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Annual report 2012

**Flemish Peace Institute
2012 Annual Report**

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Foreword

In 2012 the European Union received the Nobel Peace Prize *‘for transforming most of Europe from a continent of war into a continent of peace’*. The response to this prize was two-sided: although many were quick to recognise the EU’s historic achievements, questions were raised about the Union’s current policies. Flanders, in the centre of this ‘continent of peace’ has a special relationship with the peace idea because of its history. Yet today it is also confronted with challenging peace questions, at international level as well as within its own society.

Each year the Flemish Peace Institute, as an independent institute of the Flemish Parliament for research on peace issues, publishes a report to the Parliament about its activities. As established in the founding Act of the Flemish Peace Institute, these activities include conducting scientific research, providing advice, documentation and information.

Looking to the past, in 2012 the Institute continued to prepare for commemorating of the centenary of the First World War. Flanders’ ambition is to spread a message of peace during its commemoration and remembrance activities. Many of those involved are well aware that this is not a self-evident point. The Flemish Peace Institute has developed and disseminated a clear vision for a pluralistic approach to commemoration and remembrance in 2012.

Arms trade and production is a crucial Flemish competence in the realm of peace and security. In 2012 the Flemish Parliament for the first time adopted its own Arms Trade Act, against the international backdrop of the Arab upheavals and negotiations on an International Arms Trade Treaty at UN level. There was also political and social debate last year over whether or not to approve arms exports, specifically for the Arab world. At the same time, the rising tensions over Iran’s suspected nuclear programme illustrated the importance of controls on dual-use products that can be used for civilian and military purposes. The Flemish Peace Institute closely monitored all such developments relating to arms trade and production.

Questions about peace and violence in our society were raised inter alia by headline-grabbing incidents involving firearms. In 2012 the issue of whether the Belgian Weapons Act should be be tightened up became topical in the wake of Amrani’s deadly raid in Liège. Meanwhile the Flemish Peace Institute has positioned itself as an centre of expertise on the trade, possession and use of firearms, and in 2012 it provided well-founded analyses and advice to policy-makers and the public.

In the social context, violence by and against youth points to the special challenges involved in developing a peaceful society. In 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute published research results and formulated advice on this issue, analyzing the problem and providing explanations. With a view to supporting long-term solutions, continuing attention was devoted to the Peace Education theme.

The 2012 annual report portrays the development of the Flemish Peace Institute in the past year based on an overview of research results, advice notes, and information and communications work. Firstly we give an overview of the Flemish Peace Institute’s activities. Then we discuss its actual work: the research programmes, activities in support of the work of Parliament, and the evaluation report of the Scientific Council. Finally, this annual report describes the main organizational developments at the Institute including an overview of events, publications, media relations and networking activities. With this report we aim to provide a clear overview of our work as a para-parliamentary institution to the Flemish Parliament.

Tomas Baum
Director

1 The Institute

1.1 Context

The Act: guidelines for the Flemish Peace Institute

In the founding Act (7 May 2004) of the Flemish Peace Institute, the Flemish Parliament laid down four tasks for the new para-parliamentary institution: to conduct fundamental and topical peace research, to collect information sources and make them available to the general public, to disseminate information, and to advise the Parliament and Government.

Peace research, covering both fundamental scientific research and research that responds to current events, is the primary task of the Flemish Peace Institute. The research we do is designed to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and equitable solutions to conflicts, and to establishing the conditions for a lasting peace.

Another of the Flemish Peace Institute's tasks is to inform the Flemish Parliament, civil society, and also the general public about peace and the prevention of violence, and on the results of research carried out. It is also tasked with creating forums where experts, policy makers, and members of civil society can meet with each other and discuss questions of peace.

Finally, the Flemish Peace Institute has been empowered to formulate general or specific advice, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Flemish Parliament. The Flemish Act of Parliament explicitly defines the Institute's advisory function to the Flemish Parliament regarding the annual report of the Government of Flanders on arms trade, but Parliament can also call upon the expertise of the Flemish Peace Institute in other matters. The Flemish Peace Institute itself can at any time formulate advice on the basis of its research.

On 24 October 2012, the plenary of the Flemish Parliament adopted the proposal for a Flemish Act of Parliament made by Mr Jan Peumans, 'amending [...] the Flemish Act of Parliament of 7 May on the foundation of a Flemish Institute for Peace and the Prevention of Violence at the Flemish Parliament [...]'. This proposal for this new decree flowed from decisions made by the Extended Bureau of 24 October 2011 regarding the role and essential aims of para-parliamentary institutions. A number of gaps in the founding decree were dealt with in the process. The amendments in the new Act create, inter alia, modalities in the Rules of the Flemish Parliament to allow parliamentary committees also to give taskings for research and advice to the Flemish Peace Institute. Archival work, the nature of responsibility in and out of court, and the possibilities for collaboration with Parliament have also been better regulated.

Target audience and mission

In its fourfold mission, the Flemish Peace Institute targets a broad audience. As a para-parliamentary institution the Institute first and foremost serves the Flemish Parliament, providing support in the execution of its core duties. Among other tasks the Flemish Peace Institute assists the Flemish Parliament in drawing up Acts of Parliament, and in the effective monitoring and oversight of executive action flowing from the transfer in 2003 of competence for imports, exports, and transit of arms.

The Flemish Peace Institute also targets civil society and the general public. Through its Board of Directors, the Flemish Peace Institute keeps a finger on the pulse of the broader social environment in Flanders – employers, workers, academia, peace movements, and political parties.

The Flemish Peace Institute's mission can be defined as follows, based on the founding Act and the 2011-2014 strategic plan:

To work systematically for a more peaceful local and international society, peace issues must be thoroughly analyzed and, after an open debate, measures must be taken within the political and/or social structures. Within its sphere of expertise the Flemish Peace Institute guarantees the production of in-depth analyses, the provision of information and the organization of debate on the issues, making recommendations for steps towards the promotion of peace and the prevention of violence.

1.2 The Board of Directors

Composition

The Board of Directors of the Flemish Peace Institute is composed of 19 voting members from various sectors of Flemish civil society. The members hold a 5-year mandate and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament. In order to guarantee an independent institute with a broad platform and the necessary expertise, the founding Act provides for a balanced representation: six members seated in their own name who are nominated by the parties in Flemish Parliament, three members recommended by the Flemish Inter-university Council, three members recommended by a voluntary cooperative partnership of Dutch-language peace organizations, and four members recommended by the Flanders Social and Economic Council. The Board of Directors thus constituted further co-opts three more members. In composing the Flemish Peace Institute's Board of Directors, the principle of balanced representation between men and women in advisory and administrative bodies is applied.

On 23 January 2012, the date of its first meeting in 2012, the Board of Directors was composed of the following members:

For the political parties:

Mr Freddy Sarens
Mrs Monica Van Kerrebroeck
Mr Jan Clement
Mr Axel Delvoie
Mr Raf Burm
Mrs Anna Maria Charlier

For VLIR (Flemish Inter-University Council):

Mr Jacobus Delwaide
Mr Philippe Nauwelaerts (Vice-chairman)
Mrs Gita Deneckere

For the peace movements:

Mr Walter Baeten
Mr Philippe Haeyaert
Mr Hans Lammerant

For SERV (Flanders Social and Economic Council):

Mr Jean Boulogne
Mrs Els Dirix
Mr Guy Putman
Mr Patrick Develtere

Co-opted:

Mrs Nelly Maes (Chair)
Mrs Brigitte Herremans
Mrs Olivia Rutazibwa

In 2012 Mr Walter Baeten and Mr Hans Lammerant resigned from the Board of Directors. Mr William De Bruyn was welcomed as a new member.

Meetings

In 2012 the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Flemish Peace Institute took place on 23 January, 5 March, 23 April, 11 June, 12 September, 10 September and 29 October respectively.

Daily Management

Decisions made by the Board of Directors are put into practice through the work of the Daily Management, which consists of the chairman, vice-chairman, and the Director of the Flemish Peace Institute. The members of the Daily Management are closely involved in the Institute's preparations for the meetings of the Board, its activities, and its personnel policy.

1.3 *The Scientific Council*

As scientific research constitutes one of the basic pillars sustaining the activities of the Flemish Peace Institute, the founding Act provided for a Scientific Council to give the Board of Directors and the Scientific Secretariat substantive support in their research activities. As an advisory body of international composition, the Scientific Council evaluates the quality of the Flemish Peace Institute's research activities and advises the Board of Directors as well as the Scientific Secretariat on important trends in research about peace and security. Given its expertise, it may also be consulted in the course of ongoing research.

The Scientific Council is composed of the Chair of the Board of Directors, eight national and international specialists selected from academic circles and NGOs, and the Director of the Flemish 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 2012, the Council met on 23 March and 19 October.

In 2012, the Scientific Council was composed of the following members:

Alyson J.K. Bailes – Adjunct Professor in Political Science at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik. Ms Bailes chairs the Council.

Prof . John Groom - Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the University of Kent.

Prof . Sven Biscop - Director of the Security and Global Governance Programme for Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations - and Coordinator of Higher Studies in Defence and Security.

Prof . Mark Duffield - Professor of Development Politics at the University of Bristol.

Prof . Elise Féron - Senior Lecturer in International Conflict Analysis at the University of Kent and the Brussels School of International Studies

Prof . Wolfgang Wagner - Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU).

Prof . Elspeth Guild - Professor of European Migration Law at the University of Nijmegen and Guest Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Prof . Antoon Vandavelde - Professor with the Centre for Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy and Dean of the Higher Institute of Philosophy at KU Leuven.

1.4 *The Scientific Secretariat*

The Scientific Secretariat is the Flemish Peace Institute's operational centre. In the premises of the House of Flemish Representatives the researchers pursue their work, the documentation centre is further developed, and advisory notes are prepared.

In 2012, the Secretariat was composed of the following members:

Director

Tomas Baum

Researchers

Sara Depauw

Nils Duquet

Maarten Van Alstein

Marjolein Muys (until May 2012)

Communications Officer

Wies De Graeve

Office Manager

Margarida Ferro

The Flemish Peace Institute offers internships to give students - local and from abroad - the opportunity to get acquainted with a professional work environment, with the Flemish Parliament, and with the academic tasks of the Institute. In 2012 Bram Vercamer (Belgium) and Milou Dubois (Netherlands) worked as trainees at the Flemish Peace Institute under the supervision of its staff.

In 2012 the various aspects of the arms trade were a frequent topic in the news. The intensifying and continuous upheavals in the Arab world highlighted the complexity of the arms trade: the undesirable end-use of exported equipment, the weighing of criteria relating to human rights and regional stability, and the challenge of anticipating and responding to volatile situations. At the legislative level a Flemish Act of Parliament on arms trade was ratified by the Flemish Parliament, designed inter alia to transpose European regulations on this issue. At the United Nations, negotiations in July 2012 for a first-ever Arms Trade Treaty were unsuccessful. At domestic level, 2012 was a turbulent year where the trade in and use of weapons were concerned. In the wake of the horrific incident at Liège in December 2011, Parliament tried to limit or adapt the list of weapons that are freely available in our country. The use of certain types of (semi-automatic) weapons for sports purposes was also a subject of political and social debate.

The Flemish Peace Institute examines legislation and policy on the international arms trade and monitors the facts and figures of arms production and arms trade in Flanders. Since 2003, the regions have been responsible in Belgium for the import, export and transit of strategic goods. The Institute focuses in this context on three types of products: military equipment, firearms and dual-use items. Military equipment comprises arms or parts of arms that are used in a military context. Firearms make up a special category, since not only the armed forces and the police, but also civilians can buy, own and use them. Dual-use items were not developed specifically for military purposes but may nevertheless have a military application. Increasingly, regulation in these fields is taking on a European and international character; which explains why the Flemish Peace Institute closely monitors the regional, European and international situation.

Details of the Institute's publications, networking and activities within this research programme can be found elsewhere in this annual report. The following sections summarize the aims and content of the Institute's research activities under each related project.

2.1 *Military equipment*

2.1.1 *Annual report on the Flemish foreign arms trade*

The Flemish Peace Institute continually monitors the licences for import, export and transit of military equipment that are issued and denied by the Flemish authorities. Each spring, the Institute publishes an annual report with figures, analyses and interpretation of developments in the Flemish foreign arms trade. On 23 May 2012, the annual report 'Flemish foreign arms trade 2011' was published and delivered to the Flemish Parliament's Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation.

Imports

In 2011, the Flemish authorities issued 368 licences for imports of arms. These licences had a combined value of 18.3 million euro; thus arms imports were on the same scale as in 2010. Only one licence application was denied.

Arms import licences in Flanders primarily involved two types of products: (1) firearms and accessories, and (2) military vehicles and components. Licences were also issued in 2011 on a smaller scale for imports of fire control systems, military equipment for dissemination of toxic agents, law enforcement equipment, and software and/or hardware.

The import licences for military vehicles and components had a combined value of 9.4 million euro. These vehicles and components came from Italy, the United States, Germany and France. Licences were mainly requested by the Flemish industry and also to a lesser extent by dealers and private individuals.

Licences for firearms and accessories had a combined value of 7.8 million euro and were mainly requested by dealers and private individuals. The value of the licensed imports of firearms and accessories increased by 11% compared with 2010. This increase was entirely due to the imports of firearms (mainly from the United States): in comparison to 2010, the value of licensed imports of firearms doubled to 2.1 million euro. The value of licensed imports of ammunition remained rather stable at 4.2 million euro.

Exports

In 2011, Flanders issued 308 licences for arms exports. No application for an arms export licence was denied. With a combined value of 200.9 million euro, the value of licensed arms exports in 2011 was significantly lower than in previous years. The Flemish defence-related industry - which is heavily oriented toward the European market – seems thus to have felt the squeeze from the economic crisis and concomitant cutbacks in defence spending.

As in previous years, licences worth a substantial amount (92 million euro) were issued for the export of visualization screens. Screens for military use were destined first and foremost for the defence-related industry, particularly in the United States. Licences were also issued for exports of aircraft components (22.9 million euro). These were primarily destined for the French and German defence-related industry in the framework of participation in the A400M project. Exports of unmanned aircraft, related equipment and/or components for the industry in the United Arab Emirates, with the country's armed forces as end-user, were however also noteworthy. They indicate that since last year, the Flemish defence-related industry has been participating in the construction of drones for military use.

With the exception of visualization screens and aircraft components, the nature of Flemish licensed arms export in 2011 was significantly different from previous years. Last year, for instance, licences for a remarkably high value were issued for exports of electronic equipment falling under the catch-all clause (22.3 million euro). Further, the Institute noted that licences for some products whose export value had sharply risen in previous years - more specifically, ground vehicles and vehicle components, military electronic equipment and specialised equipment for military training - largely ceased in 2011.

In 2011 Flemish licensed arms exports were destined for nearly 50 recipient countries worldwide. The largest portion of these exports was destined for European countries (45%) and the United States (31%), mainly for the defence-related industry. Asia (18%) was also an important destination for Flemish defence products. These mainly consisted of exports to recipients in Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and India. Licensed arms exports from Flanders to countries in South America, Africa and Ukraine were - as always - rather limited.

Given the political unrest in the region, Flemish arms exports to the Middle East and North Africa are currently a very delicate issue in Flanders. In February 2011, the Flemish Parliament adopted a resolution in which the Government was asked to treat licences for exports and transit to the region with the greatest possible caution. There is currently a European arms embargo on exports to Libya and Syria, and the Flemish authorities have put exports to Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia and Egypt 'on hold' - a measure that is regularly monitored and adjusted. In 2011, 36 licences with a combined value of 15.5 million euros were issued for arms exports to the Middle East: to the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Algeria and Saudi Arabia. Licensed exports included various types of products, but in terms of value were made up primarily of unmanned aircraft, visualization screens and image intensifier equipment, and thermal imaging equipment.

Transit

In 2011, Flanders issued 31 licences with a combined value of 85.2 million euro for the transit of arms. This represented a sharp increase in the number of transit licences compared to 2010, but the level remained significantly lower than at the time when competence for foreign arms trade was regionalized. In 2011, the Flemish authorities denied three licences for the transit of arms. Most Flemish transit licences related to (1) vehicles, (2) firearms and/or ammunition, and (3) heavy explosive mechanisms and explosives.

For more information see:

Flemish foreign arms trade 2011

Author: Nils Duquet

Brussels, 25 May 2012 – ISBN 9789078864509, 58 p.

2.1.2 The role of the EU in the negotiations on the International Arms Trade Treaty

In July 2012, all Member States of the United Nations gathered in New York to negotiate a treaty on global standards for trade in conventional arms, the so-called Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The conference was to be the finishing touch to more than ten years of negotiations and lobbying aimed at achieving a universal arms trade treaty. In 2012 the treaty negotiations lasted four weeks without, however, reaching a compromise agreement.

The origin of the ATT goes back to an initiative by several Nobel Peace Prize Laureates who, in 1997, took steps to establish an International Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct not only included all types of military arms and paramilitary police equipment, but also all their components, all types of ammunition, military and dual-use technology, and training. The proposal imposed strict standards on trade in all these items. The Code of Conduct was intended for use by all States that export conventional arms. Based on this Code of Conduct, an initial proposal for a framework treaty was launched at the UN Conference for Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2001. Since October 2003, NGOs across the world have mobilized public support and joined in a 'Control Arms' network that has for ten years been energetically advocating a strong, internationally binding treaty. In 2006, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted Resolution 61/89, titled 'Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms'. Since then, there has been much consultation among UN Member States on the potential content of such a treaty. Expert groups and open working groups were convened to guide the process. In 2008 a second UN Resolution (Resolution 63/240) was adopted and in 2009 a third (Resolution 64/48). In this latter Resolution, it was decided to convene a conference in July 2012 to negotiate a legally binding instrument that would aim at the highest possible common standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

On the final day of the conference in July 2012, it became clear that no compromise would be reached. A proposal tabled by Ambassador Roberto García Moritán (Argentina) – Chairman of the conference – was ultimately rejected by the United States, which was then followed by Russia, North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela. The further negotiating process on an ATT was referred to the United Nations General Assembly. On 7 November 2012, the First Committee of the General Assembly decided that the negotiations would be continued from 18 to 28 March 2013 in order not to lose momentum.

Given the importance of a possible treaty in the context of Flemish competences for arms trade, the Flemish Peace Institute closely monitored this process in 2012. A researcher attended the negotiations, and in the framework of the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium a paper was published together with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on the role of the EU in the ATT

negotiations. It showed that the Union had a difficult time in getting its Member States to agree on a common position, and in realizing its ambitious role as a global actor.

For more information see:

The European Union's Involvement In Negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty

Author: Sara Depauw

Brussels, 6 December 2012 – EU Non-Proliferation Paper No. 23, 16 p.

2.1.3 *Dutch-language summary of the 2012 SIPRI Yearbook*

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Yearbook (*SIPRI Yearbook*) contains original data from numerous fields such as global military expenditure, international arms trade, arms production, the nuclear powers, major armed conflicts and multilateral peace operations, together with the most recent analyses on important aspects of arms control, peace and international security. The Yearbook is written both by SIPRI researchers and outside experts.

The *SIPRI Yearbook* was first published in 1969 and is now in its 43rd edition (2012). Since 2005 the Flemish Peace Institute has been a partner of SIPRI in producing the Dutch-language translation and publication of the summary of this yearbook.

The 2012 edition of the *SIPRI Yearbook* paid special attention to the new 'geo-intervention' policy.

For more information see:

2012 SIPRI Yearbook - Summary in Dutch by the Flemish Peace Institute

Brussels, 6 August 2012 – 28 p.

2.2 Firearms

The Flemish Peace Institute has also been researching for quite some time, in the context of its Arms Trade and Production programme, into the trade, the possession and the use of firearms. In 2011 the book 'Firearms: trade, possession and use' was published. It was the first such publication to map all firearms-related activities in Belgium, as well as evaluating the Weapons Act, examining social support, and exploring the relationship with mortality.

In 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute continued to develop this research, publishing specific reports on the registration of firearms imports and the use of firearms for hunting and target shooting.

2.2.1 The registration of imported firearms

Every year large numbers of firearms are imported into Belgium (see 1.1.1). A thorough and efficient registration system is necessary to track where these firearms end up after import, but also to combat the illegal firearms circuit. In Belgium the federal government as well as the regions have competences for the control and registration of firearms. The issue of licences and accreditations for the *acquisition, possession and (domestic) trade* in firearms is regulated by the federal Weapons Act. The regions are responsible for the regulation and control of firearm *imports*. In 2006-2011 the Flemish Agency for the Control of Strategic Goods (Vlaamse Dienst Controle Strategische Goederen, DCSG) issued 11.4 million euros of licences for firearm imports, mainly to private individuals and dealers. The dealers usually do not indicate an end user in their licence application because they generally import the weapons to sell them in their shop and not for a specific order.

The Flemish authorities issue licences for firearm imports into Flanders, but from that point the responsibility for monitoring such imports shifts from the regional to the federal level. The police and the provincial arms services play an important role in this connection. Collaboration and information exchange between the various governmental services is thus crucial to ensure an effective control of firearms.

During the follow-up of imports an important distinction needs to be made between freely available firearms, and firearms requiring a licence. *Freely available firearms* are firearms that everyone can possess without a licence, for instance, firearms that have been made definitively inoperable or antique guns with a historical, folkloric or decorative value (HFD firearms). *Firearms requiring a licence* are all those firearms that are neither forbidden nor freely accessible under the Belgian Arms Act. A licence is needed to possess and use these. They include for example hunting rifles, pistols and carbines.

The registration of imported firearms that require a licence

With the introduction of the 2006 Arms Act, an extensive registration system was developed for firearms requiring a licence. The CWR (Centraal Wapenregister) or Central Arms Registry plays a crucial role in this context. The CWR is a computer database managed by the federal police, which all the relevant services can access. The type, make, model, calibre and serial number of every firearm requiring a licence is registered as well as the identity of the seller or buyer of the arm. Freely available firearms are not registered in the CWR.

The initial registration of firearms requiring a licence in the CWR is done by the Testing Bench for Firearms in Liège. The Testing Bench was founded in 1672 and works for the federal government. It identifies, tests and marks all firearms manufactured in or imported into Belgium. Since 2010 the Testing Bench is also responsible for the initial registration in the CWR of all firearms requiring a licence that are imported into Belgium, unless destined for direct re-exportation abroad. The Testing

Bench registers the weapon's characteristics and the importer's identity before the dealers can offer the arms on the Belgian market. After initial registration in the CWR by the Testing Bench, the dealers must register those firearms that require a licence in their own registries. These registries are checked once a year. When the dealer sells or transfers the weapon he will delete it from his registry and the weapon shall be registered in the CWR in the buyer's name.

There are a variety of registration processes and procedures depending on who imports the firearms requiring a licence, but the data in the CWR are continuously adjusted. Similar procedures must be followed for every further sale or transfer of the firearm so that the CWR is always up-to-date. Consequently all firearms requiring a licence that are circulating in Belgium can be traced at all times. Since 2010 the DCSG also has access to the CWR. This can be useful when processing an application for an import licence, for example to check whether someone who wishes to import a firearm has a licence to own that weapon in Belgium. The CWR allows the competent Flemish service to trace where the firearms requiring a licence end up after import.

No registration of 'freely available' imported firearms

Although a (regional) import licence is required for the import of 'freely available' firearms, these weapons do not have to be registered in the CWR after their actual import. Private individuals importing freely available weapons do not have to report this to the provincial weapon services, and certified arms dealers do not have to register them in their registries. No registration is required in the CWR if the arm is sold or transferred. Consequently it is impossible to check or trace all freely available firearms that have been imported.

Because Belgian regulations as regards 'freely available' firearms are more flexible than those of the neighbouring countries, many foreigners have travelled to Belgian arms fairs to buy these weapons in recent years. Many of them did not apply for the required licences for the transfer of these weapons to their own country. To counter such 'arms tourism' as far as possible, dealers selling freely available arms at these arms fairs are now required to keep registries. Foreign authorities can thus be notified of arms purchases made by their citizens.

Most of the freely available firearms that may be imported into Flanders cannot be traced, however, either by the Flemish DCSG or by the federal and provincial authorities. This is problematic mainly in relation to the additional lists of historic, folkloric and decorative weapons (HFD weapons) that are freely available. These lists include firearms that are not really rare, for which the ammunition is still available on the market, and which the police often come across in criminal circles. In 2012 the Ministers of Justice and the Interior decided to abolish the lists of HFD weapons. If this is effectively implemented, it may provide a solution for the 'black hole' in the tracing of firearms.

For more information see:

The registration and traceability of imported firearms

Authors: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Brussels, 4 July 2012 - ISBN 9789078864516, 29 p.

2.2.2 Hunting with firearms in Flanders

Traditionally, hunting is one of the most significant activities for which firearms are used.

The ownership and use of firearms by hunters is regulated by various authorities in Belgium. Whereas the federal authorities are competent for the acquisition and the possession of firearms by hunters, the regions are competent for hunters' use of firearms. The federal Arms Act of 8 June 2006 starts from the general rule that a separate arms licence is always required for the acquisition and possession of a firearm, but it provides for a regime of exceptions for hunters. Hunters can acquire and own certain types of firearms based on their hunting licence. The use of firearms for the hunt is regulated by the

regions. In Flanders it is regulated by the Flemish Parliament Act on hunting of 1991 and a number of implementing decrees.

In 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute specifically analyzed the legal framework for the use of firearms for hunting purposes: covering the conditions for obtaining a hunting licence, the rules for the use of firearms for the hunt, hunting on Sunday, and the transportation of firearms. Facts and figures were also documented. About 12,000 hunting licences are issued annually in Flanders. Data from the Central Arms Registry show that hunters in the Flemish Region had registered 58,749 firearms under their hunting licences up to March 2010. Based on a rough estimate, this means that on average each Belgian hunter owns four firearms.

For more information see:

Hunting with firearms in Flanders; Scope, regulation, facts and figures

Authors: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Brussels, 22 November 2012 - ISBN 9789078864547, 18 p.

2.2.3 Sports shooting in Flanders

The ownership and use of firearms by target shooters is also regulated by various authorities in Belgium. Whereas the federal authorities are competent for the acquisition and the possession of firearms for target shooting, the regions are competent for the use of firearms by target shooters. The import and export of firearms and the licence conditions for target shooting ranges are a regional competence. The federal Arms Act of 8 June 2006 starts from the general rule that a separate arms licence is always required for the acquisition and possession of a firearm, but provides for a regime of exceptions for target shooters. More specifically, the Arms Act states that target shooters may acquire and own certain types of firearms based on their target shooter's licence. The use of firearms for target shooting is regulated by the communities. The Flemish region produced a Flemish Parliament Act for target shooters to this end in 2007, with a matching implementing decree. It states that target shooters may only use firearms for their activities if they have a target shooter's licence.

In 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute conducted specific research into the legal framework for the use of firearms by target shooters and the use of firearms for target shooting. In 2010 the Flemish target shooting federations had about 25,000 members. Not all of these members use firearms; some target shooters only use pneumatic weapons for which no licence is required. The data on numbers of newly issued target shooting licences paint a better picture of the number of target shooters in Flanders who use firearms: since 2007, the target shooting federations authorized to issue licences by the Government of Flanders have issued 14,702 target shooting licences.

After the 2006 Arms Act entered into force, the Flemish Community elaborated on the status of target shooters in 2007. This is a significant improvement compared to the situation under the regime of the old Arms Act, which did not specify the obligations and rights of target shooters. The Flemish Peace Institute's analysis shows, moreover, that the status of target shooters is regulated clearly and in detail. Nevertheless, a survey among experts and stakeholders indicated that there are still some points needing discussion. The Institute drew attention to two specific points for debate: the issuing of target shooting licences by the target shooting federations, and the types of firearms for which target shooters can obtain licences (in particular, semi-automatic weapons).

For more information see:

Sports shooting with firearms: analysis of support, the legal framework and the practice in Flanders

Author: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Brussels, 15 November 2012 - ISBN 9789078864530, 35 p.

2.3 *Dual-use items*

Together with the licensed trade in military equipment, the Flemish Peace Institute also monitors licences issued and denied by the Flemish authorities for imports, exports and transit of dual-use items. Every spring, the Institute publishes an annual report with statistics, analyses and interpretation of developments in trade from and to Flanders. On 19 June 2012, the annual report 'Flemish foreign trade in dual-use items 2011' was published and delivered to the Flemish Parliament's Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation.

Dual-use items are products and technologies that were not developed specifically for military purposes but may have a military application. Exports of these dual-use items are governed by Regulation (EC) 428/2009, which is directly applicable throughout the European Union. There are important distinctions between the transfer of dual-use items within the EU, the export of these products to 'friendly' countries, and their export to 'other' countries.

In its annual report on the Flemish trade in dual-use items in 2011 the Flemish Peace Institute came to the following conclusions:

The nature of procedures makes it difficult to determine characteristics and trends

It is extremely difficult to determine characteristics and trends when it comes to dual-use exports. For trade in dual-use items within the EU and with countries that fall under a Community General Export Authorisation (CGEA), typically no licence is required. Further, global licences are often used for exports to other countries, meaning that a Flemish exporter can export a number of predefined items to the countries that are listed on the licence. Data from the global licences is however related to potential exports instead of specific transactions. This makes it difficult to make a comprehensive analysis of actual Flemish dual-use exports.

138 individual and 44 global licences were issued in the past year

Intra-Community transfer

Because no licence is generally required (in accord with the free movement of goods) for transfers of most dual-use items to other EU Member States, the total scale of transfers of dual-use items from Flanders to EU Member States usually cannot be estimated on the basis of licences granted. In 2011, the Flemish authorities only issued 15 individual licences (55.6 million euro) for exports of nuclear materials (CAT0) and enriched lithium (CAT1), and one global licence (10 million euro) for exports of materials for use as absorbers of electromagnetic waves (CAT1).

Exports to countries for which a CGEA applies

For exports of dual-use items to Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States, a community general export authorisation (CGEA) applies for most items and no Flemish export licence need be applied for. In 2011, 21 individual licences (7.2 million euro) were issued for exports of nuclear materials (CAT0), special materials (CAT1) and items for materials processing (CAT2) to these seven countries.

Exports to other countries

In 2011, 97 individual licences and 43 global licences were issued for exports of dual-use items to other countries. The individual licences (149.6 million euro) mainly related to the export of electronics (CAT3), products for aerospace and propulsion (CAT9) and special materials and related equipment (CAT1). In addition, four licences (322,578 euros) were issued in the past year based on the catch-all clause of Regulation 428/2009 (Article 4) for exports to Iran. The combined value of the 43 global licences Flanders issued in 2011 amounted to 471.8 million euro.

Exports to Iran subject to a licence agreement on the basis of restrictive measures

In recent years, various restrictive measures regarding trade with Iran have been introduced out of fear that the country is aiming to develop nuclear weapons. These restrictive measures also concern exports of dual-use items. Based on Regulation 961/2010, direct and indirect trade with Iran is forbidden for all dual-use items and technology listed in Annex I of Regulation 428/2009 (with the exception of CAT5), and a licence obligation was introduced for products and technology listed in Annex II and Annex IV of Regulation 961/2010. Based on this regulation, a licence obligation was invoked by the Flemish authorities for several exports during the past year. Two exports were denied in 2011. One export - of certain types of heat exchangers and ring-shaped seals and gaskets with a value of 122,397.65 euro - was allowed.

Limited range of items and limited number of companies concerned

Licences for intra-Community transfer and exports for the majority of goods categories relate to a rather limited range of items. Only for exports of items from the category 'special materials and related equipment' (CAT1) do we note a broad range of items. While the product range for dual-use exports is fairly stable, licences issued in 2011 for exports of unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software point to the development of new dual-use activities in Flanders.

Increase in restrictions on end-users under global licences

Considering that a Flemish exporter with a global licence can, in principle, export its goods to any recipient in any country that is included in the licence (on condition that the value of exports remains within the value of the licence), the risk of undesirable end-use is much higher for global licences than for individual licences. With a view to avoiding undesirable end-use, the Flemish authorities now more frequently impose a restriction on possible end-users and recipient countries under a number of global licences. In 2011, a restriction with regard to end-users was imposed under 17 global licences.

Highest value of licences denied

In 2011, the Flemish authorities denied 10 licences for exports of dual-use items. These concerned exports to India and Iran. With a combined value of 904,162 euro, this was the highest value of dual-use exports to be denied permission since the Strategic Goods Monitoring Unit started publishing its monthly reports in 2007.

For more information see:

Flemish foreign trade in dual-use items 2011

Author: Nils Duquet

Brussels, 19 June 2012 – ISBN 9789078864493, 37p.

3 Peace and Society

Addressing open violence, learning to deal with conflict in a non-violent way, and the commemoration and remembrance of past wars: these are issues that societies all over the world must deal with. In Flanders, too, these themes are on the agenda, inter alia because of violent incidents involving young people as victims and perpetrators; the debate about the role of education in the prevention of violence; and the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War in 2014-2018.

In its Peace and Society Programme, the Flemish Peace Institute focuses broadly on potential sources of violence and looks for their likely causes and solutions. Further, the Institute examines social processes that are conducive to the conditions for peace, at local and at international level. What role does violence play in the lives of young people, for example? How do people deal with the commemoration and the remembrance of conflicts? And what role do Peace Education and conflict management play in education?

Details of publications, networking and activities within this project can be found elsewhere in this annual report. The following sections summarize the aims and content of the Institute's research activities under each related project.

3.1 *Peace Education and schooling*

The Flemish Peace Institute focuses on Peace Education within its Peace and Society research programme. Among other things, the Institute has looked at what exactly peace education entails and how it is implemented in practice, i.a. in our educational system. The Flemish Peace Institute accordingly seeks insights into peace education in general and the form it takes in Flanders in particular.

In an earlier phase, a sample sheet was created showing recent peace education initiatives in the educational sector. Further research was undertaken to add a conceptual dimension and an inventory of the existing range of peace education initiatives in Flanders.

The Flemish Peace Institute went on with this research in 2012, i.a. by making available and promoting a web portal about peace-educational projects for the Flemish educational system. In September 2012 this online database was completely reviewed and a thorough update carried out. The Flemish Peace Institute also consulted with the CANO Culture unit to provide better access to this database.

For more information see:

The Peace Education database, accessible at www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/vredesopvoeding (in Dutch)

3.2 *Commemoration and remembrance*

War and political violence can cause deep rifts and schisms in societies and among states. In the aftermath of violent conflicts, societies have to find a place for these painful, traumatic events in their collective memory, inter alia in the form of commemorations. History shows that commemoration can take place in various ways. Historically speaking, such reminders have often contributed to keeping social and inter-state conflicts and tensions alive. At the same time, commemorations can also provide an incentive and stimulus for movements to prevent and ban wars and violent conflicts, based on the experience and the memory of appalling violence. Commemorations and collective memory then contribute to underpinning the practice of peace and, by recognising mutual suffering, help to bring about reconciliation. The Flemish Peace Institute looked into the role of commemoration and remembrance in general, but also focused on current commemoration practices including the run-up to the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War.

The many plans developed over the last few years for commemorating the Centenary of the First World War herald a large-scale centennial commemoration. At local level there are various types of projects in the pipeline, highlighting the war history and occupation history of cities and villages. Many questions arise, such as: How can we develop good public history projects about the war? Which themes can we highlight? Where to find material that can serve as content for these projects? Can these projects have topical relevance? In 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute and the Institute for Public History of the University of Ghent joined forces to answer such questions in a study titled ‘14-18 van dichtbij’ (*1914-18 in Close-Up*). The Institute has thereby offered support in terms of content and inspiration for local stakeholders such as town councils, historical societies, heritage units and teachers.

War history focussing on peace

In their centenary commemorations of the First World War, the Flemish authorities wish to convey a message of peace. This objective is very important in Flanders, and probably also for many local stakeholders. In its report ‘The Great War Remembered: Commemoration and Peace in Flanders Fields’ (2011) the Flemish Peace Institute examined how the history of the war can reinforce the notion of peace. Two guidelines were formulated in this connection. First, projects about the war must reflect the multiple voices of history. Rather than writing a ‘one-sided’ history of 1914-18, we favour offering a platform for various voices, even if they contradict one another. Secondly, to be historically justified and avoid approaching the past in a one-sided and anachronistic way, the idea of peace should be generated from the bottom up. This can be done by telling various stories about the impact of the war, for instance about daily life in cities and villages. As a result, people are encouraged to think about the war - and about peace.

‘1914-18 in Close-Up’: from science to public history

A huge amount of new historic research on the First World War has been launched in recent years. The old *histoire bataille* (battle history) is increasingly being complemented with an emphasis on daily life during the occupation. People want to know how the population in 1914-18 survived and coped, and how they fitted the conflict into their existence. The results of this new research are not, however, being disseminated fast enough to the general public. The study titled ‘1914-18 in Close-Up’ gives an overview of current historical insights into the 1914-18 occupation for a wider audience. Many public projects should thus be enabled to pay sufficient attention to historic content.

The history of the occupied country

In 2014-2018 – rightfully so – a lot of attention will go to front-line history and the tales of soldiers. But we should not forget that the entire country was swept up in this war. For four long years Belgium

was largely an occupied country, which had a huge impact on people's daily lives. While the public historical framework of the frontline history is firmly established thanks to the many museums, visitor centres and remembrance sites, not much has been done with the history of the occupation. The history of the occupied country can be approached in several ways. The study presents five thematic angles: the battle to survive, the differences between men and women, the role of national feelings, religious life, and reconstruction and remembrance after the war.

Public history into action

Finally, the study also indicates how best to set up a public history project. Starting with a careful reflection on the starting points, one should clearly define the question and understand the historic context so as to ensure that the projects are historically justified, find answers to the questions raised, and present the answers to a wide audience.

For more information see:

'14-18 van dichtbij. Inspiratiegids voor locale projecten over de Grote Oorlog'

Authors: Giselle Nath & Maarten Van Alstein

Acco Publishers, Leuven, 6 November 2012- ISBN 9789033489747, 235 p

3.3 Further research into youth and violence

For some time now, a societal and political debate has been going on around violent behaviour among youth. Thus far, there has been little comprehensive research and the available empirical material concerning the nature and scope of youth violence is rather fragmentary. Therefore, an overview of young people both as offenders and victims can bring significant benefits. The voice of young people themselves also deserves a place in the debate. Against this background the Flemish Peace Institute in 2011 published the study titled 'Youth and Violence'.

In 2012, the Flemish Peace Institute reverted to the main conclusions of this study and conducted additional analyses to examine the ethnic origin of young offenders and victims. The data from the two surveys by the YRP monitor in Flanders (2005-06 and 2008) did not, in fact, permit any specific analysis of possible distinctions based on ethnic background between those who perpetrate and those who are the victims of violence. The combination of the small group of respondents from immigrant background with the low absolute numbers of offenders and victims meant that the groups were too small to conduct reliable analyses based on them. This lacuna was filled in by making use of a recent survey by the YRP monitor in Brussels. Based on this study, it was possible to distinguish large enough groups to make a meaningful and reliable comparison between native and immigrant youth.

The study showed that immigrant youth more frequently mention carrying out physical violence and threats on the streets than native youth. Boys especially tend to say more frequently that they do this. However, it would be wrong to consider ethnic origin as an explanatory factor. In-depth multi-variant analyses have shown that the apparent influence of ethnic origin on the perpetration of an act of violence is immediately cancelled out when school-related factors are brought into the calculation. In other words, the high prevalence of violent crime among immigrant youth is related to the fact that they tend to go to vocational and technical secondary schools, meaning that their experience of school is less positive and/or truancy is higher among this group. The latter points are important risk factors both for native and immigrant youth. In other words, immigrant youth are over-represented in the figures for perpetrators of physical violence because of these risk factors, and not because of their ethnic origin.

For more information see:

Young offenders and victims of violence in Flanders

Author: Marjolein Muys

Brussels, 27 March 2012 - 22 p.

4 Support for parliamentary activities

Parliament is the heart of our democracy: MPs hold legislative powers, monitor the government's work, and allocate the budget. The Flemish Parliament fulfils these roles for a wide range of Flemish competences. Flemish MPs and society can gain in this context from well-documented information, clear analyses and well-thought-out advice. The Flemish Peace Institute takes on this responsibility within its area of expertise on peace issues.

The Institute provides support for the activities of the Flemish Parliament with its research (see Chapters 1 and 2), the publication of advisory notes (see 4.2), the development of a documentation centre (see 4.3), plus contributions to committee meetings, the organization of work visits, and conferences (see 4.1). In the next sections the direct support to the Flemish Parliament is further documented through an explanation of the Flemish Peace Institute's involvement in parliamentary work, an overview of the advice given, and information on the documentation collection in the Parliamentary Information Centre.

4.1 *Involvement in parliamentary activities*

Committee meetings

On 19 January 2012, Director Tomas Baum presented the Flemish Peace Institute's annual report to the Flemish Parliament's Committee for Education and Equal Opportunities. Discussion mainly focused on the Flemish Peace Institute's research into peace education and preparations for the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War.

On 14 February 2012, the Committee for Administrative Affairs, Domestic Administration, the Evaluation of Flemish Parliament Acts, Integration and Tourism discussed the advice formulated by the Flemish Peace Institute on 'The Centenary of the First World War in the spirit of peace', with Director Tomas Baum and researcher Maarten Van Alstein.

On 28 February 2012, during a hearing in the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation, the Flemish Peace Institute explained its research and advice regarding the Flemish Arms Trade Act.

The annual report on the Flemish foreign arms trade in 2011 and the advice of the Flemish Peace Institute informed the debate held in the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs, and International Cooperation on 13 June 2012 about licences issued and denied for arms, ammunition, and materials specifically intended for use by the military or law enforcement agencies and their associated technology in 2011.

On 6 November 2012, the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation discussed the Flemish Peace Institute's Annual Report with Director Tomas Baum. They focused i.a. on the Institute's research and advisory activities relating to the Arms Trade Act, as well as research into firearms and war remembrance and commemoration.

The activities of the Flemish Peace Institute also informed exchanges of ideas, questions for more information and interpellations in various committees on the subjects of target shooting, Flemish arms exports, the commemoration of the First World War, and behaviour at school that goes beyond limits.

Working visit

On 7 December 2012, a delegation from the Flemish Peace Institute and the Committee for Foreign Policy, International Cooperation and European Affairs of the Flemish Parliament visited Gatewing NV in Ghent. This working visit took place in the context of controls on trade in dual-use items. Gatewing is a Flemish manufacturer of drones for civilian use, and the export of these products falls under Flemish licensing policy for dual-use items. Gatewing, which received an IWT award for the best start-up in 2011 and was ranked first in the top ten of young Flemish technology companies by Vacature in 2012, is a perfect example of the dual-use industry in Flanders. During the working visit the company provided more detail on their products, who are their customers, and what procedures they follow for the export of their products.

Participation by Flemish Members of Parliament

The Children's Rights Secretariat and the Flemish Peace Institute on 27 March 2012 took the initiative to organize a joint information session on "Youth and violence" for the Flemish MPs who monitor these dossiers in the various parliamentary committees. The starting point was recent research conducted by both of these para-parliamentary institutions. The session mainly focused on practical recommendations and points for the MPs to focus on when pursuing their work on this theme in the various committees, or on a cross-committee basis.

On Wednesday 23 May 2012, the Flemish Peace Institute presented its annual report 'Flemish foreign arms trade 2011' to Flemish Members of Parliament in the Rik Wouters room of the Flemish Parliament.

On 31 May 2012, the Flemish Peace Institute organised a seminar on arms deliveries to Libya and the lessons that may be drawn from this for a common European arms export control policy. The Flemish MP Jan Roegiers introduced this seminar.

The book '1914-18 in Close-Up: Handbook for local projects on the Great War' was presented on 6 November 2012 by the authors in the Schelp room at the Flemish Parliament. The Flemish Minister Geert Bourgeois introduced the event, and a panel of respondents including Flemish MPs Annick De Ridder, Bart Van Malderen, Stefaan Sintobin and Bart Caron shared their responses to the guide after the presentation.

On 10 November 2012, the President of the Flemish Parliament, Mr Jan Peumans, introduced the Remembrance Day Lecture by Jan Techau in the Flemish Parliament. Every year the Flemish Peace Institute organises the Remembrance Day Lecture together with the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum and Ypres, City of Peace.

4.2 *Advice*

The Institute's advisory role constitutes its most direct service to Parliament and to the political environment. The Flemish Peace Institute may formulate advice on the basis of its expertise or the results of the research it has conducted. Advice given on its own initiative may flow from scientific research as well as responding to a political or social stimulus. The other advisory functions of the institute are providing advice requested by the Flemish Parliament, and (since 24 October 2012)) advice on the report of the Government of Flanders to the Flemish Parliament as prescribed in the Flemish Parliament Act of 15 June 2012 on the import, export, transit and transfer of defence-related products, other materials especially intended for military use, law enforcement material, civil small arms, components and ammunition.

All advice from the Flemish Peace Institute is issued by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is composed of 19 voting members from different sectors of Flemish civil society. The members hold a 5-year mandate and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament. To guarantee an independent institute with broad support and the required expertise, the Institute's founding Act prescribes a balanced composition of experts and representatives from all Flemish parliamentary parties, universities, socio-economic actors and the peace movement. Playing an advisory role within this broad social platform, the Flemish Peace Institute takes its role as a Flemish political-social organization to heart.

In 2007, five advice notes were issued: one prescribed by the founding Act of the Institute, one on request from the Flemish Parliament, and three on the Institute's own initiative. The 2012 advice notes were issued unanimously by the Board of Directors. They were sent to the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Members of Parliament and the competent ministers. The advice notes were also published on the Institute's website and disseminated by newsletter.

4.2.1 Advice on the draft Flemish Arms Trade Act

Context

On 21 November 2011 the Government of Flanders submitted a draft Flemish Parliament Act to the Flemish Parliament regarding the import, export, transit and transfer of defence-related products, other materials especially intended for military use, law enforcement material, civil small arms, components and ammunition (Flemish Parliament Act on the arms trade). The draft was preceded by a draft Flemish Parliament Act of 8 April 2011, on which the Social-Economic Council of Flanders (SERV), the Strategic Advisory Council International Flanders (SARiV), and the Flemish Peace Institute provided advice. This was followed by an amended draft on 15 July 2011, on which the Council of State formulated its advice. On 26 January 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute provided its advice to the Flemish Parliament on the draft Flemish Parliament Act submitted on 21 November 2011.

Content

The draft Flemish Parliament Act of 21 November 2011 regulated various aspects of the control of the arms trade in a consistent manner. The Flemish Peace Institute advised that Parliament take into account certain points for attention during its discussion of the text, relating to the control of end-use, the option of a complementary list of military materiel, the use of general licences, the certification of companies, and transparency. These points for attention were also reflected in concrete suggestions for improvements to the text of the draft Act.

Action taken

The advice of the Flemish Peace Institute regarding the draft Flemish Parliament Act on the arms trade was sent to the President of the Flemish Parliament, the president and members of the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders on 26 January 2012. The Flemish Peace Institute presented and explained its advice during a hearing on the Flemish Parliament Act in the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation on 28 February 2012. The Flemish Parliament Act on the arms trade was adopted by the plenary of the Flemish Parliament on 6 June 2012.

4.2.2 *Advice concerning the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War*

Context

For the past few years, the Flemish authorities and the Flemish Parliament have been preparing for the upcoming commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War in 2014-2018. The plans show that both bodies fully endorse the idea that the commemorations must convey a message of peace. In a research report published in November 2011 entitled 'The Great War Remembered: Commemoration and Peace in Flanders Fields', the Flemish Peace Institute critically examined how this objective can be achieved. Based on this report the Flemish Peace Institute formulated opinions on a number of specific points for attention, such as the need for a consistent vision on a peace-oriented commemoration of this World War, the role of historians in the commemoration project, and the project's nature in cutting across different fields of government

Content

With regard to the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War, the Flemish Peace Institute advised:

- That the Flemish authorities formulate a coherent vision on how they intend to give shape and content to a peaceful commemoration of the First World War, while addressing the following issues:
 - o The message of peace should flow from the grass-roots level, by telling stories about soldiers, civilians and children who experienced the impact of the war in their everyday lives, while not losing sight of the larger historical framework and structural dynamics that led to the war;
 - o Commemoration activities and projects should approach the war past in all its complexity and with respect for the historical framework, and not merely use the past as a means to achieve contemporary objectives;
 - o The commemoration project should not only promote a message of peace, but also apply a peaceful culture of commemoration, which means specifically showing respect for the variety of commemoration traditions and practices.
- That historians be more closely involved in the commemoration project, for instance by inviting them to join an umbrella advisory committee guiding the whole project from a scientific perspective, as well as to sit on specific jury panels that grant subsidies.
- That, alongside the efforts already made in the sphere of foreign policy and tourism, the Flemish authorities should make more of an effort than at present in other policy areas such as education, culture, youth and media, thus allowing full realization of the project's goals which cut across individual policy fields. Further, the Flemish Peace Institute recommends that continuous attention be paid to cooperating with and supporting commemoration initiatives developed by the provinces and municipalities, the federal level, and other communities and regions.

Action taken

The Flemish Peace Institute's advice on the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War was sent to the President of the Flemish Parliament; the president and members of the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation and the Committee for Administrative Affairs, Domestic Administration, the Evaluation of Flemish Parliament Acts, Integration and Tourism; and the Government of Flanders on 2 February 2012. On 14 February 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute discussed its advice in more detail in the Committee for Administrative Affairs, Domestic Administration, the Evaluation of Flemish Parliament Acts, Integration and Tourism.

4.2.3 *Advice on the annual report of the Government of Flanders about the arms trade in 2011*

Context

The Act describing the activities of the Flemish Peace Institute stipulates that the Institute will provide the Flemish Parliament with advice on the annual report from the Government of Flanders to the Flemish Parliament concerning licences issued and denied for arms, ammunition, and materials specifically intended for military use or for law enforcement agencies and associated technology. On 21 February 2012, the Government of Flanders submitted its eighth annual report to the Flemish Parliament.

Content

The Flemish Peace Institute drew attention to a number of important elements relating to the annual report of the Government of Flanders to the Flemish Parliament on arms trade:

- the high value of licensed arms exports to countries from the Middle East and the Maghreb;
- a draft Flemish Parliament Act had been submitted to the Flemish Parliament, but it was still unclear how it should be implemented;
- no overview was given of actual Flemish foreign arms exports;
- good communication between the government and the business community was becoming more crucial than ever.

Regarding these key points, the Flemish Peace Institute formulated the following advice with a view to optimizing the Flemish arms trade and supporting and enhancing parliamentary oversight of relevant policy. The Institute advised the Flemish Parliament to ask the Government of Flanders:

- to clearly inform the Flemish Parliament on how it monitors the situation in the Middle East and the Maghreb;
- To interpret the European and Belgian evaluation criteria for applications for transit and export licences to the Middle East and the countries of the Maghreb in a way that takes account of conflict prevention, and to give more weight than previously to criteria 2, 3, 4 and 7;
- to report clearly on the implementing decrees and administrative practice connected with the implementation of the new Flemish Act of Parliament on arms trade.
- to provide an overview of the real foreign arms trade by systematically collecting the data on use made of licences that the holders of these licences are obliged to keep, and to share these data with the Flemish Parliament in the same way as data on processed licences;
- to make an adequate investment in the organization of outreach activities and to maintain and optimize lines of communication with the business community.

Action taken

The advice accompanying the annual report of the Government of Flanders on the arms trade in 2011 was forwarded to the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament and the Chairman and members of the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs, and International Cooperation on 7 May 2012. The advice was included in the debate on the Annual Report by the Government of Flanders to the Flemish Parliament on foreign arms trade, held in the Committee on 22 May 2012.

4.2.4 Advice on violence in young people's world and attention to conflict management

Context

On 23 May 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute, through the intermediary of the President of the Flemish Parliament, received a request for advice on violence in our society from the Minister of Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels. More specifically, the Flemish Peace Institute was asked *'in conjunction with the Flemish Youth Council, to provide advice including a prior analysis of the place of violence in the world of children and young people, the scale on which violence occurs, and what violence means to them. The advice should make proposals on measures that the Flemish authorities can take to avoid or counteract violence in the world of young people'*. During a round-table discussion, various MPs and experts in the Flemish Parliament had voiced their concern about violence in young people's existence. On the basis of this request for advice, the Flemish Peace Institute consulted with the Flemish Youth Council. The Youth Council decided to launch its own process to prepare the advice, and the Flemish Peace Institute did likewise.

Content

The Flemish Peace Institute in its advice pointed to several important issues concerning the place of violence in the world of children and young people:

- Violence takes on several forms among young people (verbal, physical, sexual, threats,...) and occurs in various contexts (family, school, leisure). The number of victims of violence among young people has remained relatively stable since 1998 in Flanders. The increased attention given to violence in the world of young people apparently reflects a justified and growing sensitivity to violence.
- Although violence is present in the world of all young people, only a small minority are direct victims of violence. An equal number of young people are offenders. Young offenders and victims have the same, clearly defined profile: boys between the ages of 16 and 21 years, often in vocational or technical secondary schools. The fact that only a minority of this age-group become offenders or victims does not alter the fact that violence can have far-reaching consequences in the life of these young people and in our society as a whole.
- According to young people, the use of violence is sometimes justified, especially when it concerns self-defence or the protection of family members. In practice, however, arguments that got out of hand often cause violence among young people. Young people recognize that conflicts are part of our society and most of them prefer to solve conflicts without using violence.

To support this basically peaceful attitude among young people, the Flemish authorities can take a number of initiatives. The Flemish Peace Institute proposes a participatory, bottom-up approach. The idea is to make young people more assertive, to raise their awareness and to make them capable of (1) coping with violence in their world; (2) if they become a victim of violence, finding help and assistance; and (3) avoiding the use of violence themselves.

The Flemish Peace Institute advised the Minister of Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels to take the following practical measures within his purview:

Education

- Support and take the initiative for qualitative projects and initiatives specifically aimed at transferring knowledge, skills and attitudes to young people to deal with conflicts in a non-violent manner. The approach needs to be differentiated, based on target groups. Within education this means developing more projects tailor-made for young people in vocational and technical secondary education. Support should be focused on projects developed within the school, as well as by specialist external organizations.
- Ensure the structural embedding of conflict management in Flemish education by encouraging education stake-holders to pay attention, when setting learning goals in the different subjects

related to conflict, to current forms of conflict and to the positive conditions for non-violent conflict management. To this end, the range of relevant external initiatives available needs to be better coordinated and made known to schools.

- To continually encourage education stakeholders and schools to develop a school climate in which young people experience the added value of participation, critical awareness, and a fundamentally democratic attitude on a daily basis. This can be achieved by fully involving pupils in school policy in general and in specific activities and projects in particular.
- Explicit training is provided in teachers' training programmes on how to deal with violence among young people, and how best to teach young people conflict management skills. Such training also needs to be provided for teachers already active, together with support in the form of an accessible contact-point.

Youth

- Provide support for low-threshold initiatives in which young people can share their experiences of violence – including as victims – with each other and can be guided, where applicable, towards a suitable assistance scheme;
- Examine the need, the demand and the supply of training aimed at conflict management for youth counsellors in youth work initiatives. A participatory approach is desirable in this connection;
- Where necessary provide for education, training and support for youth workers and other youth counsellors on how to deal with violence among young people, and how best to teach young people conflict management skills;
- Provide continuous support for the Youth Research Platform (Jeugdonderzoeksplatform, JOP) as an interdisciplinary and inter-university partnership and thus continue the use of the JOP monitor. Related policy is always strengthened by independent research giving results in the form of an inventory, analysis and synthesis of data;
- Encourage cities and municipalities to develop initiatives and projects in the framework of the local Youth Policy plan, based on local needs, that focus on conflict management and reach all young people outside schools, not only in youth movements but for example in youth clubs, youth houses, youth sport clubs, playground activities etc.

Integrated approach

- Broach the issue of violence in the world of young people with the other Ministers of the Government of Flanders and with colleagues in the other community governments. Since violence in the world of young people is not limited to the policy areas of youth and education, the Flemish Peace Institute recommends that the Minister of Youth play a coordinating role in extending and strengthening the structural approach to violence in young people's world by working together with other Flemish policy spheres, namely media (violence in the media, media skills), welfare (assistance to victims and witnesses, dealing correctly with offenders, domestic violence) and sport (violence in sport clubs, sport as an antidote for violence).

Action taken

The advice of the Flemish Peace Institute on young people and violence was sent to the President of the Flemish Parliament; the president and members of the Committee for Education and Equal Opportunities and the Committee for Culture, Youth, Sport and Media; and the Government of Flanders on 25 June 2012. On 28 February 2013 the Committee for Education and Equal Opportunities discussed this advice with the Flemish Peace Institute.

4.2.5 *Advice on the control of brokering of arms and dual-use items*

Context

Brokering refers to the mediation and facilitation of contracts between producers, buyers and sellers of military material and dual-use items. Brokers are individuals and companies who liaise between manufacturers, buyers and sellers to achieve an acquisition or a sale. The attention given to the control of brokering at international level grew exponentially after it became clear that ill-intentioned brokers regularly serve as intermediaries in illegal arms circuits. Belgian policy in terms of controlling brokering is currently mainly of a symbolic nature: in practice it does not work, and our legislation needs to be thoroughly overhauled in order to conform with international agreements. In an advisory note, the Flemish Peace Institute formulated practical recommendations for a more efficient control on the brokering of arms and dual-use items.

Content

Currently the Belgian legislation only provides in part for the required controls on brokering in military goods as laid down in the EU Council's Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the control of the brokering of arms, and the provisions regarding the brokering of dual-use products in Council Regulation 428/2009/EC.

With a view to making adequate provision for the control of brokering in **military equipment** the Flemish Peace Institute recommends:

- 1) To clarify the issue of the competence for brokering by:
 - Either regionalizing the competence for brokering by amending the special act of 2003,
 - or maintaining this competence as a federal competence, and in this case encouraging the federal government to develop effective controls on brokering that take the recommendations in point 2) below into account.
- 2) Once it is clear who is competent for the regulation of brokering, the Peace Institute recommends developing effective controls on brokering whereby:
 - brokering is separately regulated and is not merely considered as part of the fight against the illegal arms trade;
 - the licence obligation for the broker as an individual is maintained. It is important that companies and individuals who act as brokers are registered with the competent government bodies so that the trader's reliability can be checked and penal sanctions can be upheld for brokers acting illegally;
 - as a second step, the broker's activities are also monitored. Some activities may be excluded from the licence obligation, depending on the origin, the destination and the nature of the goods.
 - extraterritorial coverage is maintained;
 - penalties are laid down;
 - a reporting obligation is created requiring brokers to report on their activities to the competent authorities, and requiring the government to report to Parliament.

As regards brokering in **dual-use items** the Flemish Peace Institute recommends

- 1) formalizing the agreement between the regions and the federal government so as to regionalize the competence for brokering of dual-use items by amending the Special Act of 2003;
- 2) developing a procedure to control brokering in dual-use items when there is a risk of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, as provided for in Council Regulation 2009/428/EC, by either invoking a reporting obligation or systematically checking certain categories of products when bound for certain destination countries;

- 3) including in the implementing measures the optional measures listed in the EC Regulation, i.e. the control of brokering in products that are not listed but pose a threat for the proliferation of WMD (catch-all), and control of brokering of products with military end-use to countries under an arms embargo. Further, it seems worth extending the licence obligation to brokers who have reasons to suspect that items may be used for one of these purposes;
- 4) keeping a register of transactions, as well as of brokers with activities relating to dual-use products. The Regulation already provides for registries that brokers are obliged to keep, with an overview of all activities falling under the Regulation. These must be kept for at least three years and be submitted to the authorities. It is recommended also to include a reporting obligation to parliament in this legislation.
- 5) taking all suitable measures to guarantee the correct application of the provisions of the regulations and to establish penalties for violations of the legislation.

Action taken

The advice on the brokering of arms and dual-use items was sent to the President of the Flemish Parliament, the president and members of the Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation, and the competent committees in the Chamber and Senate on 26 June 2012.

4.3 *Documentation centre*

In cooperation with the Parliamentary Information Centre, the Flemish Peace Institute has in 2012 further expanded its documentation centre with a collection of books, journals, and other media publications. This collection is placed at the service of the employees of the Flemish Peace Institute but is also accessible to parliamentary personnel, representatives, and the public at large in the Parliamentary Information Centre.

In the catalogue system of the parliamentary Information Centre, 'Peace Research' was assigned the number 800. This '800 heading' was further divided into a detailed listing with nine separate sub-headings, reflecting the Flemish Peace Institute's broad-ranging approach to peace research:

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

Purchased documentation is made available in the LIBIS network, in keeping with current standards. LIBIS-Net operates as a cooperative partnership among more than twenty institutions that use the same ALEPH 500 installation for the digitization of their libraries. Aside from the members of the K.U. Leuven Association, a number of government libraries, small scientific libraries, and libraries operated by civil society groups and institutions have also chosen to join the network. With some 3,000,000 bibliographic entries, LIBIS-Net represents the largest library network in Belgium. Via the Flemish Peace Institute's website, a search engine is available to search for the desired book or journal in the Institute's collection or the entire LIBIS catalogue.

External researchers or other interested parties cannot directly borrow books or other documentation material from the Flemish Peace Institute's library. They must do so through Inter-Library Lending (ILL) whereby they can request the work via their university or town library, which in turn requests the book from the Parliamentary Information Centre.

Evaluation report of the Scientific Council

In accordance with the Flemish Peace Institute's founding Act, the Scientific Council evaluates the performance of the Institute's research assignments. Its assessment is included in this annual report. The evaluation report was approved unanimously on 8 March 2013 by the members of the Scientific Council.

5.1 Preface

Following the reviews and re-calibrations of 2011, 2012 was a relatively normal year for the Flemish Peace Institute in which the staff could focus on maintaining and consolidating the quality of their work. Some elements of the year's activities were however of special interest and significance, such as the continuing advisory role played by the Institute during preparation of the first-ever Flemish decree on controlling the trade in armaments and related goods and technology. The theme of First World War commemoration also promises to be one of growing importance in coming years: it has the potential to strengthen the Institute's research base and international advisory role, as well as its relations with local stakeholders.

During this period the Institute has made special efforts to improve its performance in dissemination and contact-building. Improvements have been made in the accessibility of materials on the website. The Director and staff have not only attended and spoken at many seminar-type events in Flanders and beyond, but have actively used such occasions to raise the Institute's profile and strengthen its networks. Another recommendation from 2010 was to improve the balance between armaments-related work and work related to peace in society, and the Institute's growing output on topics like youth violence and commemoration represents good progress in this direction. One member of staff involved in this field of work departed in 2012, but the Institute was able to appoint a qualified successor by January 2013.

The Scientific Council of the Flemish Peace Institute currently consists of Alyson JK Bailes (University of Iceland) as Chair, and the following members: Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop, Director of the Security & Global Governance Programme at the Egmont Institute; Prof. Dr. Mark Duffield, Professor of Development Politics at the University of Bristol; Prof. Dr. Elise Féron, Senior Lecturer in International Conflict Analysis at the University of Kent and the Brussels School of International Studies; Prof. Dr. John Groom, Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the University of Kent; Prof. Dr. Elspeth Guild, Professor of European Immigration Law at the Radboud University Nijmegen and visiting professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE); Prof. Dr. Antoon Vandevelde, Professor at the Centre for Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy and Dean of the Institute of Philosophy at the K.U. Leuven; and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wagner, Professor of International Security at the Department of Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU). All members take an active interest in the Institute's work and several are involved in its activities in between the SC's six-monthly meetings. These meetings give an opportunity for general discussion on interesting research topics, as well as handling practical current business, which adds to the value of the process for SC members as well.

The evaluation that follows here of the Institute's publication programme in 2012 is, as always, a collective effort by the Scientific Council. It is hardly surprising if it includes a few queries or more critical comments, as there is always room for improvement in this field of endeavour. However, the assessments are predominantly very positive and this reflects the high standard of research, judgement, impartiality and presentation that the Institute has striven to maintain ever since its creation.

For a research institute of this kind to preserve its quality and credibility, the two key requirements are adequate funding and intellectual independence. The Scientific Council is committed among other

things to monitoring and assuring the second of these conditions. It commends the Institute on its performance in 2012 and wishes success to all concerned in its future work.

5.2 Reports

5.2.1 Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2011

This reportⁱ provides a detailed overview of Flemish Foreign Arms Trade for the year 2011. It is divided into four main parts, plus an introduction and a conclusion. The introduction sets the scene by presenting the legal framework applying to the import and export of arms in Flanders. It highlights, among other factors, the role played by the 2009 EU Directive on Intra-community trade in defence-related products, and explains the general procedure to be followed for import and export.

The first substantive part of the report focuses on the Flemish reporting methodology on foreign trade in military equipment, and highlights a trend towards greater transparency in the way the Flemish authorities are reporting imports and exports of military equipment.

The second substantive part of the report offers an analysis of imports. It highlights a rise in the value of licensed imports of firearms and accessories, while the value of licensed imports of ammunition remained rather stable. On the other hand, in 2011 Flanders issued significantly fewer import licences than in the previous years (but for approximately the same total value). Worth noting is the fact that licences for imports of vehicles and vehicle components represented around half of the total value of licensed arms imports in Flanders.

The third part of the report looks at exports, and explores the recent sharp decline in value of licensed arms exports after a period (2005-2008) of rapid growth. This decline seems mainly due to the decreased value of exports of specific products such as electronic equipment or ground vehicles components, but it also shows how sensitive the Flemish defence-related industry has been to the economic crisis and the accompanying cutbacks in defence spending. This is all the more true given that the largest share of Flemish licensed arms exports is destined for European countries and the US, which have been deeply affected by the recent financial crisis.

The fourth and final part of the report focuses on transit: an important activity in Flanders, since the region is centrally located and offers a good logistical infrastructure. Most transit licences granted in 2011 related to vehicles, firearms and ammunition, and explosives. It is worth noting that Flanders denies a significantly higher proportion of applications for transit licences than for export licences, which shows that the Flemish authorities do not always agree with the export policies of other EU member states.

Overall, this is a very informative document, containing numerous useful tables, figures and information on trends. It is very precise, carefully written and well structured. It is well grounded on a variety of sources, both national and international, on which it adopts a good critical perspective.

One of the main qualities of this report is that it clearly shows how variations in trends can be connected to both internal and external contexts. For instance, some variations in imports can be explained by changes in national legislation, as when – for instance - licensed imports of ammunition rose during the 2005-2008 period, due to new arms legislation whereby many gun owners became members of a shooting club and were required to participate in at least 12 shooting events per year. The report also highlights the great diversity of users of arms, ranging from private individuals to dealers, to the Belgian armed forces, and so on.

ⁱ Duquet, N. (2012), *Flemish foreign arms trade 2011*, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute (http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/publicaties/onderzoekrapporten/pdf/flemish%20foreign%20arms%20trade%202011_web.pdf)

Belgium's relative position among other EU arms exporting countries is evaluated, as well as the importance and nature of Flanders' arms exports compared with other Belgian regions. Some sensitive issues are also touched upon, such as the potential tensions between political decisions supported by ethical principles, and actual arms transfers for instance to the Middle East and North Africa. The potential tension with export policies of other EU member states is also highlighted in the section on transit, underlining the differences still existing between the foreign policies of various member states.

The analysis comes up against some limitations that are the direct consequence of the sources the authors have to work with. For instance, some trends are difficult to explain since the dealers filing the applications do not always mention who the end-users of military products will be. In nearly two thirds of licensed arms exports, the ultimate end-user was not known. Despite such constraints, the authors have done a very good job of demonstrating the links between the evolution of Flemish foreign arms trade and its national and international contexts.

5.2.2 Flemish Foreign Trade in Dual-use Items 2011

Covering the year 2011, the reportⁱ examines the trade in products and technologies that, while not developed specifically for military purposes, could have a military application. This is an under-researched area and, by its nature, the data are often difficult to interpret. There is a clear impression that the statistics only reveal part of the picture. Given this problem, the report is well structured and clearly written and, on the basis of the existing evidence, it makes reasonable assumptions and suggestions.

The export of dual-use items and technologies is governed by EC Regulation 428/2009. The report is based upon an analysis of licences issued and denied. With the exception of nuclear technologies and fissile materials, no licence is usually required for trade in dual-use items within the EU. Because of this arrangement, it is difficult to estimate the total value of dual-use trade with the rest of the EU. Exports to Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States are usually covered by a Community General Export Authorisation (CGEA); and again - with the exception of nuclear and fissile materials - a separate Flemish licence is not required. As with internal EU trade, this makes it difficult to get an accurate feel for the scale of activities involved. Since licences are required for them, exports to non-EU and non-CGEA countries are better documented. The total value of the exports under this heading in 2011 was 471.8 million euro, mostly involving electronics, aerospace and propulsion systems, and special materials.

Given the paucity of the information, especially in relation to intra-Community trade, the report does well in trying to make sense of an opaque situation. It indicates, for example, that such trade is probably relatively limited in terms of items and the companies involved. However, a growth in the number of licences granted in 2011 for exports of unmanned aircraft, related equipment and software points to a growing dual-use issue with regard to the global expansion of drone technologies. Here the report points to a major weakness in the present licensing system. A Flemish exporter with a global licence can, more or less, export to any recipient included in the licence, with little control over ultimate destination and use. However, the Flemish authorities do attempt to limit such possibilities and, in the past, have refused export licences to places like India and Iran.

While the available information is not always clear, given the growing use of security-related remote sensing and drone technologies – most of which have dual commercial and military use – the trade in dual-use electronic and software items will probably become an increasingly important research topic. This is now the fifth report that the Flemish Peace Institute has produced on dual-use trade. It is thereby performing vital pioneering work in this important if elusive field.

ⁱ Duquet, N. (2012), *Flemish foreign trade in dual-use items 2011*, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute (http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/publicaties/onderzoeksrapporten/pdf/flemish%20foreign%20trade%20in%20dual%20use%20items_en.pdf)

5.2.3 Report: Gun Ownership in Belgium

This could more accurately be called a reportⁱ about why it is impossible to say much about gun ownership in Belgium. Reliable data are lacking for the whole country, as a result of poor data handling and confusion in the Central Weapons Register (CWR), gaps in the scope of legal obligations for gun registration, and the undoubted existence of many illegally held weapons including those falsely declared ‘lost’ or ‘stolen’. The main body of the report consists of a meticulous examination and critique of such information sources as exist, including the CWR itself and evidence from telephone surveys of households. These can only support the drawing of some quite general conclusions, such as: a higher level of gun ownership in Wallonia than in Flanders or Brussels, an apparent decline in the total levels of ownership since 1989, and a popular feeling among Belgians that there are still too many guns around. In the international perspective Belgium seems to be mid-way on the European scale of gun ownership levels; though the reliability of this statistic could also be questioned if there is a greater likelihood of concealed/denied ownership in some nations than in others.

The paper’s emphasis is squarely on the data problem, as seen *inter alia* in the fact that its final recommendations are all about improving data coverage and reliability – not about the challenges of gun ownership itself. Measured against this goal the report does a good job. Its critique of data availability and reliability is detailed and professional, and it lays out the problems in a clear and logically structured way. The analysis is however quite hard to follow at some points (mainly in section 2.2), and it would have been easier for the reader if the different categories of guns and gun ownership recognized *before* the new Belgian legislation of 2006 and *under* that legislation had been separately explained somewhere near the beginning. Many readers would probably also have liked to see the authors speculate a bit more about the reasons behind the emerging picture, eg why there should be more guns per head or per household in Wallonia.

Although the authors mention in their introduction the worldwide concern about small arms and their role in violence and conflict, the report does not explore what might be the dangers or concerns arising from availability of rifles and handguns within Belgian or Flemish society as such. What are the levels of death or injury from criminal gun use or accidents? Is the use of guns rising or falling in incidents involving the police? Is there any connection between internal gun ownership on the one hand, and Belgium’s role in international small arms trafficking and the efforts to control it on the other? Such questions and more would seem a legitimate subject for the Institute’s research in future. For the present, more could also be done to cross-reference between the Institute’s different research topics and publications relating to small arms, several of which are included in the evaluations following here.

5.2.4 The registration and traceability of imported firearms

This reportⁱⁱ is a follow-up to an earlier Flemish Peace Institute report about the factors explaining the increasing import of firearms to Flanders over recent years. Moving on from the previous report’s discussion of difficulties with data availability and interpretation on gun ownership, the current report analyses the situation and options regarding registration of such firearms once they have entered the territory. It presents specific recommendations in response, which appear very relevant to the task of policy-making in Flanders.

ⁱ Duquet, N. & Van Alstein, M. (2012), Gun Ownership in Belgium, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute (http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/publicaties/onderzoeksrapporten/pdf/20120919_gun%20ownership.pdf)

ⁱⁱ Duquet, N. & Van Alstein, M. (2012), De registratie en traceerbaarheid van ingevoerde vuurwapens, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute (http://www.vlaamsvredeinstituut.eu/images/manager/publicaties/onderzoeksrapporten/pdf/2012017_nota_registratie_vuurwapens_herzien_web.pdf)

As the underlying information is publicly available, the added value of this report lies rather in making it accessible and in the critical treatment. In fact, the report manages to present the issue in a most transparent way and to firmly ground its recommendations in a thorough analysis.

This is a very readable report, concise, elegantly written and well-structured, with very clearly presented arguments. It is intelligible for the non-specialist while also presenting the facts and the analysis in a readily digestible manner for the expert. Given the very technical nature of the topic, this is no mean achievement.

5.2.5 Sports shooting with Firearms and Hunting with Firearms in Flanders: Scope, regulation, facts and figures

Both these textsⁱ follow up on the comprehensive study “Vuurwapens. Handel, bezit en gebruik” published by the Institute in 2011. The two texts will therefore be reviewed here together.

The comprehensive 2011 study took stock of the trade in, possession of and use of firearms in Belgium, particularly Flanders, in the wake of the new federal law of 2006. The study’s aim was to go beyond the recurring *ad hoc* debates on the merits and problems of private gun ownership that typically follow incidents of gun rampage, and to provide a more systematic discussion, based on quantitative data and discussions with interest groups. The study discussed the new federal arms law which reduces the number of freely available weapons and instead introduces a requirement to have a “lawful reason” to possess firearms privately. Among the six lawful reasons listed in the law, hunting and sports shooting are the two most prominent and widely used. This is why separate follow-up studies on each of these two areas of activity seemed worthwhile.

All in all, both studies do an excellent job in discussing the specific areas of hunting and sports shooting in the broader context of the new 2006 arms law. Both studies are very well structured, and provide much pertinent information together with a clear and balanced argument.

The broader context of the 2011 comprehensive study is mentioned in both reports. Both studies then start with a discussion of public support for the current legal regime. Data for this part of the analysis come from an opinion poll that the Flemish Peace Institute has outsourced to TNS Dimarso. This is a good example of how the outsourcing of highly specialized research provides clear added value in the work of the Flemish Peace Institute. TNS Dimarso has done a good job in carrying out the survey: the number of respondents is clearly sufficient to warrant representative inferences and the wording of the question is not biased in any way. The two reports are also good examples for how public opinion data should be reported to readers, namely as transparently as possible. Whereas one sometimes finds reports on public opinion data that leave the number of respondents or the exact phrasing of the questions posed obscure, readers of the present reports will gain an insight into the exact design of the survey. The survey demonstrates that a large majority of the population supports the legal framework the outline of which was agreed in 2006, and endorses the concept that both hunting and sports shooting are legitimate reasons to possess firearms privately.

A further main source for the analyses is provided by interviews with experts and stakeholders. Again, the authors report in detail the criteria for selecting this group, and provide a list of organizations that were consulted. While 15 organizations participated in a first round of consultation, only five did so in a second one. It would have been interesting to read which five organizations participated in both

ⁱ Duquet, N. & Van Alstein, M. (2012), Sportschieten met vuurwapens. Een analyse van het draagvlak, het juridisch kader en de praktijk in Vlaanderen, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute

(http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/images/manager/publicaties/onderzoeksrapporten/pdf/20121115_rapport_sportschieten_def.pdf)

Duquet, N. & Van Alstein, M. (2012), Jagen met vuurwapens in Vlaanderen: draagvlak, regelgeving, feiten & cijfers, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute

(http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/images/manager/publicaties/onderzoeksrapporten/pdf/20121122_rapport_jacht_def.pdf)

rounds (and thus left the largest imprint on the study), as well as the authors' assessment of why ten organizations declined to participate the second time - and whether this has introduced any bias in the subsequent discussion. For example, it is not clear whether any hunting or sports shooting organization participated in the second round.

Both studies focus on the legal framework that regulates the use of firearms for sports shooting and hunting and add data on the actual implementation of the regulations. In both cases, this legal framework is comparatively recent, reflecting pressures for new or reformed regulation that stem in part from EU legal provisions. The studies provide a balanced discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the respective legal frameworks.

In reading both reports, it is interesting to see the differences in the legal frameworks as well as in the actual practice in hunting, on the one hand, and sports shooting on the other. Although both legal regimes are decided on a regionalized basis and based on the same federal law, one striking difference is that the licensing system for sports weapons is delegated to the sports shooting association, whereas the one for hunting has remained a competence of the state. The authors discuss this question in the report on sport shooting and provide a balanced assessment of the pros and cons. Their policy recommendation - to accept that such a task can be delegated, but to ensure strict governmental control thereof - seems very reasonable.

The fact that the regulation of hunting and sports shooting is a process carried out at several levels, namely a European, a federal and a regional level, is not addressed explicitly. While the absence of any such discussion may indicate the absence of any problems worth mentioning, it would be interesting to learn whether the various levels indeed cooperate smoothly or whether the dispersion of competencies over three levels also creates frictions and/or inefficiencies.

Both reports are almost exclusively focused on the situation in Belgium, and Flanders in particular. The one exception is the brief discussion of the fatal shooting in Alphen aan de Rijn (Netherlands) in April 2011. In general, comparisons between the Belgian/Flemish situation with other European countries are more than welcome in the Institute's work, as they help to highlight any local specificities. In this case, however, the discussion of a single incident abroad could have been more clearly motivated: otherwise it risks awakening an appetite for such country comparisons without satisfying the wish for systematic discussion.

The authors rightly point out that two such reports can obviously not exhaust the entire issue of hunting and sports shooting. As they suggest, it would indeed be worth carrying out further research into the actual degree of misuse of hunting weapons.

All in all, the two reports do an excellent job in providing both relevant information and a balanced assessment of two issues that are highly relevant in the overall discussion over firearms. The reports are detailed enough to satisfy the needs of experts and sufficiently accessible to be read and understood by a broader public.

5.2.6 Young offenders and victims of violence in Flanders

This reportⁱ summarizes the outcome of a research study 'Youth and Violence' by Evi Verdonck and Dierik Cops from the Leuven Institute for Criminology of KU Leuven and the Expertise Centre for Social Security of the KATHO Catholic University College. The summary draws out policy-relevant findings as well as giving Anglophones access to the findings on the perennial topic of "What are the youth of today up to?". Being concerned with violence, it asks more specifically whether today's youth

ⁱ Muys, M. (2012), *Young offenders and victims of violence in Flanders*, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute (http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/publicaties/research_reports/pdf/young%20offenders%20and%20victims%20of%20violence%20in%20flanders.pdf)

are particularly involved as perpetrators or as victims of violence or - as is often the case - as both perpetrators and victims. These are almost universal concerns, so the Flemish experience is relevant for others and the findings are of wide interest.

Like the original study, the report has to work on the basis of diverse and not strictly comparable sets of data, which also raises questions about conceptual consistency. This is no fault of the research team; but it does underline that we are not likely to have a better understanding of the issues at stake until we have sorted out the methodological problems. The 'report on the report' is in fact very explicit about these problems, so that the reader is forewarned, and the uses of particular terms are defined and the provenance of the data specified in a helpful manner.

As an example, the contrast is pointed out between the official figures and self-reporting by young people. There are also some international contrasts: for example Belgium's figure for perpetrators (as a proportion of youth) in 2006 was 3.9% and all its neighbours had a higher figure, with Germany at 8.3%. Why? No explanation is offered here, so there is an international dimension that could be further developed.

Indications of youth violence in Flanders appear to have remained stable between 2005 and 2008. The same trends are evident for victimhood, with the vulnerable years being 15 to 24. Is this the going rate? Some other interesting findings are that offenders are generally young men, peaking between the ages of 16 and 21 years. However those who offend generally do so only once. There is a mild influence of family factors and a poor relationship with the mother is linked with a higher chance of violent behavior, but (going against much conventional wisdom) the extent of parental control and divorced families are not predictive of perpetrators. There is some correlation with schooling, as technical and vocational schools are a greater source of perpetrators. It is important to note that ethnicity in itself is not a key factor, although when linked to truancy and going out in groups this contributes a first step towards perpetration. But ethnicity is not the decisive underlying factor. Violence is more linked to low self-esteem and property offences.

Victims of violence are generally boys with the important exception of sexual violence. The peak age for victimhood is between 18 and 21 years. Ethnicity does not play a role in victimhood but perpetrators and victims are both marked by low esteem and frequent going out in groups. It is clear that perpetrators are also victims. There is a direct relationship.

The researchers used focus groups to assess the experience and perception of violence by and against young people. Young respondents stated that violence is committed for its own sake, for 'kicks', and vandalism is seen as enjoyable. It is a venting of frustration *inter alia* over unemployment, poverty, boredom and relationship problems. Young people gave significant emphasis to the role of parents. Some of these comments may be a reflection of media reports.

The principal findings are that "The profiles of perpetrators and victims of youth violence are remarkably similar to one another. Perpetrators and victims are primarily boys of approximately the same age who display a similar pattern in their use of leisure time, which more often brings them into high-risk situations. Together with an indirect connection between being a perpetrator and victim, we note that young perpetrators of violent offences have a greater chance of becoming a victim than young people who do not commit violence." This is a vicious circle indeed, which society as a whole needs to recognise and break. This report is a helpful step in that direction.

5.3 Books

5.3.1 1914-18 in Close-Up: Handbook for local projects on the Great War

This bookⁱ is jointly written by Giselle Nath, a researcher of the Institute of Public History of the University of Ghent, and Maarten Van Alstein, a staff member of VVI. It is presented as a guide for non-professional historians who seek to research and publish on the local history of the first World War, or on a particular topic related to the Great War. It offers a general methodological framework for the amateur historian, and illustrates the theory with five examples of how historical research can be carried out within a particular sphere of life. It translates the insights of professional history into a clear and concise manual for lay historians. The authors of the book advise local historians to focus on the daily life of common people: not the soldiers on the battlefield – ample information about them is nowadays available – but rather ordinary people in Flemish towns and villages: men and women seeking to survive in harsh circumstances, praying for their relatives at the battlefield, resentful against the Germans or responsive to activist propaganda. The authors explain for instance that one should start with a research question, that one should make a sensible selection among the many topics of interest, and that one should avoid trying to cover everything.

However, the book goes far beyond a mere statement of methodological principles. The chapters on survival strategies during war, on family and gender relations, on the construction of social identity in terms of insiders and outsiders, on the role of religion and Church during war, and on reconstruction and remembrance after war are well written narratives of these different aspects of daily life during and after war. These chapters will largely satisfy the intellectual curiosity of people who are more interested in history itself than in methodology. Nevertheless, the authors want to make a methodological point. Objectivity is probably beyond reach in historiography, but one can come as close as possible to that ideal by confronting various points of view and by setting up a dialogue between different voices. Minor issues, like the restrictions on baking pastry, can reveal important conflicts within a local community.

However, there are also interesting general questions that crop up during research. Did war contribute to the weakening or the strengthening of local communities in Flanders? Probably there is no single answer to this question. It is well known that, at the time, labour conditions in towns were far from brilliant. Moreover, most villages were overpopulated. An significant proportion of their male inhabitants performed seasonal work in Wallonia and in France. Long periods of absence of family fathers and male youngsters were already common before the war. In subsistence farms, poor women were accustomed to work in the fields. The authors show that war apparently did not lead to empowerment of Flemish women – contrary to what seems to have happened in some cases in the United States.

This is a history told by many voices. In Flanders, war memories and remembrances have been bones of contention between Belgian and Flemish nationalists. Both parties have tried to construct their own identity by emphasizing a particular version of the history of the First World War. Who was the main hero of the war: the king, or rather the anonymous Flemish soldiers who were hardly able to understand the commands of their French-speaking superiors? The authors take a nuanced stance in these and other heated debates. They teach the reader the basics of how to interpret various sources and they conclude their book by suggesting various forms in which the results of local historiography could be presented to a larger public. Books and publications often reach only a limited public. Exhibitions, educational projects for youngsters, original forms of remembrance, cycling tours and other initiatives aiming at attracting war tourists: there is ample scope for creativity in this respect.

This book is written by professional historians who are enthusiasts for their job. It reads like a novel, and confronts the reader with his or her own memories of the stories of people who lived through the

ⁱ G. Nath & M. Van Alstein (2012), 14-18 van dichtbij. Inspiratiegids voor lokale projecten over de Grote Oorlog, Leuven & Den Haag: Acco

First World War. It will certainly make the reader ponder over launching a investigation of the war history of his/her own family, village or town; and it would be intriguing to know how many lay people will actually be drawn into engaging in this type of research. Even if their number should turn out rather limited, this book is beyond question excellent publicity for the discipline of historiography itself.

5.4 Advisory notes

5.4.1 Advice concerning the draft for a Flemish Arms Trade Act

This is oneⁱ of a series of advice notes provided by the Institute on the successive drafts of a Flemish Act of Parliament concerning the trade in conventional arms, designed to replace previous federal Belgian legislation. It relates to an official draft laid before the Flemish Parliament in November 2011. This latest draft is judged by the Institute to be well balanced overall, giving effect to EU-level decisions on the facilitation of intra-Community trade, but also providing means for the Flemish authorities to continue effective monitoring of arms transactions. The Institute notes with satisfaction that several of its own recommendations for amending earlier drafts have been followed up.

Remaining points where the Institute sees scope for clarifying or tightening up the decree's text are (i) obligations on end-user reporting by Flemish companies, (ii) reserving the possibility of a supplementary list of military items which Flanders particularly wants to control through licences, (iii) further specification and explanation of goods for which 'general licences' may and may not be issued under the new EU policy, (iv) further elaboration of the system for 'certifying' enterprises which is crucial for the new intra-Community arrangements, and (v) additional transparency measures. All these reflect themes that the Institute has consistently stressed throughout the drafting process for a new decree.

This advice maintains the high standard of earlier Institute work on the same subject. It reflects a thorough professional knowledge of the background including notably the EU legal requirements. Its recommendations are extremely precise and are argued through in exhaustive detail. At the same time the language and flow of argument are transparent and well-designed to make sense to non-experts.

5.4.2 Advice concerning the yearly report of the Flemish Government on the Flemish foreign arms trade 2011

One of the Flemish Peace Institute's prescribed tasks is to offer the Flemish Parliament an evaluation of the annual report provided by the Flemish authorities on regulation of the trade in armaments. It does so on the basis of the Institute's own research and published analyses on the subject, so this advice noteⁱⁱ rarely contains any surprises. Regarding the official report for 2011, however, the Institute's comments are particularly sharply focussed and all relate to the need for greater transparency, both in the Flemish export control authorities' own methods and in communication between the authorities and Parliament. Specifically, the Institute draws attention to:

Some continuing vagueness over how exactly the authorities are cutting back on and monitoring arms exports (including arms in transit) to the Middle East and North Africa during a time of widespread conflict there;

ⁱ Advies bij het ontwerp van decreet betreffende wapenhandel, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute

(http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/advies/20120126_advies_ontwerp_decreet_wapenhandel.pdf)

ⁱⁱ Advies over het jaarlijks verslag van de Vlaamse Regering over de wapenhandel in 2011, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute
(http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/advies/20120507_advies_bij_jaarverslag_wapenhandel_2011.pdf)

The large number of practical aspects of export control that will remain at the authorities' discretion under the proposed new Flemish decree on the matter. Two detailed lists to illustrate the point are provided at the end of the advice note ;

The fact that Flanders, unlike Wallonia, provides no information to its Parliament on actual weaponry trade transactions as distinct from the licences issued;

The need for the Flemish authorities to make special efforts, in a context altered by recent European legislation, for dialogue and information exchange with companies in the defence production and dual-use fields.

These points are all fully explained and backed up by relevant details and references. They all relate to issues that the Institute has been drawing attention to for some time, and reflect a general concern that the arms trade policies of Flanders should both be, and be seen to be, as responsible and restrained as possible.

The advice note also covers the main statistical trends revealed by the arms trade data for 2011 but does not go into detailed explanations, as these are to be found elsewhere in the Institute's own reporting. In style the note is professional, clear, dense and cogently argued.

5.4.3 Advice concerning the Belgian regime for the control of brokering in military and dual-use items

This substantial Advice Noteⁱ offers guidance to those concerned in Flanders about how to tackle the inadequacy of Belgian regulations on 'brokering'. A broker in this context is a private person or company acting as middleman in a transaction between two other parties concerning military materials or dual-use goods. The paper begins by exploring some recent international definitions of the term, which may or may not restrict it to cases where the seller, broker and buyer are all in different countries. Such a case especially calls for control – whether the sale be legitimate or not – because standard systems for licensing trade in strategic goods would not 'catch' an actor in a country where the goods are not physically present. The note goes on to give some examples both of problematic and legitimate brokering; explains how four other EU countries handle the matter; shows that current Belgian arrangements neither fulfil current EU requirements nor achieve clarity about the federal/regional division of responsibility; and outlines the options and desiderata for an improved system.

If this was a freestanding academic paper, the balance and sequence could be considered less than perfect. More explanation of the underlying security issues, especially for dual-use goods, would help the uninformed reader, and the section with practical examples is very short. It might have been preferable to collect all the information on other countries' models in one place rather than mentioning their dual-use solutions – very briefly - in a later section. One intriguing remark about the parallels between brokering and the 'invisible export' of dangerous technologies is not followed through to the practical level. However, none of these points need necessarily affect the note's usefulness in its actual parliamentary context. Most important is that it arrives at a very clear set of desiderata for a system to register, license and monitor brokering in both types of goods, and impartially presents the different options for dividing these tasks between the central Belgian government and the regions.

Considering its difficult subject matter the note is clearly written, if anything a little too compressed in places, and transparent in its structure and presentation.

ⁱ Advies over controle op tussenhandel in wapens en dual-use producten, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute (http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/advies/20120626_advies%20tussenhandel.pdf)

5.4.4 Advice concerning the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War

This is a concise adviceⁱ to the Flemish Government and the Flemish Parliament on the question of how the commemorations of the centennial of First World War in 2014-18 should be prepared. Aside from the formal solemnities, remembrance tourism will be booming and we can expect growing interest towards the First World War from mass media, schools and cultural actors.

All actors agree that remembrance should be framed as a message of peace. However the advice states that this message can better be passed on implicitly, than by big slogans and explicit moral appeals. Hence the suggestion to highlight a great diversity of stories about ordinary people, soldiers and civilians, who have been confronted with the Great War. The advice is a plea for tolerance: there are several traditions of remembrance and some of them use patriotic or military symbols that others find detestable. Public debates about the meaning of historical events keep history alive and of course, historians should play a role in this. They can question over-hasty reconstructions of the past by pointing to the complexity of historical realities. Moreover they should be integrated in the committees that allocate subsidies to different remembrance initiatives.

It is crucially important that the commemorations themselves reflect a culture of peace and reconciliation. Hence the funding of remembrances by local communities, the provinces, the Flemish government and the federal state should be organized in a spirit of cooperation and not of competition.

This is a clear, timely and perfectly sound advice, based on extensive studies on the subject conducted by the Flemish Peace Institute – for example Maarten Van Alstein's report on *The Great War Remembered: Commemoration and Peace in Flanders Fields*, and Giselle Nath and Maarten Van Alstein's book on *14-18 van dichtbij – Inspiratiegids voor locale projecten over de Grote Oorlog* (see above).

5.4.5 Advice on youth and violence, and the need for conflict management

This advice noteⁱⁱ responds to a specific request from the Flemish Parliament and relevant Flemish Ministries. Drawing upon the Institute's earlier research including published reports on 'Youth and Violence' and 'Peace Education', it aims to illuminate the background to youth violence and to propose lines for official action aimed at helping youngsters to avoid violence and (if necessary) seek support as victims. The Institute rightly points out, however, that such phenomena have complex roots and that solutions may require action in several different fields of public life.

The central section of the report consists first of an analysis of what is known about youth violence in Flanders, presented dispassionately on the basis of latest research; and then of a review of existing and potential means for working with youth on peace and conflict resolution within the Flemish education system. These points are again summarized at the start of the 'Advice' section proper. Finally, four general recommendations are made on how to integrate and develop instruction on peaceful conflict management as part of youth education in Flanders; plus six specific recommendations on monitoring, handling, and preventing youth violence in the wider social context, eg through organized youth activities and youth-focussed research.

The last recommendation underlines again the multi-faceted nature of the challenge, and suggests that the Flemish Ministry for Youth should coordinate a government-wide approach to the matter that could also consider aspects like media, sport, and family violence. The lack of discussion of such aspects, or of broader reasons for social tensions both among the young and between generations, is

ⁱ Advies: 100 jaar Eerste Wereldoorlog in het teken van vrede, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute

(http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/advies/20120202_%20advies_herdenking_woi.pdf)

ⁱⁱⁱ Advies over geweld in de leefwereld van jongeren en aandacht voor conflicthantering, Brussels: Flemish Peace Institute

(http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/images/manager/advies/20120625_adviesnota_geweld_in_de_leefwereld_van_jongeren.pdf)

indeed the main criticism that might be made of the advice note itself - were it not that the Institute explains and acknowledges these limitations from the start. The gap may or may not have been filled by other entities advising Parliament as part of the same exercise. Notwithstanding these comments, the contribution is appropriate to the Institute's role in being evidence-based, non-sensational, logically structured, and clearly if somewhat colourlessly written.

Academic, policy-oriented, and social networks are important for the Flemish Peace Institute's external relations. To this end the Flemish Peace Institute pursues an active communication policy, the following aspects of which are covered in this chapter.

6.1.1 Networks

Academic networking

For the Flemish Peace Institute to be able to fulfil its research mandate, national and international contacts in academia are necessary with a view i.a. to the exchange of information, developing networks, and conducting complementary research. In 2012, the already existing contacts were further developed and valuable new contacts were established with other institutes involved in peace research and international relations at a domestic and international level. The Institute achieved this by contributing to conferences, by setting up collaborative activities or publications, and through personal contacts.

Employees of the Flemish Peace Institute contributed at the following academic events:

On 27 April 2012, Director Tomas Baum gave a lecture at the University of Antwerp on the topic 'From the global to the local level in international politics: a critical reading.'

On 8 June 2012, researcher Nils Duquet gave a lecture on 'The bottlenecks and gaps in the Arms Act' during the Politeia study day titled 'The Arms Act at a turning point' in Antwerp.

Researcher Nils Duquet presented the paper 'Illegal possession and acquisition of firearms and ammunition in Belgium' during the Stockholm Criminology Symposium in Stockholm (Sweden) from 11 to 13 June 2012.

On 9 November 2012, Director Tomas Baum gave a lecture on Peace Education during the session 'on peace, tolerance, holocaust education and intercultural dialogue' at the Second World Conference on the Right to Education organized by the European Association for Education Law and Policy and the UNESCO Right to Education Chair in Brussels.

Policy-oriented networking

As a para-parliamentary research institution it is also crucial for the Flemish Peace Institute to develop an extensive network in its political environment. It goes without saying that the Flemish Parliament and Flemish MPs are given priority. The Flemish Peace Institute provides support to Parliament *inter alia* through the publication of advisory and background notes, the development of a documentation centre, and the organisation of conferences and seminars (see Chapter 3).

Together with its role in the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Peace Institute has also forged contacts with Flemish policymakers in general, including the Agency for the Control of Strategic Goods (Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs) in the context of work on arms trade and production; the Education Administration (CANON culture unit) as regards peace education; and the Project Secretariat 2014-2018 with regard to the commemoration of the Centenary of WWI.

In 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute also continued to expand its political network at international level, particularly in connection with the European dimension of its work.

On 4 February 2012, Director Tomas Baum was invited to give a lecture on 'Arms export control: key issues for the European Union' at a conference of the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium in Brussels.

In July 2012, researcher Sara Depauw attended the negotiations on the International Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations in New York.

In September 2012 Director Tomas Baum attended the 2012 Moscow Non-proliferation Conference on 'Nuclear Energy, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation'.

On 5 December 2012 the annual COARM-NGO working group was co-hosted by the European External Action Service (EEAS), GRIP, and Saferworld at Brussels. The Institute's researchers Nils Duquet and Sara Depauw briefed the meeting on the Flemish Peace Institute's research into (controls on) the end-use of military components.

Contacts with civil society and stakeholders

Alongside the parliamentary and academic communities, civil society is also an important partner and stakeholder of the Flemish Peace Institute. The Institute is, after all, not only a centre of expertise but also a Flemish political-social institution. Structurally, this partnership is embedded in the strong representation of civil society organisations on the Institute's Board of Directors.

The Flemish Peace Institute is also developing additional informal contacts with Flemish civil society. Contacts with this network are used mainly for the dissemination of research results. Events organized by the Institute in 2012 regularly included broad representation from organizations engaged in issues of peace and other matters of social importance. However, this flow of information is not just one-way: the Flemish Peace Institute looks for a two-way flow and exchange of information and experience. In 2012, contacts were also established with international civil society organizations.

On 11 February 2012, Director Tomas Baum pronounced the laudation at the award ceremony for the VOS Peace Poetry Prize in Ghent.

Director Tomas Baum also gave a lecture on 'IHL and the regulation of the international arms trade' in the Red Cross of Flanders lecture series on International Humanitarian Law at Brussels on 7 March 2012.

On 9 March 2012, researcher Nils Duquet gave a presentation on research into Peace Education during the workshop organized by Kleur Bekennen on the subject of 'Global education and development education at school'.

On 26 April 2012, the UN Association organized a lunch seminar to evaluate the 'Nuclear Security Summit' in Seoul, with an introduction among others by Director Tomas Baum.

During the UN Disarmament Week, researcher Nils Duquet gave a lecture on the Belgian arms trade at the UN Association's event in Brussels on 29 October 2012.

On Wednesday 14 November 2012, CDS Antwerp organized a themed evening on 'Syria, an intervention: yes or no?'. Director Tomas Baum took part in the panel discussion, together with Giuseppe Belardetti and Dirk Rohtus.

On 22 December 2012, researcher Maarten Van Alstein gave a lecture on the pitfalls and opportunities facing research on and commemorative events for the First World War during a seminar held at Deinze on the First World War in the Lys and Scheldt regions .

During 2012, research results published by the Flemish Peace Institute were also extensively covered in publications by civil society organizations, notably with reference to remembrance and the arms trade.

6.1.2 Events

The Children's Rights Secretariat and the Flemish Peace Institute on 27 March 2012 took the initiative to organize a joint information session on 'Youth and violence' for those Flemish MPs who follow these dossiers in the various parliamentary committees. The starting-point was recent research conducted by the two para-parliamentary institutions.

On Wednesday 23 May 2012 the Flemish Peace Institute presented its annual report titled 'Flemish foreign arms trade in 2011' to Flemish MPs and the press. The Flemish Peace Institute publishes this annual report on Flemish arms trade each Spring, with figures, analyses and explanations covering developments over the past year.

On 31 May 2012, the Flemish Peace Institute organised a seminar on arms deliveries to Libya and the lessons that may be drawn for a common European arms export control policy.

On 19 June 2012, the Flemish Peace Institute organised a lunch conference on 'Trade in dual-use items: a matter of international security' in the Flemish Parliament. During this conference the Institute also presented its annual report on the Flemish trade in dual-use items in 2011.

The book '1914-18 in Close-Up: Handbook for local projects on the Great War' was presented by the authors on 6 November 2012 in the Schelp chamber at the Flemish Parliament.

To commemorate the end of the First World War, the Flemish Peace Institute, the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum and Ypres, City of Peace, organized a Remembrance Day lecture on the eve of the anniversary of the Armistice. Following Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima who spoke in 2008, war correspondent Robert Fisk in 2009, author Erwin Mortier in 2010 and former UN diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi in 2011, Jan Techau accepted an invitation to portray his vision of war and peace in commemoration of the First World War. Jan Techau is the Director of Carnegie Europe, the European Centre of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The cellist Gavriel Lipkind provided the musical counterpart for the Remembrance Day Lecture.

6.1.3 Communication

Strategic communication

Effective external communication is the phase that rounds off the Institute's research, advisory and documentation work. In order to enhance its effectiveness, and as a complement to the Institute's strategic plan, a strategic communications plan for 2012-2013 tackled the issue of how best to combine the Institute's mission, vision and strategy with external (strategic) communications.

In 2012, this communication plan guided the Flemish Peace Institute's external communications, serving both to support the established strategic plan and to project the Institute's identity.

House style

For the design of its house style, the Flemish Peace Institute works with Gramma nv. Gramma is responsible for part of the layout of the publications of the Flemish Peace Institute and for the technical support for the website.

Website

The website of the Flemish Peace Institute is the central vehicle for information and communication: thus all the Institute's products clearly display the website address. The updating and further development of the site are a constant focus of attention.

www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu

www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu

Digital Newsletter

In 2012, electronic newsletters were regularly sent to subscribers. By subscribing to the newsletter, interested parties can keep abreast of the Institute's activities and new publications.

Web 2.0

The Flemish Peace Institute has its own Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vlaamsvredesinstituut and a Twitter account at [@Vredesinstituut](http://www.twitter.com/Vredesinstituut). The Flemish Peace Institute also has its own LinkedIn page as well as its own YouTube channel for sharing documentary clips and other videos.

6.1.4 The Flemish Peace Institute in the press

Press releases

13/01/2012 'België exporteert massaal militaire vuurwapens naar het Midden-Oosten'

06/04/2012 'In België zou wapensmokkelaar Victor Bout nooit veroordeeld zijn'

22/05/2012 'Vlaams wapenhandeldecreet goedgekeurd'

23/05/2012 'Vlaamse wapenexport naar het Midden-Oosten houdt aan'

19/06/2012 '56 miljoen euro Vlaamse exportvergunningen voor gevoelig nucleair materiaal in 2011'

26/06/2012 'Vaststellingen illegaal wapenbezit omhoog geschoten na invoering nieuwe Wapenwet'

06/11/2012 'Boek '14-18 van dichtbij' stelt inhoud centraal bij herdenking WOI'

15/11/2012 'Saoedi-Arabië belangrijkste afzetmarkt voor Belgische wapens in 2011'

Audiovisual media coverage

15/01/2012: 'Wapenexport naar het Midden-Oosten'

Radio 1: De Ochtend

16/02/2012: 'Nieuwe generatie Kalashnikov AK-12'

Kanaal Z: News loop

27/02/2012: 'Nominaties Nobelprijs 2012'

Radio 1: Vandaag

29/02/2012: 'Vondst van wapen- en munitiearsenaal in Brussel'

FM Brussel

01/03/2012: 'Vlaamse wapenexport in 2011'
VRT Radio: News

01/03/2012: 'Vlaamse wapenexport in 2011'
Q-Music/JoeFM: News

19/03/2012: 'Wereldwijde wapenhandel stijgt met 25%'
Q-Music/JoeFM: News

06/04/2012: 'Veroordeling Victor Bout en wetgeving over tussenhandel'
Radio 1: Vandaag

23/05/2012: 'Jaarrapport Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2011'
VRT Radio: News
Q-Music/JoeFM: News
Kanaal Z: News loop
Eén: Het Journaal (The News)

28/05/2012 'Het Vlaams Vredesinstituut bestudeert de buitenlandse wapenhandel 2011'
Actua TV:

25/06/2012 'Vaststellingen van illegaal wapenbezit'
VRT Radio: News
Q-Music/JoeFM: News
Brussel FM

20/07/2012 'De Conferentie over het *Arms Trade Treaty* in New York'
Radio 1: De Ochtend

27/08/2012 'De piekende Amerikaanse wapenexport in 2011'
Kanaal Z: News loop

13/09/2012 'Amerikaans defensieoverwicht bedreigd'
Kanaal Z: News loop

12/10/2012 'Vlaams Vredesinstituut voorzichtig blij met Nobelprijs'
VRT Radio: News

19/10/2012 'Waalse wapens in Gaza'
Radio 1: Vandaag

15/11/2012 'Saoedi-Arabië belangrijkste afzetmarkt voor Belgische wapens in 2011'
VRT Radio: News

16/11/2012 'Saoedi-Arabië belangrijkste afzetmarkt voor Belgische wapens in 2011'
VRT Radio: News
Radio 1: De Ochtend

13/12/2012 '1 jaar na de raid van Amrani'
RTBF La première

16/12/2012 'Belgisch vuurwapenbezit'
VTM: News

Written press

12/01/2012 'België beheerst wapenexport Midden-Oosten' – De Tijd

12/01/2012 'België voert grootste aantal wapens uit naar Midden-Oosten' – De Morgen

12/01/2012 'België beheerst wapenhandel naar Midden-Oosten' – Metro

18/01/2012 'België levert wapens aan Midden-Oosten' – Wablieft

01/03/2012 'Export Vlaamse wapens halveert' – Gazet van Antwerpen

01/03/2012 'Export Vlaamse wapens halveert' – Belang van Limburg

01/03/2012 'Onrust over nieuw wapendecreet' – Metro

02/03/2012 'Minder Vlaamse wapens verkocht' – De Tijd

14/05/2012 'Elk jaar 6.000 verboden wapens in beslag genomen' - Het Laatste Nieuws

19/05/2012 'Wanneer kunnen we een roman schrijven over de afname van nucleaire dreiging?' – De Morgen

24/05/2012 'Niemand weet hoeveel Vlaamse wapens in conflictregio's zijn' – De Morgen

24/05/2012 'Vlaamse wapens gaan nog altijd naar Midden-Oosten' – de Standaard

24/05/2012 'Wapenexport daalt met 37%' – Gazet van Antwerpen

24/05/2012 'Wapenexport daalt met 37%' – Het Laatste Nieuws

24/05/2012 'L'armement Flamand recule' – Metro (FR)

24/05/2012 'Vlaamse wapenexport daalt met een derde' – Metro (NL)

13/06/2012 'België net niet in top tien van vreedzaamste landen' – De Morgen

20/06/2012 'Voor 56 miljoen nucleair materiaal uitgevoerd' – De Morgen

20/06/2012 'Voor 56 miljoen nucleair materiaal uitgevoerd' – Het Nieuwsblad

20/06/2012 'Export naar Iran 14 keer verhinderd' – De Tijd

20/06/2012 'Voor 56 miljoen export van nucleair materiaal' – Het Belang van Limburg

27/06/2012 'Politie neemt 10.121 wapens, messen en boksbeugels in beslag' – De Morgen

27/06/2012 'Politie vindt elke dag 15 illegale wapens' – Het Laatste Nieuws

27/06/2012 'Illegaal wapenbezit gestegen sinds nieuws wapenwet' – Metro

26/07/2012 'Van diamant naar wapens' – De Standaard

16/11/2012 'Saoedi-Arabië belangrijkste afzetmarkt Belgische wapens' – De Morgen

16/11/2012 'Vragen bij Belgische wapenexport' – Metro

21/11/2012 'Belgische wapens in 2011' – Knack

22/11/2012 '879 millions d'euros est le montant des exportations d'armes' – Tendances

18/12/2012 'Wapenwet zorgt voor helft minder Vlaamse doden door vuurwapens' – De Morgen

31/12/2012 'België is grootste exporteur van pistolen' – De Standaard

31/12/2012 'België is grootste exporteur van pistolen' – De Standaard

Financial Report

In cooperation with the services of the Flemish Parliament's General Secretariat, the Flemish Peace Institute operates an autonomous budgetary and financial accounting system in SAP. This means that, besides the separate budget, separate annual accounts are also prepared. The Flemish Parliament assigns an annual operating grant to the Institute and, on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, approves its budget and accounts. The Flemish Peace Institute adheres to the rules of accountancy laid down in the Budgetary and Accountancy Regulations for institutions associated with the Flemish Parliament. The Institute's accounts are audited by the Audit Office.

For a financial report on the Flemish Peace Institute's working year in 2012, please see the 'Flemish Peace Institute accounts for financial year 2012' submitted to the Flemish Parliament.

8.1 *Documentary clips and fact sheets*

In order to disseminate the results of its research in the most accessible way possible the Flemish Peace Institute in 2012 published the following documentary clips and fact sheets in 2012:

Documentary clips

‘Jaarrapport: Vlaamse wapenhandel in 2011’ – May 2012

‘Handel in dual-use producten: civiel en militair gebruik’ – June 2012

‘14-18 van dichtbij: inspiratie over lokale projecten over WOI’ – November 2012

‘Elfnovemberlezing door Jan Techau’ – November 2012

Factsheets

‘Tussenhandel: een aparte categorie van internationale wapenhandel’ - January 2012

‘De Europese Unie en controle op wapenhandel’ – January 2012

‘De Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel in 2011’ – May 2012

‘Registratie en traceerbaarheid van ingevoerde vuurwapens’ – July 2012

‘Het Internationaal Wapenhandelsverdrag (ATT)’ – July 2012

‘14/18 van dichtbij: inspiratie voor lokale projecten over de Grote oorlog’ – November 2012

8.2 *Publications in Dutch*

Reports

Jongeren als daders en slachtoffers van geweld in Vlaanderen

Author: Marjolein Muys

Publication: Brussels, 27 March 2012

Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2011

Author: Nils Duquet

Publication: Brussels, 23 May 2012

ISBN 9789078864509, 58 p.

Vlaamse buitenlandse handel in producten voor tweërlei gebruik 2011

Author: Nils Duquet

Publication: Brussels, 19 June 2012

ISBN 9789078864493, 37 p.

De registratie en traceerbaarheid van ingevoerde vuurwapens

Authors: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Publication: Brussels, 4 July 2012

ISBN 9789078864516, 29 p.

SIPRI Yearbook 2012 - Samenvatting in het Nederlands

Publication: Brussels, 6 August 2012

Sportschieten met vuurwapens: analyse van draagvlak, juridisch kader en de praktijk in Vlaanderen

Authors: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Publication: Brussels, 15 November 2012

ISBN 9789078864530, 35 p.

Jagen met vuurwapens in Vlaanderen: draagvlak, regelgeving, feiten & cijfers

Authors: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Publication: Brussels, 22 November 2012

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Book

14-18 van dichtbij. Inspiratiegids voor lokale projecten over de Grote Oorlog

Authors: Giselle Nath & Maarten Van Alstein

Publication: Leuven, 6 November 2011 (Acco Publishers)

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Advies bij het ontwerp van decreet betreffende wapenhandel

Publication: Brussels, 26 January 2012

100 jaar Eerste Wereldoorlog in het teken van vrede

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Publication: Brussels, 25 June 2012

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Publication: Brussels, 26 June 2012

Annual report

Jaarverslag 2011

Publication: Brussels, 15 June 2012

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Lectures

Elfnovemberlezing

by Jan Techau

Publication: Brussels, 10 November 2012

8.3 *Publications translated into English*

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Young offenders and victims of violence in Flanders

Author: Marjolein Muys

Publication: Brussels, 27 March 2012

Flemish Foreign Arms Trade 2011

Author: Nils Duquet

Publication: Brussels, 23 May 2012

ISBN 9789078864509, 58 p.

Flemish Foreign Trade in Dual-use Items 2011

Author: Nils Duquet

Publication: Brussels, 19 June 2012

ISBN 9789078864493, 37 p.

Gun Ownership in Belgium

Authors: Nils Duquet & Maarten Van Alstein

Publication: Brussels, 19 September 2012

ISBN 9789078864523, 20 p.

The European Union's Involvement In Negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty

Author: Sara Depauw

Publication: EU Non-proliferation Consortium, together with SIPRI, 6 December 2012

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