and the Flemish Government, and this by means of the publication of advisories and background notes, the development of a documentation centre, and the provision of information, amongst other services.

Within the parliamentary community, the Sub-commission on Arms Trade represents the Peace Institute's 'godmother'. Members of the Sub-commission did originally take the initiative for the founding of the Institute. The research 'Arms Trade and Arms Production' provides information about the social and political debates within the Sub-commission. It is, in fact, this commission which takes the initiative in the parliamentary control on foreign arms trade.

On 1 March 2007, the Sub-commission engaged in an exchange of ideas with the Peace Institute about the latter's research reports related to the analysis of the legal content of the Flemish arms export policy and the profile sketch of the foreign trade in military goods and the defence-related industry in Flanders. The Director and researchers detailed the Institute's research results and exchanged ideas and shared reflections about the Flemish arms trade and arms production with members of the commission. Likewise on 27 November 2007, the Institute was given a hearing in the Sub-commission on Arms Trade about its advice offered with respect to the policy letter from the minister competent for arms trade. In addition, also the other advisories and background notes, for instance, notes about government support for military projects and about the administrative procedure in the processing of licence applications were discussed with the Sub-commission members.

On 26 March 2007, the Peace Institute welcomed Flemish parliamentarians and a diverse public of international stakeholders and experts to a seminar about Flemish arms trade within a European and international context. Also at the presentation of the Institute's annual report on 15 March 2007, at the presentation of the 'Peace in Flanders' report on 31 May 2007, and during the similarly named conference on 2 October 2007, the Institute presented and shared information and insights with the parliamentarians in attendance.

In the following sections, the direct support of the Flemish political institutions will be clarified based on the advices and background notes published in 2007, and explanatory notes available from the documentation centre of the Informatiecentrum.

3.1 Advice

The advisory function is the Institute's most direct service to Parliament and its political environment. The Peace Institute can at all times formulate advisories on the basis of the results of the research it has conducted. Advice generated on its own initiative can be issued both in consequence of scientific research and as the result of a political or social stimulus. The Institute's other advice modalities are: advice proffered on the initiative of the Flemish Parliament and at the request of the Flemish Government; concerning the policy letter released by the minister competent for the issuance of import, export, and transit licences for weapons, munitions and materials especially intended for military use or to be used by law enforcement agencies, and of their associated technologies; advice on situations mentioned in the minister's policy letter, and with respect to international agreements.

The Institute's standpoints are published in advices.

In 2007, five advisories were issued: one at the request of a Flemish minister, three on the Institute's own initiative, and one laid down by decree. All advisories in 2007 were unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors. They were handed over to the chairman of the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Representatives, and the competent ministers. The advisories were also published on the Institute's website and disseminated via the newsletter, thus becoming available for consultation by the general public.

3.1.1 Enhancing cooperation to strengthen export controls

Context

Export controls aim to regulate the trade in strategic goods. With a licensing policy governments try to balance international security considerations versus economic interests. The normative framework for the Belgian decision-making process rests upon international control regimes, the European Union and national legislation.

By regionalising the competence to grant export licenses for military material, Belgium has added a layer to the multi-level decision making model. On the one hand the addition of an extra level increases potential inertia in the collaboration of the different partners. The regions have, on the other hand, a comparative advantage regarding outreach to industry.

This advice flows directly from the research report ‘The Flemish Arms Export Policy: an analysis of the legal framework’, which demonstrated the need for ‘communication, coordination, cooperation, and clarity’. In its advice note of 23 January 2007, the Peace Institute translated these insights into a call to engage in unambiguous agreements and advocated a move towards the assumption of responsibility on the part of all actors involved.

Content

The Flemish Peace institute is convinced that inter-departmental, intra-departmental and international cooperation can be enhanced. The lack of formal agreements between involved departments is a major obstacle. The plea for stronger cooperation is based upon four concepts: communication, coordination, cooperation and clarity. A qualitative control policy does not have to restrict itself to the formal legal framework, but needs to become actively engaged in looking for means to increase the efficiency and address new trends.

For such reasons, the Flemish Peace Institute advises as follows:

- 1 To set up mechanisms to facilitate the 4 Cs (communication, coordination, cooperation, clarity) at the intra-departmental, inter-departmental and international levels. At the inter-agency level, these should include: (a) swift inter-agency communication between a.o. regional licensing authorities and relevant federal factors such as customs, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Energy; (b) systematic information exchange and mutual access to relevant databases by regional licensing authorities, the Foreign Ministry and customs; (c) the elaboration of mechanisms and agreements for external representation and to feed information from the EU and the export control regimes back into the system; and (d) sufficient staff at all levels, including staff at the Foreign Ministry, to ensure swift flow of information to and from the international level.
- 2 To conduct a legal review to assess whether current legislation is sufficient for an effective export control system and whether there is room for improvement based on international best practices. In the process, there is also need to analyze how administrative and penal sanctions have been applied to violations of the export control. In addition, all departments that are involved in investigative matters and legal procedures need to be identified.

- 3 To develop a proactive industry outreach strategy, including an ongoing survey of producers of controlled items and regular dialogue with companies.

State of affairs

In the meantime, two cooperative accords have been concluded between the Regions and the Federal Public Service Department of External Affairs with reference to the representation of the Belgian state at international symposiums, the exchange of information and the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. On these issues, the Peace Institute will be consulted post factum. A cooperative accord between the Regions amongst themselves is still to come, but should this be realized, the Peace Institute will, in principle, also on this point be consulted.

3.1.2 Government support for military projects in Flanders

Context

Within the context of its decreed mission to conduct preliminary research meant to lay the basis for a Flemish peace economy, and as a follow-up to the background note 'NRC Fund and Joint Strike Fighter' (26 June 2006), the Flemish Peace Institute assumes in this advice note of 26 February 2007 a broader standpoint with respect to Flemish government support to projects with a military finality.

Content

The Flemish government's toolbox devised to provide economic support may be broken down in two categories, namely tools for subsidisation and for investments. Both forms of government assistance have been entrusted to agencies that in the course of the past few years have acquired increasing autonomy. This enhances flexibility but, at the same time, also adds to the number of intermediate links between political control and actual policy implementation.

The attitude vis-à-vis projects with a military purpose is in the case of the ‘Flemish Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Scientific and Technological Research’ (IWT), a public funding agency, unambiguously set forth in a directive that excludes aid to, and financing of, military projects. Other venues of support and, more particularly, the investment companies and their subsidiaries are not held to compliance with this prohibition.

As a reference framework for a discussion on the (in)admissibility of government support for military projects, a distinction is made between four possible attitudes vis-à-vis the defence-related industry in Flanders: (1) active encouragement, (2) passive encouragement, yet with granting of support, (3) withholding support, (4) active dissuasion.

The Flemish Peace Institute advises the Flemish administration against the allocation of official resources for projects with a military purpose. The principle of not treating defence-related initiatives as normal economic activities must not only apply to the assistance granted by the IWT but to all investments, subsidies, services, ... provided by any and all support channels of the Flemish Government.

Likewise, the Peace Institute pleads for more effective parliamentary and political scrutiny on economic government support measures in Flanders.

State of Affairs

Following this advisory, both a number of Flemish members of Parliament, a number of Flemish peace organisations, as well as the lobby group for the Flemish high-tech industry have taken up a position.

In the Sub-commission on Arms Trade of the Flemish Parliament on 1 March 2007, a discussion was held about this subject during which both the proponents and opponents of government support for military research and development took the floor. On the initiative of the Sub-commission on Arms Trade, the Flemish Parliament requested the Peace Institute to conduct a comparative study of international scope into investments devoted to Research and Development (R&D) beneficial to the defence industry. (see section 1.3) Agoria, the federation representing the technology industry, stamped this advice as ‘unrealistic’ and asked the Flemish Government to ignore it.

Vredesactie vzw, Vrede vzw, Netwerk Vlaanderen, VOS, and IJzerbedevaartcomité there-upon launched a petition initiative, whereby the members of the Sub-commission on Arms Trade are urged to adopt the advice proffered by the Peace Institute.

3.1.3 A cooperation agreement between the Government of Croatia and the Flemish Government

Context

On 13 November 2006, the Flemish Government and the Government of the Croatian Republic in Zagreb signed a Cooperation Agreement. This agreement represents an exclusive Flemish convention that the government wishes to conclude in the context of its policy vis-à-vis Central and Eastern Europe. The draft of the decree needs to be submitted to the Flemish Government for approval in principle. If approved, the Flemish Government will ask for the advice of the Council of State. Following the processing of the advice and after the final adoption by the Flemish Government, the draft of the decree will be submitted to the attention of the Flemish Parliament. The agreement is to enter into force after confirmation by both parties that the internal legal provisions required to make the said agreement effective have been satisfied. With a view to the approval in principle by the Flemish Government, the Flemish Minister of Administrative Affairs, Foreign Policy, Media and Tourism, has asked the Flemish Peace Institute to provide an advisory about the Cooperation Agreement pursuant to article 6 §3 of the founding decree.

Content

The Flemish Peace Institute believes that a Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and Croatia benefits the former and can contribute to the further development of a sustainable peace in Croatia. While Croatia is still faced with a number of challenges resulting from the conflict in Ex-Yugoslavia, there is a manifest positive evolution in the manner in which the state has been organised and in its dealings with the civil society.

The prospect of EU membership has contributed to re-enforcing the optimism. It is expected that shortly after 2010 Croatia will join the European Union. A Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and Croatia will reinforce the bilateral contacts, the collaboration, and the trust between the two governments. The Cooperation Agreement puts particular emphasis on economic cooperation, this with a view to social dialogue, collaboration in the areas of education and research, sports, culture, media, tourism, well-being and health care, urban development, agriculture, domestic administration and cooperation within the context of international organisations. In this way, the Cooperation Agreement aims at contributing to Croatia's smooth integration into the European Union.

The Flemish Peace Institute hopes that the Cooperation Agreement will be effectively implemented so that the Croatian society will reap tangible benefits from its conclusion. The Peace Institute asks the Flemish Government to emphasize in the implementation of the said Cooperation Agreement projects that need to confront head-on the current challenges in the Croatian society, such as the problems concerning the return of refugees, issues of property ownership, the protection of minorities, representation of minorities in administrative structures, social dialogue and reconciliation aspects of a peace development. The Peace Institutes notes that nowhere in the Cooperation Agreement is there a reference to the establishment of sustainable peace and stability, which is, in effect, the ultimate objective of the integration into the European Union, and it is of the opinion that this should be made an explicit element in the future.

The Peace Institute supports the Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and Croatia and believes that the exchange of expertise and their collaboration in a number of diverse areas will result in valuable opportunities for both parties.

State of Affairs

On 7 May 2007, the Peace Institute issued a favourable advisory. The advice was joined to the draft of the decree on its being submitted to the Flemish Parliament and in this way provided Parliament and the government with information. The Cooperation Agreement was adopted unanimously in the Commission for Foreign Policy, European Affairs, International Cooperation and Tourism. The draft of the decree was likewise unanimously approved in the plenary meeting of 14 November 2007. The draft of the decree was subsequently adopted and sent to the Flemish Government for its ratification.

3.1.4 Principles of good government in arms export control policies: the introduction of administrative time limits for the assessment of licences

Context

This advice note flows from the benchmarking study 'Benchmarking Arms Export Controls: a region and its neighbours'. The export of military material and of dual-use products is subject to a licence requirement. The applications for export and transit licences pass through an array of stringent requirements. Each and every export or trans-shipment of military or dual-use products is examined to ascertain if the material could conceivably pose a threat to peace and security, taking into account their recipient, their end use, and their nature. It is important that the procedure be meticulously implemented. The government must, first and foremost, offer a guarantee that goods which constitute a potential threat to peace and security not be exported. Technical, political, and legal advisories are needed to enable examiners to conduct a thorough evaluation of all aspects of a dossier. At the same time, the licensing procedure needs to be conducted in an efficient manner so that businesses not be left in the dark for a needlessly long time.

Content

This advice note advances ideas about ways in which the administration could introduce into the process steps to guarantee appropriate measures without adversely affecting the quality of the evaluation procedure. The Peace Institute advocates the introduction of indicative administrative limits on the time required for processing the licence applications, the publication of these time limits, and the reporting of the degree of success achieved in the realisation of the objectives. Administrative time limits present the minister and the administration with a target to aim for and will promote the efficiency of the procedure. At the same time, they will give businesses an indication of what to expect in terms of delays, which will enable them to estimate how long a procedure will take under given circumstances. The Institute does not advocate that these time limits be presented as carved in stone, nor does it suggest that they be established by law, since absolute and legally enforceable delays can adversely affect the quality of the evaluation of the licence applications. As such, the indicative administrative time limits proposed do not require amendments to the existing legislation. What will happen is that, by their introduction, the authorities will enhance the transparency of the licensing procedure, allow parliamentary

control, and accommodate the wishes of industry. The advice is induced by the principles of good administrative government and by examples from our partner nations.

State of Affairs

The recommendations in this advice are aimed at the application of the principle of ‘reasonable terms’ to the licensing procedure concerning arms trade, yet without diluting the quality of the process. The advice note resulted in a parliamentary question to the minister competent for the import, export, and transit of military material during a meeting of the Sub-commission on Arms Trade. The minister replied that, in principle, the advice rendered by the Peace Institute with reference to the establishment of indicative administrative terms for the processing and the reporting of licences meets with her approval. However, the minister foresees some legal and practical obstacles. She notes that Flanders does not possess a legal platform to implement such measures, this in spite of the legally binding principles of good governance. In addition, there exist different kinds of licences. This results in practical problems when trying to establish a uniform administrative procedure for processing licence applications. And there is the further consideration that, when terms have been determined, they then also need to be complied with.

3.1.5 Advice concerning the policy letter 2007-’08 of the minister competent for foreign arms trade

Context

The founding decree of the Flemish Peace Institute contains the following provision:

‘The annual policy letter of the minister competent for the issuance of licenses for import, export and transit of weapons, munitions, and materials especially intended for military use or law enforcement and associated technologies includes a list of situations in which the advice of the Peace Institute is requested. After advice of the Peace Institute, Parliament will debate upon this policy letter resulting in a resolution to the Flemish Government.’ The policy letter on Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade, Policy Priorities 2007-2008 contains a section implementing this provision. Following an analy-

sis of the relevant passages and in preparation for the parliamentary debate, the Peace Institute submitted the requested advice on this policy letter.

Content

The Peace Institute agrees with the two situations proposed by the minister and has urged that they be implemented without delay. More specifically, it pertains to the rendering of advice on concluding cooperation agreements and on preliminary drafts of decree and implementation decisions related to arms trade.

In addition, the Peace Institute has proposed a third situation where supplementary advice is deemed desirable, namely situations where sensitive dossiers are submitted to the scrutiny of the advisory committee on Arms Trade. This additional consultation need not be a Yes/No advisory about the approval or denial of licence applications but can be presented in the form of an expert analysis of the sensitive aspects of the dossier. Such an in-depth analysis could greatly contribute to providing the official advisory committee with additional information to serve its own recommendations and thus facilitate the ultimate decision to be taken by the minister.

The Flemish Peace Institute recommends that the Flemish Parliament:

- 1 approve the intention of the minister to consult the Peace Institute in the matter of cooperation agreements concerning the importation, exportation, and transit of arms and related materials as well as on dual-use products and technology;
- 2 request the minister to implement this intention, starting with the two recently concluded cooperation agreements;
- 3 approve of the intention of the minister to consult the Peace Institute about preliminary drafts for the decree in substitution of the federal Weapons Act of 5 August 1991 concerning arms and related materials, as well as for what concerns the promulgation of decisions in implementation of this decree;
- 4 request the minister to consult the Peace Institute at the earliest possible stage in the process;
- 5 request the minister to seek additional advice from the Peace Institute in the treatment and processing of sensitive dossiers by the advisory committee on Arms Trade.

State of Affairs

The Sub-commission on Arms Trade of the Flemish Parliament has in its meeting of 27 November 2007 supported the situations proposed by the minister and favourably advised on by the Peace Institute.

Nonetheless, neither the competent minister nor the involved members of the commission have deemed it advisable that the Peace Institute should offer advice concerning the licensing of individual applications.

3.2 Request for research

3.2.1 The Darfur crisis

In Darfur, the age-old strife for access to water and fertile land amongst local tribes has today expanded into a bloody conflict that has claimed the lives of more than 200.000 people and led to the sorry plight of some 2.5 million refugees. On 8 May 2007, the Commission on Foreign Policy, European Affairs, International Cooperation and Tourism of the Flemish Parliament decided to charge the Flemish Peace Institute with drawing up a status quaestionis document about the Darfur crisis. An initial interim report was presented to the commission on 21 June 2007. This background note sketches out, aside from a brief history of the region, the current state of affairs. The approach to any future reporting has been made dependent on a decision about the future way in which the problem will be dealt with by the commission. Thus far, the Darfur Question has not been placed again on the commission's agenda for further discussions.

3.2.2 Macro-economic research into investments in military R&D

On the initiative of the Sub-commission on Arms Trade, the Flemish Parliament requested the Peace Institute to conduct a comparative study of international scope into investments devoted to Research and Development (R&D) beneficial to the defence industry. During the meeting of the Sub-commission on 1 March 2007 and a subsequent discussion with members and the secretary of the Sub-commission on 19 April 2007, the request was narrowed down to specific research into the macro-economic impact of investments in military R&D (see section 1.3).

3.3 Documentation centre

In cooperation with the Flemish Parliament's Informatheek, the Peace Institute has in 2007 further expanded its documentation centre with a collection of books, journals, and other media publications. This collection is placed at the service of the collaborators of the Peace Institute but is also accessible to Parliamentary personnel, representatives, and the public at large.

In the Informatheek's catalogue system, 'Peace Research' was assigned the number 800. This '800 heading' was further divided into a detailed classification that contains 9 separate sub-headings reflecting the Peace Institute's broad-ranging approach to peace research:

- 810. Theory and Methodology
- 820. International Relations
- 830. Peace and Economy
- 840. Society and State
- 850. Peace and Conflict studies
- 860. Peace Culture
- 870. Defence and Weapons
- 880. Regions and Countries
- 890. Narrative literature

Purchased documentation is made available in the LIBIS-network, in keeping with current norms. LIBIS-Net operates as a cooperative partnership among more than 20 institutions that are using the same ALEPH 500 installation for the computerisation of their libraries. Aside from the college members of the K.U. Leuven Association, also a number of government libraries, small scientific libraries, and libraries operated by civil society groups and institutions have selected to join the network. With some 3.000.000 bibliographic entries, the LIBIS-Net represents the largest library network in Belgium. Via The Peace Institute's website, a search engine is made available to search in the Institute's collection or within the entire LIBIS catalogue for the desired book or journal.

In 2007, the International Peace Information Service (IPIS vzw) undertook a re-structuring of its library. The organisation decided to solely concentrate on the development of its own specialized work library to the exclusion of anything else. Subsequently, within that context, it divested itself of its collection of scientific literature on peace research. The entire valuable collection of more than 8000 volumes was acquired by the Peace Institute. The most relevant of these works are available in the stacks of the Informatheek and part are kept in storage. The entire collection will be incorporated into the catalogue of the Peace Institute and is made available for access via the LIBIS network.

The background of the entire page is a light blue-tinted photograph. It depicts a person's hand, seen from the side, gently holding a small, transparent globe. The globe shows a map of the world with labels for continents and oceans. The hand is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame, with fingers slightly curled around the globe. The overall aesthetic is clean, professional, and scientific.

#4

*Evaluation report of the
Scientific Council*

In accordance with the founding decree of the Peace Institute, the Scientific Council evaluates the performance of the Institute's research assignments. Its assessment is included in the annual report.

The following evaluation report, following consensus amongst the members, was formulated by the chairman of the Scientific Council on 13 June 2008.

4.1 General Assessment

The aspiration of the Flemish Peace Institute is to conduct research to the highest international level. It has taken as its potential *peer group* the work of organisations such as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Council is happy to report that the Peace Institute is well on its way to achieving this goal. It is already evident that there has been a great deal of learning from the previous year's work and the Council is confident that in due course the research work of the Peace Institute will in fact meet the highest international level.

The research undertaken by the Peace Institute is rigorous, often empirically based, usually conceptually enlightened and politically important. In addition to that, where the subject matter lends itself, the research is also stimulating. Scientific standards are high and informal contact between the Council and the researchers suggests that the researchers are very well aware of what is needed to push their current excellent work to the highest level. In short, they have served both the board of the Peace Institute and Parliament well.

The Scientific Council recognises that the Scientific Secretariat has adopted a mature and prudent approach to what is, after all, a new and demanding endeavour. We therefore wish to give a firm seal of academic approval. The Institute's researchers have met in full the expectations which we could reasonably expect from the present state of the institute's development and there is every promise of further achievements at the highest level.

4.2

Methodology of the Assessment

This is the second report of the Scientific Council. In 2006, we adopted an ad hoc procedure which was appropriate given the advice and background notes produced as the Peace Institute started its operations. However, this procedure does not fit the amount of work that has been produced in 2007. In brief, we cannot all read everything since there is a considerable volume of work.

We therefore decided on a system whereby each report or advice paper is assigned to an individual member who circulates a draft evaluation to the chairperson and other members of the Scientific Council. The chairperson then produces a composite report which is discussed by the Scientific Council, amended and finally approved to go forward to the Board of Directors and Parliament. In cases where an assessor or other member of the Scientific Council feels that, for whatever reason, a second opinion is necessary, then the chairperson or another person on the Council also evaluates the particular item. The present evaluations were discussed by the Scientific Council at its meeting on March 14, 2008, and, following further consultation, a final document has been agreed.

In preparing the criteria for the evaluation, we decided that our purpose was not to write extensive scientific reviews although there was much informal contact between the members of the Council and individual researchers about particular projects. Our purpose is to give an assurance of scientific fitness for purpose to the Board of Directors. It is not our function to debate the conclusions but rather to concern ourselves with the manner in which the research has been conducted. In short, we are to evaluate that the research has been conducted according to proper and appropriate scientific standards.

The criteria we agreed upon which should be normally taken into consideration for the evaluation are:

- Relevance of the topic
- Scientific significance of the research
- Understanding of the pertinent literature
- Clarity and conciseness in the overall argument
- Quality of the writing

Of course it is for an individual evaluator to add other criteria where appropriate and for the Council as a whole to do likewise.

The composite report goes to the Board of Directors as a consensus document of the Scientific Council.

4.3

Work evaluated by this report

Research reports

- Flemish Arms Export Policy: an Analysis of the Legal Framework
- Profile of foreign trade in military material and the defence-related industry in Flanders
- Benchmarking Arms Export Controls: a region and its neighbours
- Flemish Foreign Arms Trade in 2006
- Peace in Flanders

Background notes

- The decline of Flemish arms exports in 2005: testing hypotheses
- The Darfur Crisis: a *status quaestionis*

Advices

- Enhancing cooperation to strengthen export controls
- Government support for military projects in Flanders
- Cooperation Agreement between the government of Croatia and the Flemish government
- Principles of good government in arms export control policies: the introduction of administrative time limits for the assessments of licences

4.4

Generic Comments

- 1 The Council is very aware that in any new project of this scale and ambition that there are bound to be teething problems. We have been impressed by how few such problems have arisen and very pleased to note the alacrity with which the Scientific Secretariat has responded to these problems as they became evident.
- 2 We feel that, in general, it would be helpful to have executive summaries in a prominent place at the beginning of each report or advice note which would help readers to grasp the essence of what has been found in the research and, by their brevity and succinctness, capture a wider audience.
- 3 The Council is very aware that the research has been undertaken by specialists for those who are, for the most part, non-specialists. This creates difficult problems in being concise and clear but at the same time making evident the subtleties of the questions under research. We would urge the researchers to bear in mind that, in presenting their research rather than undertaking it, they are working for a non-specialist audience. Nevertheless, in specific cases technical reports tailored to a particular audience are in order. In short, thought about the nature of the audience needs to be given in each case.
- 4 The recommendations in the various notes and reports are written from an academic point of view and have been stated in a politically impartial way despite their obvious political import. In short, we believe that the advice notes and background notes overall have got the balance right between the academic and political aspects of the research undertaken. However, the Scientific Secretariat may, where appropriate, make recommendations based on thorough research written from an academic perspective.
- 5 We would also encourage the research teams to be more pro-active and to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between research which is driven by academic questions and that which is driven by parliamentary needs. Both are valid and necessary exercises and should reflect a three-way relationship between the Board, Parliament and the research team.
- 6 Care must be taken not to overload the system by taking on too many projects. The tempo of work over the last year has been ‘molto vivace’. This tempo would be difficult to sustain in the longer term. The Scientific Council takes it as part of its remit to give advice to ensure that there is no overstretch of resources, including human resources, or of intellectual concerns.

- 7 These potential tensions can be seen in the differing deadlines which are dictated by the need for good academic work and also for the practical use to be made of the research that is produced. If research is required and there is not sufficient time to undertake it properly according to scientific standards, then the Peace Institute needs to make this clear to the recipients of any research that is produced under these circumstances or, where necessary, to state that such work cannot be properly undertaken.
- 8 We are not yet sure that the right balance between work that is outsourced and that which is done in-house has been established. In principle, the Peace Institute should not undertake research which is beyond its specialties but there is a halfway house between in-house research and the extensive use of outside consultants. In addition, members of the Scientific Council who have specialised knowledge in particular areas can be approached for guidance. However, it is also important that in seeking guidance from members of the Scientific Council, the research team does so in a manner which does not prejudice the objectivity of the Council in producing reports such as this one. It could be that where members of the Scientific Council have played a substantive role in a particular piece of work at the institute, that they should not participate in the evaluation for that particular project.
- 9 It is important for the future well-being of the Peace Institute that the research team do not attempt to undertake research for which they do not have the necessary background and it is in such circumstances that outsourcing becomes the relevant option. Outsourcing, however, does demand an in-house capacity to exercise quality control and to identify competent and reliable partners. In both in-house and outsourced projects outside reviewers of work in progress may be appointed. More generally standard operating procedures (SOPs) need to be elaborated to exercise an appropriate and timely review of the Institute's projects. These SOPs will develop out of existing experience and that of others but they need to be applied with a light touch and not become a stultifying bureaucratic burden.
- 10 A number of native English and non-native English speakers on the Council felt that, at times, greater attention should be paid to the quality of the English used in the reports.
- 11 The presentation of the documents has been, in physical terms, generally praised. However, account needs to be taken of difficulties some readers may have in reading particular forms of print or layout.
- 12 These general comments should not be taken to detract from, in any way, the overall favourable impression that the Scientific Council has of the work produced during 2007. There have been some slips but it is clear that standard operating procedures are now being elaborated which should take care of these sorts of mistakes. They are part of the teething process and easily taken care of when they are pointed out.

4.5

Comments on individual research reports, advices and background notes

4.5.1 Research reports

The Flemish arms export policy: an analysis of the legal framework

The report describes the arms control regimes in place at each level of governance from the global to the regional in order to facilitate a discussion of the legal environment of Flemish arms control policy. It is a clearly relevant and important topic of research appropriate to the goals of the institute. The significance of the report lies in its descriptive function which provides a comprehensive overview of the state of affairs and the state of the art in arms control policy affecting Flanders. The report serves to describe faithfully the legal frameworks which are currently in force but it does not provide a substantive analysis or interpretation of past and potential trends and their relevance for Flemish policy. In short, it reflects some excellent research but is a trifle lacking in analytical ambition. It does, however, make good use of relevant resources.

This report constitutes a policy relevant contribution to the public debate on arms control and Flanders' role in what is both an expanding industry and an expanding nexus of multi-level governance frameworks. By remaining descriptive in its intent, this publication provides a solid platform for future analysis and debate and it clears the way for substantive interpretive analysis. It is a timely contribution on an important topic.

Profile of foreign trade in military material and the defence-related industry in Flanders. Report, March 2007

The report brings together findings on the Flemish trade in military material (imports, exports, transits) and on companies that source the largest share of the export of material that the Flemish arms trade regime categorises as 'military'. It builds on research that the Scientific Secretariat – at least in part – presented in previous publications or teased out

in greater detail in reports and background and advisory notes published posterior to this report (March 2007).

The comprehensive document covers issues as varied as trade data, the juridical context that regulates such trade, and the more relevant economic players in this field. These issues are all pertinent, in that Flemish legislators and civil society groups have regularly been caught in controversy over the economic relevance and other aspects of the Flemish defence-related industry. While such an industry exists, Flanders does not dispose of an extensive 'military-industrial complex'. Only few a Flemish companies produce exclusively or mainly for a military market.

The report is rather heavy handed from a methodological point of view. While such contents are highly relevant, a lighter structure and an executive summary would have been felicitous with greater use being made of footnotes and technical annexes for epistemic considerations. This is, however, a new intellectual terrain and in the circumstances the Scientific Secretariat has made good use of limited information bases while being fully aware of the potential pitfalls.

Benchmarking arms export controls: a region and its neighbours

This report is based on a comparison of a number of neighbouring EU member countries' export control practices for defence industry products and dual-use goods with those currently in use in Belgium and Flanders. The originality of the report lies in the particular set of analogues chosen, the opportunity to bring practices of a sub-state region into the same comparison and the amount of fully up-to-date detail provided on the chosen cases. The factual research involved is meticulous, fully and appropriately referenced and laid out in a way that respects all the normal, specialised concepts and nomenclature while trying hard at the same time to make the material easily accessible. The report's structure and approach reflects a driving concern to explain an unfamiliar, arcane and easily boring subject to a largely uninformed audience. It has achieved a considerable measure of success in attaining its goals.

Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006

Overall, this report leaves a very favourable impression indeed. The material has been organised in a commendable way and there is an admirable clarity in the description of the analytical approaches which are used. Clearly the Peace Institute has been able to set up the necessary research tools to be able to prepare this type of overview for an annual report. It is also evident that such reports will quickly, in terms of their quality and indeed recognition by others, reach the standards set by internationally-recognised research institutes.

It would, however, be helpful if there could be an executive summary of findings and policy recommendations as well as a glossary of brief definitions of core terms. This would enable the reader to grasp the salient elements of the research whilst still being able to plunge into the richness of the detail in the rest of the report. There could also be a greater use made of annexes dealing with research methodology and an overview and summary of key legislative documents. There might also be a chronology.

In terms of the policy implications of the findings which form the heart of the report, they blend both legal and ethical issues. For readers who are not familiar with the details of Flemish arms transfer policy, it might be useful to include a framework to be developed by the researchers which would link into various national and international legal and ethical parameters that guide decision-making with the respect of granting arms transfer licences. It would also be desirable if the authors could make a distinction in their discussion between formal criteria such as laws, regulations, ordinances and codes and informal criteria such as ethical considerations.

There are some errors which have crept into the report and these can be easily caught if, as we recommend, standard operating procedures in the production process are developed in such a way as to pick up and eliminate errors which detract from an otherwise excellent piece of work.

Peace in Flanders

By means of an opinion poll, four focus groups and a literature study, the opinion and the engagement of Flemings in the area of peace and violence are assessed. The survey explains how Flemings define peace and its absence, what attitudes they hold in relation to the personal use of violence and the use of military force, how they assess the chances of a terrorist attack or a world war, who can act against violence and what can be done about it. It then asked what Flemings do for peace and the extent to which and the way in which peace is a priority in the media or in politics.

This is a commendable contribution to the study of public opinion in Flanders on issues of peace and violence. It is an original study mapping peace awareness of the Flemings. It tries to give insight into the formation of public opinion. Moreover, in divided communities and conflict areas the study of public opinion about conflict issues is more difficult than that of poverty, health or the environment. Usually public opinion does not accurately reflect private opinions. This study is useful because it highlights the strong and difficult points of such research. It uses various methods to enquire into the complex reality of perspectives and misperception and provides interesting information about various aspects of the peace awareness of Flemings, the media and political agenda.

The report does give rise to some methodological concerns in that some terms are used without an operational definition being given and in the difficult assessment of peace

awareness there is a high degree of abstraction in the research. Moreover, there is a limited freedom afforded to the interviewees by the closed nature of some questions. Nevertheless, this is pioneering work on which the Peace Institute and others can build.

4.5.2 Background notes

The decline of Flemish arms exports in 2005: testing hypotheses

This background paper is an excellent piece of work. It is concise and very well structured. The penultimate page contains a helpful summary of the different hypotheses that were formulated and the extent to which it proved possible to falsify these hypotheses. The language is clear and pleasant to read and presented in such a way as to make the subject matter look highly intriguing. The paper is, of necessity, inconclusive since it is based on open sources and publicly available data.

The Darfur crisis: a status quaestionis

This background note is the only item in the portfolio of work undertaken by the Institute that the Scientific Council viewed with some disquiet. While questions of interpretation are always judgemental, nevertheless there was a serious factual error in the work and indeed the research base seemed to us to be insufficient. While it is always difficult to get a balance between an objective overview while at the same time providing an analysis of the situation, we do not think that this was achieved to a sufficient standard in this instance. In short, the team have bitten off rather more than they can chew in this particular instance. There is therefore a lesson to be learned, which is that this sort of topic should be outsourced.

4.5.3 Advices

Government support for military projects in Flanders

The Peace Institute secretariat was asked to follow up its 2006 background note on 'Non-recurring costs fund and joint strike fighter' with research that refers to the broader question of government support for military projects in Flanders.

Much of the analysis in this advice note is dedicated to a description of instruments for government support of R&D in Flanders and other instruments for supporting Flemish economic policy. This description is extensive and covers exhaustively the subject matter. Indeed it might be helpful, given the extent of the report, to have an annex which would contain a glossary of acronyms and other names by which different funds and economic agencies are known. In addition, it would be helpful to have a listing of the degree to which allocations from these instruments can be monitored and scrutinised by Parliament.

As it is, this advice note seems to lack some clarity. It would perhaps have been helpful to have more discussion of concrete cases, since this would have helped to clarify between R&D projects which had a potential for leading to military projects and these which did not. But there is clearly an element of sensitivity since the note was written at a time when the subject matter was highly topical in the political world. Nevertheless the advice note did have a role to play in that it was very useful in its description of the instruments that were available both for government support of R & D and, more generally, Flemish economic policy. We suggest that in the future the black box labelled 'military' should be opened up at least to the extent of permitting the pursuit of 'humane' projects.

Cooperation agreement between the government of Croatia and the Flemish government

The Flemish Peace Institute produced an advisory note dated 7 May 2007 relating to a Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Croatia and the Flemish Government at the request of Flemish Minister Geert Bourgeois. The note offers a sober analysis of the political developments in Croatia since its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and the challenges the country still faces on the road to a full democracy that respects the rights of all members of Croatia's society. Croatia is also a candidate member of the European Union, which offers the context for the proposed agreement. The Peace Institute rightfully argues that the execution of the cooperation agreement should focus on those issue areas that contribute to overcoming obstacles on the way to full democracy and added the critical note that the document nowhere refers to durable peace and stability, which is one of the cornerstones of the EU.

Principles of good government in arms export control policies: the introduction of administrative time limits for the assessment of licences

As a brief, the policy-focused argument advocating reform contained in this document is an effective vehicle for transmitting some thoughtful recommendations. However, a greater rigour in describing the context of such recommendations as well as in drafting them would increase the effectiveness of the brief. Part of the problem lies in the confounding of the difference between principles of good governance and good government since the document starts with a legalistic definition of good government but in its course expands this to include standards of transparency which can be seen as a key element of good governance. Nevertheless, there is some excellent analysis drawing upon the experience of neighbouring countries and the justification for introducing administrative time limits on licence applications is explained in terms of the aspiration to improve government and governance standards as a matter of principle more than in terms of any concrete demand for greater transparency. The current status of the bureaucracy is not discussed nor is the attitude of the private sector towards such a move and both factors could complicate the decision to act on such policy advice. Nevertheless, this note reflects a start in the right direction.

4.6 Acknowledgement

The Scientific Council would like to acknowledge their appreciation of the full cooperation that they have received from the Director of the Peace Institute and its staff. We have been treated with the warmest personal consideration and it has been a pleasure for all of us to participate in a nascent intellectual community formed around the Peace Institute.

4.7 Conclusion

We are in agreement that the Peace Institute has made an excellent start, that it is fit for purpose and that it bids fair to achieve its goals of performing to the highest international standards in the interests of the Parliament, the Flemish people and the whole community.



#5

The Institute

5.1 Context

The decree: handbook for the Flemish Peace Institute

In its founding decree of the Flemish Peace Institute (7 May 2004), the Flemish Parliament entrusted the new para-parliamentary institution with four assignments: the conduct of fundamental and current peace research, the gathering and making available of information sources, providing information, and advising Parliament and the government.

Peace research, both fundamental scientific research and research that is geared towards current events, is the primary assignment for the Peace Institute. The research conducted is meant to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and just solutions to conflicts and to the institution of conditions that can assure sustainable peace.

One of the Peace Institute's tasks is to keep the Flemish Parliament, the civil society, and also the public at large informed about issues of peace and the prevention of violence and about the results of the performed research.

Finally, the Peace Institute has been empowered to formulate, either on its own initiative, or on initiative of the Flemish Parliament, or at the request of the Flemish Government, general or specific advisories. The decree explicitly identifies the Institute's advisory function to the Flemish Parliament with respect to international conventions and the policy letter from the minister competent in matters of arms trade, but both Parliament and the government can also in other matters call upon the expertise of Institute members. The Peace Institute itself can at all times formulate advisories on the basis of its research. In its fourfold mission, the Peace Institute targets a broad public. As a para-parliamentary institution, the Institute primarily serves the interests of the Flemish Parliament, providing support and assistance to the latter in the execution of its core duties. It supports Parliament in its core tasks. Among other duties, the Peace Institute assists the Flemish Parliament both with drawing up decrees and with the effective follow-up and control of the executive power relating to the transfer in 2003 of the competences in matters of import, export, and transit of arms.

At the same time, the Peace Institute addresses itself to the civil society and the public at large. For instance, via its Board of Directors, the Peace Institute keeps abreast of the general happenings in the civil society in Flanders: issues related to employers, employees, academic circles, peace movements, and political parties.

The Flemish Peace Institute aims at expanding into a source of reference that, within Flanders, provides information founded on scientific methodology and formulates advice on issues of peace.

Mission Statement

The Board of Directors has stated the mission of the Peace Institute in a Mission Statement unquestionably originating within a Flemish context yet passing beyond regional boundaries. The Institute employs established methods of peace research but is not reluctant to experiment with new approaches. The text emphasizes involvement of the civil society and the general public in the Institute's activities. The Mission Statement is a concise but rich and balanced text that can serve as a guiding thread in the continued future development of the Peace Institute.

“The Flemish Institute for Peace and the Prevention of Violence is an independent institute founded by the Flemish Parliament to advocate and promote a peace culture in Flanders and that is aimed at contributing to building peace in Europe and the world.

The Flemish Peace Institute joins a long tradition of promoting peace in the areas of peace economy, social defence, weapons control, control on the international arms trade, respect for human rights, and forms of peaceable conflict management.

The Flemish Peace Institute conducts and promotes peace research and places publications, advisories, and information at the disposal of the public and of the public authorities.

The Flemish Peace Institute is prepared to participate actively and in concreto in peace initiatives, in consultation with the civil society and the public authorities.

In the development of a Flemish peace culture, the Flemish Peace Institute pays due attention to a peace economy and peace education, as well as being mindful of new aspects for building towards peace, amongst which figure ethical, gender-sensitive, or ecological approaches.

The Flemish Peace Institute wishes to be an open house where all people are welcome.”

5.2

The Board of Directors

Composition

The Board of Directors of the Peace Institute is composed of 19 voting members from divergent sectors of the Flemish civil society. The members have been given a 5-year mandate and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament. In order to ensure an independent Institute of broad operating scope and possessed of the required expertise, the decree has provided for a balanced representation: six members seated in their own name nominated by the parties in the Flemish Parliament, three members nominated by the Flemish Inter-University Council, three members nominated by a voluntary cooperative partnership of Dutch-language peace organisations, and four members nominated by the Social-Economic Council of Flanders. The thus composed Board of Directors further co-opts three members.

On 23 January, date of the first meeting in 2007, the Board of Directors was composed of the following members:

Nelly Maes, chairwoman

Prof. Dr. Katlijn Malfliet

Prof. Dr. Jan Clement

Axel Delvoie

Freddy Sarens

Prof. Dr. Em. Erik Suy

Nominated by the political parties

Jan Dereymaeker

Els Dirix

Wim Beazar

Nominated by SERV

Prof. Dr. Gustaaf Geeraerts

Prof. Dr. Koen Vlassenroot

Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters

Nominated by VLIR

William Debruyne

Mich Crols

Gio De Weerd

Nominated by the Flemish peace movements

Walter Baeten

Prof. Dr. Philip Nauwelaerts, vice-chairman

Christophe Scheire

Co-opted members

In 2007, Mr Jan Dereymaeker resigned from the Board of Directors. Mr Jerry Crombez and Mr Jan Renders were welcomed as new members, nominated by the SERV.

New members are nominated by the bodies to be represented on the Board of Directors and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament.



Meetings

The meetings of the Board of Directors of the Flemish Peace Institute took place on 23 January, 26 February, 27 March, 7 May, 5 June, 17 September, 12 November and 18 December 2007. From 2 to 4 December 2007, a delegation of the Board of Directors paid a working visit to institutions in Paris that are operating in the same fields of activity as the Peace Institute.

Day-to-day Management

The decisions by the Board of Directors find their practical follow-up in the actions of the Institute's Daily Management, which consists of the chairman, vice-chairman, and the Director. The members of the Daily Management maintain close contact with the Institute's preparations for the directors' meetings, its workings and personnel policy.

5.3

The Scientific Council

As scientific work constitutes one of the basic pillars sustaining the working of the Peace Institute, the founding decree called for the creation of a Scientific Council to provide the Board of Directors and the Scientific Secretariat with substantive support in their research activities. As an advisory body of international composition, the Scientific Council evaluates the quality of the Peace Institute's research activities, advises the Board of Directors and the Scientific Secretariat on important trends in research about peace and security. Moreover, given its expertise, it may also be consulted in the course of ongoing research.

The Scientific Council is composed of the chairman of the Board of Directors, eight national and international specialists selected from academic circles and NGOs, and the Director of the Peace Institute. The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Scientific Council for a term of 5 years. The Scientific Council meets twice a year. In 2007, the Council met on 30 March and 19 October.

On 30 March 2007, the Scientific Council was composed of the following experts: Mrs. Dr. An Vranckx and Messrs. Bernard Adam, Martin Broek, Prof. Dr. Rik Coolsaet, Prof. Dr. Mark Duffield, Prof. Dr. John Groom, Prof. Dr. Luc Reychler, and Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders.

Messrs. Bernard Adam and Martin Broek resigned in 2007 and Mrs. Alyson JK Bailes and Prof. Dr. Heiner Hänggi were welcomed as new members of the Scientific Council.

Prof. Dr. John Groom is Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the University of Kent. He is chairman of the Scientific Council.

Alyson J.K. Bailes is guest professor of International Relations at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik and former Director of SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute).

Prof. Dr. Rik Coolsaet teaches International Politics and International Relations at the University of Ghent. He is also director of the research project Security and Global Governance of the RIIR.

Prof. Dr. Mark Duffield is professor of Development Politics at the University of Bristol.

Prof. Dr. Heiner Hänggi is Assistant Director and Head of Research with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in Switzerland.

Prof. Dr. Luc Reychler teaches international relations, prevention of violence and peace research at the University of Louvain. He is Director of the Centre for Peace Research and

Strategic Studies (CPRS) at the Institute for International and European Policy.

An Vranckx is guest professor at the Department of Third World Studies – University of Ghent.

Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders is Director of the Bio Weapons Prevention Project in Geneva.

5.4

The Scientific Secretariat



The Scientific Secretariat is the Peace Institute's operational centre. Researchers conduct their assignments in the offices of the House of Flemish Representatives, make preparations for setting up and developing the documentation centre, and prepare the advice notes.

At the proposal from the Board of Directors, the Flemish Parliament established the unit's human resources: a director, three researchers, a communications officer, and a secretary.

In 2007, the Secretariat counted the following members:

The Director

Tomas Baum

Researchers

Sara Depauw

Geert Castryck

Nils Duquet

Communication Officer

Wies De Graeve

Secretary

Until September 2007, Marjolein Delvou was engaged as secretarial collaborator at the Peace Institute.

On 1 September 2007, Margarida Ferro joined the Peace Institute as office manager.

The Peace Institute offers traineeships to give students the opportunity to become acquainted with a professional work environment, the House of Parliament, and the academic tasks of the Institute. In 2007, Tristan Terryn and Stefanie Corens were engaged as trainees to work at the Institute under the guidance of the Director.

5.5 External relations

5.5.1 Networking

Academic network

To assist in the research activities assigned to the Peace Institute, national and international contacts are necessary, for instance, in order to exchange information, develop networks, and engage in complementary research activities. In 2007, already existing contacts were further expanded and new valuable contacts were established with other institutes involved in peace research and international relations on the national and international levels.

We can refer specifically to national and international partners such as SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden), PRIO (International Peace Research Institute Oslo, Norway), GRIP (Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité, Brussels), IPIS (International Peace Information Service, Antwerp), Egmont - Koninklijk Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen, Brussels, BICC (Bonn International Centre for Conversion, Germany), the Clingendael Institute and CERI (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales), among which information was exchanged in various ways.

Via COST Action A 25, the Peace Institute took part in the activities of an academic international research network. The 'European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research' (COST) is an instrument that supports the collaboration between



European scientists and researchers. COST Action A25 ('European Small Arms and the Perpetuation of Violence') is a network of researchers that on the academic level studies the trade in small arms and light weapons. Amongst others, researchers from the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), the University of Bradford, and the Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix (GRIP) are part of this network.

From 12 to 15 September 2007, the staff of the Peace Institute attended the Pan-European Conference 'Making Sense of a Pluralist World' of the Standing Group on International Relations (SGIR) in Turin. The researchers and the Director took this opportunity to also present their research papers. Likewise, they attended, either as speakers or interested parties, a number of other national and international conferences.



On 2, 3 and 4 December 2007, a delegation from the Peace Institute paid a working visit to Paris. During this study trip, members of the Board of Directors and the Scientific Secretariat visited the Institute ESSEC-IRENE, the Flemish Representative in Paris, and CERI. The 'Institut de Recherche et d'Enseignement sur la Négociation en Europe (IRENE) was founded in 1996. The Institute carries on its activities within the broader structure of the ESSEC, Business School. Its work is oriented towards scientific research, publications, confer-

ences, and negotiations on post-conflict situations. Its action field is global in scope, with specific focus on Africa. The Institute's prime objective is to translate the acquired academic knowledge into practical mediation in a post-conflict situation. The Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI) is a research centre connected to the University of Sciences Po and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). It was founded in 1952 and is currently the largest centre for international relations in France. CERI is distinguished by its multidisciplinary approach, since it does not merely focus on political sciences but also on the fields of sociology, economy, anthropology, and history. During the visit to the Flemish representative in Paris, it became clear that there exists a potential link between UNESCO and the Peace Institute in the area of peace tourism and peace education.

Contacts with civil society

Aside from the parliamentary and academic community, also the civil society figures as an important partner and stakeholder of the Peace Institute. The Institute is, indeed, more than a centre of expertise; it is also a Flemish political-social institution. Structurally, this partnership is solidified by the strong representation of civil society organisations on the Institute's Board of Directors.

In addition, the Peace Institute is also developing additional informal contacts with the Flemish civil society. Contacts with this network are maintained through the dissemination of research results. The events organised by the Peace Institute in 2007 invariably could claim a broad representation of organisations engaged in issues of peace and sundry other matters of social import.

However, this flow of information is not merely one-way. From the very start, interaction and exchange of information and experience was visualised. For instance, the civil society was, both during the survey and the conference 'Peace in Flanders', a privileged interlocutor. For the qualitative part of the sociological research study, all social actors involved in the analysis were engaged in focus groups. At the conference 'Peace in Flanders', a wide representation from the civil society participated in the debates, not infrequently invited to introduce the discussions.

Furthermore, the Peace Institute keeps closely abreast of the peace activities in Flanders, and the Institute's collaborators were regularly present 'in the field': as active participant (for instance, the presentation of the prevention project 'Youth against violence' of the Kinderrechtenhuis and Jeugd&Vrede on 13 November 2007), as organisational support consultant (for instance, the conference 'Making business responsible in conflict regions...' on 25 October 2007), or as speaker (debate 'The Press in times of war. Objective observer or actively involved party?' organized by the Red Cross Flanders on 5 November 2007).

5.5.2 Events

On 15 March 2007, during a luncheon seminar, the annual report 'Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006' was presented in the Rik Wouters room at the Flemish Parliament. The report, containing facts and figures related to the import, export, and transit of military material in 2006, an analysis of these data, and a chapter on the problem of 'end-user' of these exported military goods, attracted great attention from members of Parliament and the press.

On 26 March 2007, the Peace Institute welcomed a diverse public of international stakeholders and experts to the seminar 'Flemish arms export policy in a European context', held at the Flemish Parliament. During the afternoon session of this seminar, collaborators of the Peace Institute presented their research results, together with the English versions of the reports on arms trade. This presentation was followed by a panel discussion of respondents that included Alyson JK Bailes, director of SIPRI and Dr. Gerrard Quille (DG External Policies of the European Parliament). The importance of the Institute's work within the broader European and international context was emphasized by the respondents and the public.

On 31 May, the Peace Institute drew up its report 'Peace in Flanders' for the Flemish Parliament. The presentation of the results of this sociological research study was attended by some one hundred invited guests from the political world and the civil society.

On 2 October 2007, in the course of the Flemish Peace Week, the Peace Institute hosted a wide and diversified audience representing policy makers, academics, and members of the civil society at the Flemish Parliament for the purpose of debating the results and subsequent analysis of the survey 'Peace in Flanders' and exploring practical initiatives. In two working groups and during a plenary closing session, the more than fifty attendees at the conference challenged one another with a variety of perspectives on the topic. In each working group, the facilitators got the ball rolling with a brief introduction. The two themes to be treated by the working groups were products of the survey results: the difference between what people think about peace and what they are actively doing to promote it, and the link that exists between international peace and peace within one's own civil society. In the closing session, the results arrived at by the two working groups were presented and a number of final conclusions formulated.

On 26 October 2007, the conference 'Responsabilisering van bedrijven in conflictregio's en landen met een zwakke overheid' – 'Making business responsible in conflict regions and countries with a weak government' was organized at the Peace Centre in Antwerp. This conference examined what government, the civil society, and the business world can do to encourage enterprises to promote good governance, respect for human rights and for the environment. The conference was made possible through a cooperative partnership agreement concluded amongst Economists for peace & security, the Province of Antwerp and the Peace Centre Antwerp, MO*, IOB, the Peace Institute, Steunpunt Vlaams Buitenlands Beleid (the Central Office of Flemish Foreign Policy), Stichting Vredeswetenschappen NL (the Foundation for Peace Sciences NL), Amnesty International, KAURI and IPIS.

5.5.3 Communication

House style

For the design of its house style, the Peace Institute teams up with Gramma nv. Gramma is a network partner of the Total Identity Group and is specialized in strategic searches in the areas of identity, image, and positioning, and the resulting visual and communicative implications. The sober logo with only its word mark and the complementary imagery are to be printed on all of the publications and materials issued by the Peace Institute.

Website

The website of the Peace Institute is the central vehicle for information and communication. Consequently, all of the Institute's communication carriers clearly state the website address. The updating and the further development of the site are constant points of attention. Here also, transparency and a restrained simplicity are primary elements in both structure and design.

In 2007, the site was further complemented with extra pages on research, a more developed documentation section with publicly accessible publications issued by the Institute, and a well-organized agenda platform.

www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu

www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu

Digital Newsletter

In 2007, electronic newsletters were regularly sent to subscribers. By subscribing to a **newsletter**, these parties are given the opportunity to keep abreast of the Institute's activities or new publications.

Brochures

Aside from the release of reports, advice notes, and academic papers by the Institute, the year 2007 also ushered in the development of publicly accessible publications wherein the Institute's work is summarized.



Amongst such materials, conference reports and an explanatory brochure detailing the results of the 'Peace in Flanders' survey were disseminated and published on the Institute's website.

5.5.4 The Peace Institute in the press

Press communiques

08/02/2007	'Vlaamse wapenexport 2006' (<i>Flemish arms export 2006</i>)
01/03/2007	'Overheidssteun aan militaire projecten' (<i>Government support for military projects</i>)
15/03/2007	Jaarrapport 'Vlaamse Buitenlandse Wapenhandel 2006' (<i>Annual report Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006</i>)
31/05/2007	'Vlaanderen neemt geen vrede met geweld' (<i>Flanders rejects violence</i>)
24/09/2007	'Goed bestuur in het controlebeleid op wapenhandel' (<i>Good governance in the control policy on arms trade</i>)

Audiovisual media coverage

15/03/2007	'Jaarrapport Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2006' (<i>Annual Report on the Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006</i>) Radio 1: Voor de dag, Nieuws, De Wandelgangen Q Music/4 FM: News (interview with director Tomas Baum)
15/03/2007	'Jaarrapport Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2006' (<i>Annual Report on the Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006</i>) Canvas Terzake (interview with director Tomas Baum)
25/03/2007	'Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel' (<i>Flemish Foreign Arms Trade</i>) Radio 1: Het Salon (interview with Wies De Graeve)
06/04/2007	'Inschatting en nabeschuwing bij ontvoering Britse mariniers in Iran' (<i>Assessment and a summing-up on the capturing of British sailors by Iran</i>) Radio 1: Lopende Zaken (interview with director Tomas Baum)
31/05/2007	'Vrede in Vlaanderen' (<i>Peace in Flanders</i>) Radio 1: Lopende Zaken (interview with director Tomas Baum)
13/10/2007	'De Nobelprijs voor de vrede voor Al Gore' (<i>The Peace Nobel Prize for Al Gore</i>) Radio 1: Ongehoorde meningen (interview with director Tomas Baum)

Newspaper coverage

- 09/02/2007 'Vlaanderen voert kwart meer wapens uit'
(*Flanders exports one quarter more arms*) – De Morgen
- 09/02/2007 'Vlaanderen voert derde meer wapens uit'
(*Flanders exports one third more arms*) – De Standaard
- 10/02/2007 'Vlaanderen exporteert geen wapens' (*Flanders does not export arms*) – De Standaard
- 02/03/2007 'Steun aan militair onderzoek moet kunnen'
(*Support for military research must be feasible*) – De Tijd
- 02/03/2007 'Spirit stelt veto tegen steun militair onderzoek'
(*Spirit vetoes support for military research*) – De Standaard
- 02/03/2007 'Soepeler steun voor militair onderzoek'
(*More flexible support for military research*) – Gazet van Antwerpen
- 06/03/2007 'Vredesinstituut wil geen Vlaamse steun aan militair onderzoek'
(*Peace Institute opposed to Flemish support for military research*) – De Morgen
- 16/03/2007 'Vlaanderen verliest zicht op eigen wapenuitvoer'
(*Flanders loses track of its own arms exports*) – Metro
- 16/03/2007 'Jaarrapport Vlaams Vredesinstituut'
(*Annual report of the Flemish Peace Institute*) – Belang van Limburg
- 16/03/2007 'Regering weet niet waar Vlaamse wapens terechtkomen' (*Government does not know the final destination for its arms exports*) – De Morgen
- 16/03/2007 'Wapenexport stijgt' (*Arms exports on the rise*) – Gazet van Antwerpen
- 16/03/2007 'Vlaamse Regering onder vuur voor wapenhandel'
(*Flemish government under fire for arms trading*) – De Tijd
- 16/03/2007 'La Flandre a vendu beaucoup d'armes en 2006'
(*Flanders sold a lot of arms in 2006*) – L'Echo
- 22/03/2007 'Armes errantes' (*Errant weapons*) – Tendances
- 01/04/2007 'Parlement of de straat' (*Parliament or the street*) – Koppelteken (Globelink)
- 01/06/2007 'Meerderheid Vlamingen vindt geweld geen oplossing'
(*The majority of Flemish people find violence not a solution*) – De Morgen
- 01/06/2007 'Vlaming zegt voor vrede te zijn, maar doet er weinig voor'
(*The Flemish population declares itself for peace, but makes little active effort to promote it*) – De Standaard
- 04/06/2007 'Saoedi-Arabië ook klant bij Vlaamse en Waalse wapenindustrie'
(*Saudi-Arabia also a customer of the Flemish and Walloon weapons industry*) – De Morgen
- 20/06/2007 'Vrede blijft een werkwoord' (*Peace remains a verb*) – Kerk + Leven
- 03/07/2007 'Vlaanderen over vrede' (*Flanders about peace*) – Uitpers
- 03/10/2007 'Verkleuterling, verschraling en meer' –
(*Infantisation, impoverishment, etc.*) Indymedia
- 31/10/2007 'Kernwapens op de dool' (*Nuclear weapons gone astray*) – Gazet van Antwerpen



#6

Strategic plan

In consultation with collaborators, members of the management team, members of the Scientific Council, and external experts, the Director in 2007 drew up a strategic plan with outlines and strategic perspectives for the development and evolution of the Peace Institute up to the end of 2010.

Its founding decree entrusts the Institute with a fourfold mission: the Peace Institute engages in scientific research, documents relevant information sources, and informs and advises the Flemish Parliament and the public at large on questions of peace. The Peace Institute's objectives thus encompass scientific as well as socio-political endeavours. In order to realize these assignments, a strategic plan was drawn up wherein the Institute's mission, the research paradigms, the general and specific objectives and their implementation were outlined until the year 2010.

6.1

General objectives

The Flemish Peace Institute, from an entrenched position within the Flemish institutions and through scientific research, aims to contribute to a more peaceful and peaceable global society, performing its appointed tasks with full appreciation for the quality of the studies it undertakes and in dialogue with Flemish and international stakeholders.

- The Institute's activities are grounded in scientific research, at the academic level, with concern and appreciation for quality and due attention to international contacts.
- The Peace Institute advises the Flemish Parliament and the Flemish Government on issues pertaining to peace. The Institute provides information and documentation and also issues advisories.
- With the results obtained through its research, the Peace Institute wishes to support the organised civil society associations. In addition, the Institute aims to reach out to the general public by providing information about the research it conducts.

6.2

Research paradigms

The concern to eliminate or prevent violence identifies peace research as a scientific pursuit with normative basic principles. However, peace research is not just an activity directed towards the achievement of certain values but likewise aims at the solution of specific problems. In that sense, it is an applied science endeavour: the results of the research are useful because of the possibilities they imply for establishing a peace-oriented policy. Given the complex and multi-layered nature of violence and peace, any research into the issue of peace is, by its very nature, inherently multidisciplinary. Research pertains equally to data analysis regarding arms control, psychological explanations of violent behaviour, instruments for peaceful emancipation, legal approaches to reconciliation, structural aspects of violence, economic motives for conflict, tally of the victims, etc.

Initially, research into the subject of Peace was seen only as the absence of violence in general and (nuclear) war in particular. The combination of a minimalist agenda (the prevention of war) and a positive methodology means that claim to scientific legitimacy has become more evident, yet many aspects of the research field thus fall under the radar. It is possible to pursue a broader and, especially, a deeper research agenda that will include cultural and structural aspects in its analysis. The Peace Institute embraces this broad (European) approach and, in this respect, will endeavour to proffer a specific and thematic fulfilment.

6.3

Strategic objectives and implementation

1 The Peace Institute conducts scientific research conform to international standards and imbues it with social relevance within the Flemish society.

The Institute adopts a multidisciplinary approach to research and conducts its research in programme form:

- **Arms Trade and Arms Production programme:** What kinds of weapons are being manufactured in Flanders? Who buys and uses them? What is the Flemish administration's policy? And what is happening in the arms trade worldwide? The Peace Institute monitors the trade and traffic of the Flemish military technology and related trends in Europe and the world. The Institute holds to the belief that control over the proliferation of arms is one of the important preconditions for peace and stability in the world.
- **Peace in Society programme:** 'International' Peace in international relations is of global importance, but everybody is also involved in a 'Inter-personal' peace process as it evolves relevant to our families, our neighbourhoods, our cities. The programme 'Peace in Society' examines people's thinking and their interpretations concerning issues of peace, violence, and society. This attitude is one of the determining factors of how we interact with one another in our daily lives. The Institute wishes to provide both the individual and society as a whole with a stimulus towards the pursuit of a non-violent mode of co-existence.
- **Political Violence programme:** Movements that claim a position within an existing political establishment, or that want to change the existing order, clash with the political elite and, possibly, also with other movements with which they come into contact and whose interests they may appear to, or do, threaten. Instances where that kind of conflict turns manifestly violent are considered subjects for this research programme. The researchers set off in search of the dynamics and mechanics governing political violence. In the process, they are mindful of the situation prior to, during, and following the conflict. The deeper causes, the internal dynamic, and the reaction by the political elite are being examined, amongst a host of other topics.

2 The Peace Institute strives towards attaining impeccable academic standards in its endeavours and, for that reason, devotes special care to quality control and the evaluation of its activities.

- For what concerns internal quality control, an on-going evaluation process is foreseen within the Scientific Secretariat, the Daily Management, and the Board of Directors.
- The Scientific Council, a team composed of international specialists, evaluates on an annual basis the entire complement of scientific activities undertaken by the Institute.
- The Flemish Parliament will conduct an evaluation of the Peace Institute in 2010, five years after the commencement of its operations.

3 The Peace Institute supports the activities of the Flemish Parliament and of the Flemish Government.

The advisory function is the Institute's most direct service to Parliament and its political environment. The Peace Institute may decide to formulate advisories on its own initiative, or it may issue advice at the request of Parliament or the Government.

- The Institute's standpoints are published in advice notes.
- The Peace Institute also releases background notes. No standardized advice is linked to these background notes; they simply outline the state of affairs about a specific topic to feed the ongoing peace debate.

4 In its capacity of specialised data centre, the Peace Institute gathers and publishes pertinent information.

- The Institute is building up a collection of documentation on 'Peace Research' at the 'Informatheek', the information centre of the Flemish Parliament. This collection includes relevant literature and documentary material originating from the research fields wherein the Flemish Peace Institute is, either directly or indirectly, active.
- Members of Parliament, policy makers, the general public, and other researchers have access to the assembled documents in the collection.

5 The Peace Institute aims to publish its research results and advisories and stimulate and participate in political and social debates. In this manner, the Peace Institute will develop also its own particular profile.

- The Peace Institute devotes attention to offering frequent, open, and unambiguous communications about its activities and its points of view. In the process, the Institute adheres to its own house style and disseminates all communications in both the Dutch and the English languages.
- By means of its e-communication (newsletter) and website (www.vlaamsvredesinsti-tuut.eu) the Peace Institute is able to assemble and convey information of and about all aspects of its mission in a readily accessible forum.
- The Institute itself publishes documentation and distributes it both in printed form and via its own website. The most important forms of publication are research reports, advice notes, and background notes. The Institute's researchers likewise have recourse to external academic publication channels.

- The Institute's working methodologies, standpoints, and research results will also be translated in a form that is accessible to the general public and thus made available to all interested parties.
 - In order to facilitate the exchange of ideas, the Institute itself organises conferences and seminars. In addition, the Institute actively participates in debates and conferences that, either on the domestic or international planes, are being organised by other organisations.
- 6 Of fundamental importance to the Peace Institute are contacts with other research institutes, both domestically and abroad,** and this, amongst other purposes, in order to exchange information, establish networks, and engage in complementary research work.
 - 7 The civil society is one of the Institute's important stakeholders. It is in an especially favourable position to make practical use of the Institute's research results and to serve as mediator for the** Peace Institute within its own field of operations.
 - 8 The Peace Institute strives to conduct a thoughtful, purposeful, efficient, and transparent financial policy.** The long-term budget for the years 2007-2011 has been approved by the Flemish Parliament. The Institute aims to add one more member to its research team by 2009.



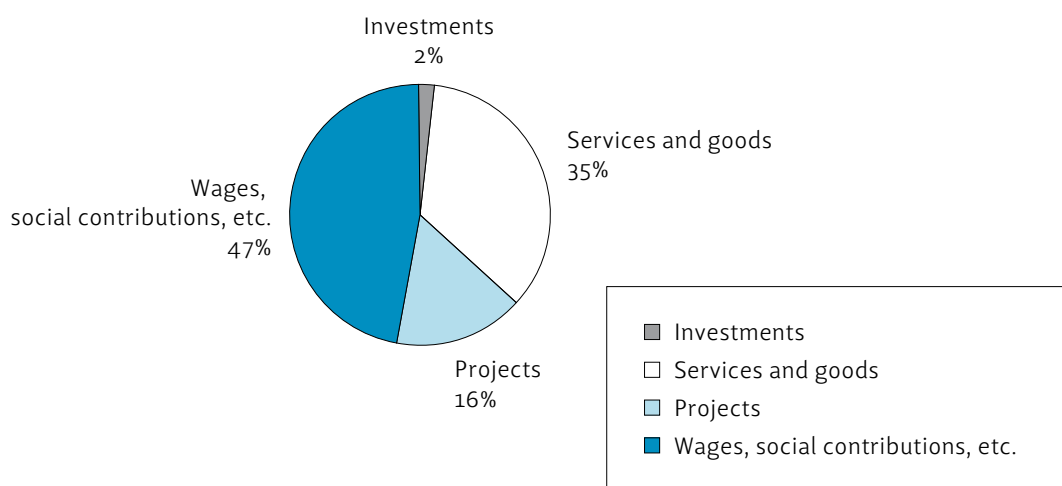
#7

Financial report

In cooperation with the services of the General Secretariat of the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Peace Institute conducts an autonomous budgetary and economic accounting system in SAP. This implies that, aside from the separate budget, also a separate annual account is drawn up. The Flemish Parliament assigns an annual operating allotment to the Institute and, at the proposal of the Board of Directors, adopts its budget and accounts. The Institute's accounts are audited by the Audit Office.

In 2007, the Peace Institute was allocated a budget of 929,595 EUR. The Financial Statement submitted by the Flemish Peace Institute for the budget year 2007 was examined on 28 May 2008 and subsequently approved by the plenary meeting of the Flemish Parliament.

Distribution of expenses – budget results 2007





#8

List of publications 2007

8.1

Publications in Dutch

Research Reports

- *Een vergelijkende studie van het wapenexportcontrolebeleid: Vlaanderen en zijn burens*
Authors: Geert Castryck, Sara Depauw, Nils Duquet
Publication: Brussels, 26 March 2007
ISBN 9789078864011 – 162 p.
- *Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2006*
Authors: Nils Duquet, Geert Castryck, Sara Depauw
Publication: Brussels, 15 March 2007
ISBN 9789078864042 – 98 p.
- *Vrede in Vlaanderen*
Authors: Joris Verhulst, Jeroen Van Laer, Peter Van Aelst, Stefaan Walgrave
Publication: Brussels, 31 May 2007
ISBN 9789078864035 – 138 p.

Background notes

- *De daling van de Vlaamse vergunde wapenexport in 2005: kadering en hypothesen*
Publication: Brussels, 5 October 2007
- *De Darfur-kwestie: een status quaestionis*
Publication: Brussels, 21 June 2007

Advices

- *Nauwere samenwerking om exportcontrole te verbeteren*
Publication: Brussels, 23 January 2007
- *Overheidssteun aan militaire projecten in Vlaanderen*
Publication: Brussels, 26 February 2007

- *Samenwerkingsakkoord tussen de Regering van Kroatië en de Vlaamse Regering*
Publication: Brussels, 7 May 2007
- *Principes van goed bestuur inzake wapenhandel: het vooropstellen van administratieve termijnen in de licentieprocedure*
Publication: Brussels, 24 September 2007
- *Advies bij de beleidsbrief 2007-'08 van de minister bevoegd voor buitenlandse wapenhandel*
Publication: Brussels, 12 November 2007

Annual report

- *Jaarverslag 2006*
Publication: Brussels, 17 September 2007
ISBN 9789078864110 – 67 p.

Brochures

- *Conferentieverslag Vrede en Economie*
Publication: Brussels, 20 January 2007
- *Vrede in Vlaanderen*
Publication: Brussels, 2 October 2007
- *Conferentieverslag Vrede in Vlaanderen*
Publication: Brussels, 15 November 2007
- *SIPRI Yearbook 2007 – Armaments, Disarmament and International Security – (Samenvatting in het Nederlands)*
Publication: Brussels, 25 October 2007

8.2

Publications in English

Research reports

- *Profile of foreign trade in military goods and the defence-related industry in Flanders*
Authors: Geert Castryck, Sara Depauw, Nils Duquet
Publication: Brussels, 26 March 2007
ISBN 9789078864080 – 98 p.
- *The Flemish Arms Export Policy: an analysis of the legal framework*
Authors: Geert Castryck, Sara Depauw, Nils Duquet
Publication: Brussels, 26 March 2007
ISBN 9789078864097 – 134 p.
- *Benchmarking Arms Export Controls: a region and its neighbours*
Authors: Geert Castryck, Sara Depauw, Nils Duquet
Publication: Brussels, 26 March 2007
ISBN 9789078864028 – 160 p.
- *Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006*
Authors: Nils Duquet, Geert Castryck, Sara Depauw
Publication: Brussels, 15 March 2007
ISBN 9789078864059 – 96 p.
- *Peace in Flanders*
Authors: Joris Verhulst, Jeroen Van Laer, Peter Van Aelst, Stefaan Walgrave
Publication: Brussels, 31 May 2007
ISBN 9789078864103 – 138 p.

Background notes

- *The Darfur crisis: a status quaestionis*
Publication: Brussels, 21 June 2007
- *The decline of Flemish arms export in 2005: testing hypotheses*
Publication: Brussels, 5 October 2007

Advices

- *Enhancing cooperation to strengthen export controls*
Publication: Brussels, 23 January 2007
- *Government support for military projects in Flanders*
Publication: Brussels, 26 February 2007
- *Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Croatia and the Flemish Government*
Publication: Brussels, 7 May 2007
- *Principles of good government in arms export control policies: the introduction of administrative time limits for the assessment of licences*
Publication: Brussels, 24 September 2007
- *Advice concerning the policy letter 2007-'08 of the minister competent for foreign arms trade*
Publication: Brussels, 12 November 2007

Annual Report

- *Annual Report 2006*
Publication: Brussels, 17 September 2007
ISBN 9789078864127 – 67 p.

Brochures

- *Conference report Peace and Economy*
Publication: Brussels, 20 January 2007
- *Peace in Flanders*
Publication: Brussels, 2 October 2007
- *Conference report Peace in Flanders*
Publication: Brussels, 15 November 2007



#9

Activities overview

- 12-20/01/2007 'The role of Europe in the Israeli-Palestine conflict', Trebnitz (facilitator Tomas Baum)
- 15/03/2007 Presentation annual report '*Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2006*', Flemish Parliament, Brussels
- 22-25/03/2007 'The role of Europe in the Israeli-Palestine conflict', Talitha Kumi (facilitator Tomas Baum)
- 03/03/2007 'The Flemish Peace Institute', Vredeshuis Aalst (lecture by Tomas Baum)
- 26/03/2007 Seminar 'Flemish arms export policy in a European context', Flemish Parliament, Brussels (lectures by Sara Depauw, Nils Duquet, and Geert Castryck)
- 22/04/2007 Presentation of the Peace Institute on Flanders Day, Flemish Parliament, Brussels
- 28-29/05/2007 COST Action A 25 conference, Working group 2&3, Nicosia (lecture by Nils Duquet)
- 31/05/2007 Presentation of report 'Peace in Flanders', Flemish Parliament, Brussels
- 12-15/09/2007 Pan-European Conference 'Making Sense of a Pluralist World' – Standing Group on International Relations, Turin (lectures by Tomas Baum, Sara Depauw, Nils Duquet, and Geert Castryck)
- 02/10/2007 Conference 'Peace in Flanders', Flemish Parliament, Brussels
- 20-21/10/2007 'Annual Millennium Conference: Peace in IR' – London School of Economics (lecture by Tomas Baum)
- 26/10/2007 Conference 'Responsabilisering van bedrijven in conflictregio's en landen met een zwakke overheid' (*Making business responsible in conflict regions and in countries with weak government*), Antwerp (lecture by Nils Duquet)
- 05/11/2007 Debate 'Pers in oorlogstijd. Objectief waarnemer of actief betrokken?' (*The Press in times of war. Objective observer or actively involved party?*) – Red Cross Flanders, Ghent (panel with contribution by Tomas Baum)
- 10/11/2007 Debate 'Na de koude oorlog de nano oorlog?' (*After the Cold War the Nano War?*), Festival Nano Nu, Flemish Parliament, Brussels (panel with contribution by Tomas Baum)
- 24/11/2007 'Vrede of geweld, zit het in onze genen?' (*Peace or violence, our genetic inheritance?*) – Doctors for Peace and the Peace Centre, Antwerp (lecture by Tomas Baum)
- 03/12/2007 Working visit Flemish representation and ESSEC-IRENE, Paris
- 04/12/2007 Working visit CERI (Sciences Po), Paris
- 10/12/2007 'Technologie en geweld: de rol van wetenschappers in een machtspeel' (*Technology and violence: the role of scientists in a power play*) – Studium generale University of Antwerp (lecture by Tomas Baum)

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