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Annual report 2014

**Flemish Peace Institute  
2014 Annual Report**

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## **Foreword**

The May 2014 elections marked the start of a new policy period in Flanders. From 2014 until 2019, a newly elected Flemish Parliament will further light the way for our society. The Flemish Peace Institute considers it important that parliament should fully exercise its core duties - namely pursuing the political debate, passing laws and monitoring the government – also in the interest of peace and the prevention of violence. When discussing peace issues, different interests and values often seem to be at odds with each other. Ultimately, the MPs are responsible for determining which ones prevail and for providing guidance for the government's policy.

Since 2006 the Flemish Peace Institute has provided its full support to the Flemish Parliament to this end, and will do so in the new policy period. Each year we present a report on our work to the Flemish Parliament, civil society and the public. As laid down in our Founding Act, our activities include conducting scientific research, giving advice, and providing documentation and information. This annual report provides an overview of our activities in 2014. As an election year when a new parliament was elected, and the Institute's Board of Directors also completed its term, 2014 was also in a sense a transitional year for the period up to 2020.

After the new parliament was sworn in in June 2014, the Flemish Peace Institute published a wish-list looking forward. In it, we set out a number of guiding lights for a policy under the new coalition aimed at peace and the prevention of violence. These guiding principles are a respectful approach to our war past; a peace test to be applied in Flemish foreign policy; adequate control over the arms trade, and a non-violent approach to societal conflicts. These are also the issues running as a red thread through the Flemish Peace Institute's activities in 2014, as will be seen in this annual report.

2014 also marked the last year of the mandate of the Flemish Peace Institute's Board of Directors. A new Board was appointed in early 2015, which will further guide the Flemish Peace Institute's development.

In the 2014 report, we provide an account of the Flemish Peace Institute's development during the past year. First, we give an overview of the Institute's activities. Then we explain the Institute's work in more detail: namely the research programmes, support for the work of the Flemish Parliament, and the evaluation report of the Flemish Peace Institute's 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 annual report, we hope to provide a clear picture of the work carried out by the Flemish Peace Institute.

Tomas Baum  
*Director*

# 1 The Institute

## 1.1 Framework

### *The Founding Act: guidelines for the Flemish Peace Institute*

In the Founding Act of the Flemish Peace Institute (7 May 2004), the Flemish Parliament set out four tasks for this para-parliamentary institution: conducting fundamental and current peace research, collecting information sources and making them available to the public, information and education, and advising the parliament and the government.

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

Another of the Flemish Peace Institute's tasks is to inform the Flemish Parliament, civil society, and the public about peace and the prevention of violence, and about the results of research it carries 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 Parliament Act explicitly defines the Institute's advisory function to the Flemish Parliament regarding the annual report of the Government of Flanders on the 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 based on its research.

### *Target audience and mission*

In its fourfold mission, the Flemish Peace Institute targets a broad audience. As a para-parliamentary institution the Institute primarily serves the Flemish Parliament, providing support in the execution of its core duties. The Flemish Peace Institute assists the Flemish Parliament *inter alia* 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 public. Through its Board of Directors, the Flemish Peace Institute keeps a finger on the pulse of civil society as a whole in Flanders – employers, workers, academia, peace movements, and political parties.

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

*to systematically contribute to a more peaceful, local and international society, peace issues must be thoroughly analysed 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 is responsible for the production of in-depth analyses, the provision of information and the organisation 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 five-year mandate and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament. To ensure that the Peace Institute is an independent institute with the required expertise, that enjoys widespread support, the Founding Act provided 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 Board of Directors, the principle of balanced representation between men and women in advisory and administrative bodies is applied.

On 20 January 2014, the date of its first meeting in 2014, the Board of Directors was composed of the following members:

For the political parties:

Mr Freddy Sarens

Mrs Diane Verstraeten

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 William De Bruyn

Mr Philippe Haeyaert

Mrs Brigitte Herremans

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)

Mr Steven Luys

Mr Filip Reyniers

### *Meetings*

The meetings of the Board of Directors of the Flemish Peace Institute were held on 20 January, 11 March, 15 May, 23 September, 30 October and 16 December 2014 in the Flemish Parliament.

### *Daily Management*

The decisions made by the Board of Directors are implemented by the Daily Management Committee, which consists of the Chairman, Vice-chairman, and the Director of the Peace Institute. The members

of the Daily Management Committee 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 prescribed a Scientific Council which provides substantive support to the Board of Directors and to the Scientific Secretariat in their research activities. As an advisory body of international composition, the Scientific Council evaluates the quality of the Flemish Peace Institute's research 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 five years. The Scientific Council usually meets twice a year. The Council met in the Flemish Parliament on 21 March and 17 October 2014.

In 2014, the Scientific Council was composed of the following members:

Alyson J.K. Bailes – Adjunct Professor of International Relations at the University of Iceland. Ms Bailes chaired 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 - Emeritus 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 Vandevelde - Professor of Philosophy with the Centre for Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy of KU Leuven.

#### **1.4      *The Scientific Secretariat***

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

In 2014, the Secretariat was composed of the following members:

*Director*

Tomas Baum

*Researchers*

Sara Depauw

Nils Duquet

Maarten Van Alstein

Jorg Kustermans

*Communication and Coordination*

Wies De Graeve

*Office Manager*

Margarida Ferro

The Flemish Peace Institute offers internships to give students - from home and abroad - the opportunity to become acquainted with a professional working environment, with the Flemish Parliament and with the Institute's academic tasks. In 2014, Maarten Loeckx, Joren Kippers, Erik Plänitz (Germany), Johanna Kuther (The Netherlands) and Brent Van Lierde worked as interns for the Flemish Peace Institute under the supervision of its employees.

## 2 The arms trade and arms production

The Flemish Peace Institute examines legislation and policy on the international arms trade, and monitors the facts and figures on arms production and the arms trade in Flanders and Belgium. Since 2003, the regions are responsible in Belgium for imports, exports and transit of strategic goods. The Institute focuses on three types of products in its work: military equipment, firearms and dual-use items. Military equipment comprises arms or components of arms that are used in a military context. Firearms make up a special category, since the armed forces and the police as well as civilians can buy, own and use them. Dual-use items are not specifically developed for military purposes but may nevertheless have a military application. Regulations on the arms trade and the use of arms are increasingly determined at the European and international level. That is why the Flemish Peace Institute closely monitors regional (European) as well as international legislation.

In 2014, the Flemish Peace Institute for the first time gained a deeper and more realistic insight into the impact of the new Flemish Arms Trade Act on control policy for the arms trade. The way in which this act was applied turned out to have far-reaching implications.

The Institute also devoted considerable effort to drawing up a comprehensive situation report on the Belgian arms trade ten years after this competence was regionalized. There had hitherto been no comprehensive overview of the facts and figures, the legal context and the development of defence-related industries. The Peace Institute remedied this by publishing the book 'Belgische wapenhandel'.

Finally, the Institute also examined an aspect of arms trade control policy that is rarely discussed in more detail, namely the establishment and review of the lists of products subject to controls.

Details of Institute publications, networking and activities within the "Arms Trade and Arms Production" research programme can be found below in this annual report. The following sections explain the aim and content of the research activities under each theme.

### 2.1 *Flemish foreign arms trade in 2013*

The Peace Institute continually monitors the licences for imports, exports and transit of military equipment that the Flemish authorities issue and deny. Every year, the Institute publishes an annual report with figures, analyses and interpretation of developments in the Flemish foreign arms trade. The annual report 'Flemish foreign arms trade 2013' was presented to the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Flemish Parliament on 9 December 2014.

2013 was the first full year in which the Flemish Arms Trade Act (June 2012) was applied. The researches of the Flemish Peace Institute revealed that in practice the impact of this new Arms Trade Act, the new Arms Trade Decree, and the related administrative measures was quite significant. The Arms Trade Act and the policy that it embodies constitute a specific transposition of EU legislation. Under the relevant regulation, Member States were required to somewhat ease the controls on arms and military equipment for intra-EU transactions. However, Flemish policy went beyond EU legal requirements, as it also eased controls on exports to countries outside of the EU. Based on its research, the Flemish Peace Institute drew three major conclusions:

1. about half of the previously controlled arms exports are no longer controlled and consequently remain invisible;
2. a comprehensive overview of transactions involving other EU countries - which previously accounted for 30% of controlled exports - is currently lacking;

3. only arms exports to countries outside of the EU (20%) are still controlled before export; in half of the cases, however, it is not clear who is the actual end-user.

For further information see:

*Flemish foreign arms trade 2013*

Authors: Tomas Baum & Nils Duquet

Brussels, 9 December 2014 - ISBN 9789078864707, 60 p.

## **2.2 *Flemish trade in dual-use items 2013***

Along with the licensed trade in military equipment, the Peace Institute also monitors licences issued and denied by the Flemish authorities for imports, exports and transit of dual-use items. The Institute publishes an annual report with figures and analyses about these licensed trade flows. The annual report, 'Vlaamse buitenlandse handel in goederen voor tweëërlei gebruik 2013', was published on 18 December 2014.

In its annual report on the Flemish trade in dual-use items in 2013, the Flemish Peace Institute came to the following conclusions:

1. In 2013, the authorities issued licences for a variety of dual-use items. These included nuclear-related items such as special fissile materials and deuterium; chemical substances that may be used as precursors for toxic chemical agents; and systems and software for cryptographic data protection.
2. For Flemish exports of a high proportion of these dual-use items, the Flemish authorities issue both individual and global licences. The choice of an individual or global licence is not determined by the type of dual-use item, but by the company that applies for the licence and/or the countries of destination.
3. A comparison between the export licences approved and denied raises a number of questions about the consistency of this control policy. In 2013 the Government of Flanders denied a number of applications for licences for exports of dual-use items to specific destinations in Egypt and Israel, while approving global licences for exports of the same type of products to these two countries.

For further information see:

*Vlaamse buitenlandse handel in producten voor tweëërlei gebruik 2013*

Author: Nils Duquet

Brussels, 18 December 2014 – ISBN 9789078864717, 35p.

## **2.3 *The Belgian arms trade***

In the past decade, Belgian arms trade and the related controls have changed significantly. In the summer of 2003, the competence for foreign arms trade was largely devolved to the regions. In 2006, the conditions for firearms trade changed significantly as a result of the new arms trade legislation. In 2012, Walloon and Flemish MPs respectively passed new acts of parliament that redefined the parameters for the foreign arms trade. A decade after the regionalization, the Flemish Peace Institute in 2014 published a book giving a comprehensive overview of the state of Belgian arms trade.

The book, 'Belgische wapenhandel', contains a number of contributions on the Belgian arms trade by different experts from the academic world and research institutions. They shed light on the arms trade and what exactly it consists of in Belgium. The book provides a historical insight into the Belgian decision-making process and regionalization; the development of Belgian arms production and trade in terms of facts and figures; further information on the legal context; a review of purchases and sales of military equipment by the Belgian army; and an overview of the firearms issue. Finally, the book's conclusions outline current trends and challenges for the control of Belgian arms trade.

For further information see:

*Belgische wapenhandel – Een politiek, economisch en ethisch hangijzer*

Authors: Tomas Baum, Sara Depauw & Nils Duquet

Acco Publishers; Leuven/The Hague, 20 November 2014 – ISBN 9789078868015, 190 p.

#### **2.4 Arms exports to the Arab world**

In 2013, to coincide with hearings in the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Peace Institute published the report 'Wapenexport naar de Arabische wereld'. In 2014, this research was updated and disseminated in international circles by means of the report "Business as usual?" (in English), in which the researchers took a closer look at European arms export policy for the region.

The conclusions of this research can be summarized as follows:

1. despite the political unrest in the Arab world, the EU Member States consider the majority of arms exports to the region as not being a cause for concern.
2. There is no harmonized EU approach for arms trade with the Arab world. A common approach was only reflected in the embargoes against Syria and Libya. The national interests of the various EU Member States clearly prevailed when dealing with all the other countries in the region.
3. The lack of harmonization and the reluctance to act that characterize European arms export policy towards the Arab world is undermining the credibility of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy.

For further information see:

*Business as usual? - Assessing the impact of the Arab Spring on European arms export control policies*

Author: Nils Duquet

Brussels, 24 March 2014 – ISBN 9789078864660, 95 p.

#### **2.5 Lists of goods subject to export control**

In 2014 the Flemish Peace Institute commissioned a study into an often under-researched aspect of the export control policy: the lists of goods to be controlled. These lists of military and dual-use items determine the scope of relevant regulations and of export control policy. The lists of military goods and dual-use items for which trade in controlled are determined in various international forums. The

Flemish Peace Institute's research focused on the history and background of these lists. At the same time it examined how these lists are revised: who decides which goods are controlled, and how?

The research was conducted by an expert from Berkeley University (USA). He concluded that the way in which these lists are developed varies depending on the different control regimes that have been established for each specific field of technology. Some lists were established and have never been amended since, while others are revised every year. These lists and their revisions are also the subject of negotiations and discussions on security risks. Such negotiations are very technical, but they also have an important political dimension.

For further information see:

*Revising Export Control Lists*

Author: Dr. Samuel A. Evans

Brussels, 24 March 2014 – ISBN 9789078864677, 56 p.

## **2.6 Dutch-language summary of the 2014 SIPRI Yearbook**

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Yearbook (*SIPRI Yearbook*) contains original data from numerous fields such as global military expenditure, the 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 external experts.

The *SIPRI Yearbook* was first published in 1969 and 2014 saw its 45th edition. 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 2014 edition of the SIPRI Yearbook paid special attention to the situation in Syria.

For further information see:

*SIPRI Yearbook 2014 - Samenvatting in het Nederlands door het Vlaams Vredesinstituut*

Brussels, 8 October 2014 - 28 p.

## 2.7 *Firearms*

The Flemish Peace Institute has also been conducting research for some time now, in the context of its Arms Trade and Production programme, into the trade, possession and use of firearms. The previously published book ‘Vuurwapens: handel, bezit en gebruik’ was the first such publication to map all firearms-related activities in Belgium, as well as evaluating the Weapons Act, examining social attitudes, and exploring the relationship with mortality. Further to this, the Institute also published specific research on the registration of imported firearms, hunting and sport shooting.

In 2014 the Flemish Peace Institute conducted further research on this subject, focussing specifically on the fight against the illegal arms trade and the impact of arms legislation on arms possession, trade and mortality.

For further information see:

<http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/research/arms-trade-arms-production-programme/firearms>

### 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 challenges that societies all over the world must grapple with. The same themes are on the agenda in Flanders, too; *inter alia* because of tensions in urban society, the debate on the role of education in preventing 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. The Institute also examines social processes that are conducive to the conditions for peace, at local and at international level. How are urbanization and violence related? How do people deal with the commemoration and remembrance of conflicts? And what role do Peace Education and conflict management play in education?

Details of the Institute's publications, networking and activities within this programme can be found elsewhere in this annual report. The following sections briefly explain the aim and content of the research activities under each theme.

#### 3.1 *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 outlaw 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 recognizing mutual suffering, help to bring about reconciliation. In its research, the Flemish Peace Institute has explored 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.

In 2014 the Flemish Peace Institute spread the lessons of its research on the subject – which included the report 'Honderd jaar Eerste Wereldoorlog in het teken van vrede' and the book '14-18 van dichtbij' – in a long-lasting way by advising policy-makers, providing support to civil society, contributing to the scientific debate, and staging the exhibition 'The graves are nice this time of year' in the Loketten hall of the Flemish Parliament.

For further information see:

<http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu/research/peace-society/commemoration-and-remembrance>

*The Graves are nice this time of year*

Authors: Jimmy Kets, Maarten Van Alstein, Joost Vandecasteele

Hannibal publishers; Veurne, 25 September 2014 – ISBN 9789491376962, 167 p.

### 3.2 *Urban society*

Globally, society is increasingly taking shape in cities and urban environments. Cities in Belgium are also centres of growth and to a degree, we may consider all of Flanders as an urbanized region. Cities are not individual entities. They float or sink with the upward and downward spirals of the global economy, are magnets for rich and poor, and form the hubs of migration flows and internationalization. Cities are thus at the heart of a changing world, with all its opportunities, but also with its tensions and conflicts. The authorities need to react flexibly to these ever-changing urban dynamics, and provide impulses for a peaceful society. Local administrations have their finger on the pulse in this regard and a balanced Flemish urban policy can offer the necessary support. Informal urban communities also play a role in handling social conflict.

The Flemish Peace Institute has sought a sound understanding of urban society, paying particular attention i.a. to the different forms and backgrounds of violence, and to the possibilities for preventing it. In 2014 the Institute published two studies that delve deeper into the background, significance and approach of urban riots. In addition, the Institute also took the first steps in the preparation of a research project on the theme of (de)radicalization. The results of this research will be published in 2015.

#### ***Research into urban riots***

From time to time riots erupt in cities. These are events of relatively large-scale collective violence in the urban public space, and they occur in Brussels and in Antwerp as well as in London, Paris, Athens and other cities. In its first report the Flemish Peace Institute examined the May 2013 riots in Stockholm, which came as a complete surprise to foreign observers as Sweden is traditionally considered a rich "model state". A study of these unexpected riots offered a good opportunity to take a fresh look at the issue of collective violence in today's cities; it also provided a better insight into the dynamics and background of urban riots. They are not merely eruptions of violence, but have their own structure. Their roots often lie in the difficult relationship between young people and the police forces. A thorough analysis of the spatial embedding of these events is also important. We must be bold enough to bring the political aspect or significance of these riots into the picture. Above all, when dealing with such urban riots we must bridge physical and symbolic distances.

A second report of the Flemish Peace Institute took a closer look at the Flemish context and at the ways government and policy-makers may deal with urban riots. The study was based on an analysis of three cases: the riots in Kuregem, Houthalen and Stockholm. The report concluded that any approach to urban riots must involve more than the familiar repressive and preventive measures. City riots require policy decisions, which typically focus on immediately containing the violence (repression) and preventing future riots (prevention). Three additional policy dimensions also seem important, however: controlling power relationships, cultivating communication flows, and shaping the spatial context.

For further information see:

*Unrest in the city – What can the riots in Stockholm teach us?*

Author: Jorg Kustermans

Brussels, 25 March 2014 – ISBN 9789078864653, 38 p.

*Omgaan met stadsrellen – Meer dan repressie, meer dan preventie*

Author: Jorg Kustermans & Brent van Lierde

Brussels, 3 December 2014 – ISBN 9789078864721, 40 p.

### 3.3 *Peace education and schooling*

Within the Peace and Society research programme, the Flemish Peace Institute has already conducted extensive research into Peace Education. Among other things, it has looked at what exactly peace education entails and how it is implemented in practice, i.a. in our educational system. It thus 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. In 2014 the Flemish Peace Institute published the report 'Can peace be taught? Researching the effectiveness of peace education'.

Peace education projects are inspired by a wide range of good intentions: curbing bullying at school, learning about war, introducing peaceful conflict management, drawing attention to human rights, and so forth. The authorities (who provide the grants) and the organizations involved often wonder, however, whether these projects really make a difference and whether they really 'work'. It is not easy to formulate a scientific answer to this.

That is why researchers from the Free University of Brussels (VUB, TOR research group), commissioned by the Flemish Peace Institute, searched the available literature for effectiveness studies on the different aspects of peace education. They examined feasibility, methodology and the implications of measuring effectiveness. Their report also brings together the findings of existing research, asking which factors really contribute to a peace education project's impact.

In its conclusions the report emphasizes that research into effectiveness is a job for experts, which requires substantial resources and should therefore be conducted in a targeted manner. The researchers advocated a pragmatic approach: it is vital to reflect on objectives and effectiveness before implementing any project in this framework.

For further information see:

*Can peace be taught? – Researching the effectiveness of peace education*

Authors: Bram Spruyt, Mark Elchardus, Lilith Roggemans and Filip Van Droogenbroeck  
Brussels, 30 January 2014 – ISBN 9789078864646, 117 p.

### 3.4 *Opinion survey on peace issues*

In March 2014 the University of Antwerp (M2P research group) conducted a representative survey among more than 2,000 Belgians on questions that were to be included in the 2014 "Stemtest" (Voters' Poll) of the Flemish public broadcaster VRT and De Standaard newspaper. The Flemish Peace Institute asked the researchers to analyse the results in relation to a number of statements on peace issues:

1. "De regels voor de uitvoer van wapens en militaire onderdelen moeten strenger worden" (Vlaanderen) – "Les règles liées à l'exportation d'armes doivent être assouplies" (Wallonië) (The rules for exports of arms and military equipment should become stricter (Flanders) / The rules for arms exports should be eased (Wallonia))
2. "Het Belgische leger moet investeren in een opvolger van het F-16 gevechtsvliegtuig" (The Belgian army should invest in a successor for the F16 fighter aircraft)

3. “Alle kernwapens die op Belgisch grondgebied opgeslagen zijn, moeten worden verwijderd” (All nuclear weapons stored in Belgian territory should be removed)
4. “Het Belgische leger moet minder deelnemen aan buitenlandse interventies” (The Belgian army should take part in fewer foreign interventions)
5. “De lidstaten van de EU moeten een Europees leger oprichten” (The EU Member States should establish a European army)

The summary results of these analyses were published in the form of factsheets.

For further information see:

<http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/onderzoeksopzet-opinie-onderzoek-vredesvraagstukken>

## 4 Support for parliamentary activities

Parliament is the cornerstone of a democracy: MPs conduct political debates, hold legislative powers, monitor the government's work and allocate the budget. The Flemish Parliament fulfils these core duties for a wide range of Flemish competences. Flemish MPs and society stand to gain in this context from well-documented information, clear analyses and well-thought-out advice. The Flemish Peace Institute fulfils this responsibility within its sphere of expertise on peace issues.

The Institute provides support for the activities of the Flemish Parliament through its research (see Chapters 2 and 3), the publication of advisory notes (see 4.2), and the development of a documentation centre (see 4.3), plus contributions to committee meetings, the organization of working visits, and conferences (see 4.1). In the following sections, direct support to the Flemish Parliament is further documented through an account 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 *Parliamentary activities*

The Flemish Peace Institute's work informed discussions, requests for information and written questions in various Flemish Parliament committees in relation to the policy notes on Foreign Affairs and Youth and Equal Opportunities, and on themes such as Flemish arms exports and exports of dual-use items, the evaluation of the Arms Trade Act, the commemoration of World War I, remembrance education and violence in the world of youth.

In 2014 there were also direct exchanges of view with the Committees for Foreign Affairs, European Issues and International Cooperation, Tourism and Heritage. On 25 November 2014, director Tomas Baum presented the 2013 annual report of the Flemish Peace Institute to the Committee (see parliamentary document 44 (2014) - No. 2). On 9 December 2014, the Committee discussed the report on "Flemish foreign arms trade 2013", based on a presentation by director Tomas Baum and researchers Nils Duquet (see parliamentary document 199 (2014-2015) - No. 1).

In the framework of the introductory sessions for new Flemish MPs after the May 2014 elections, the Flemish Peace Institute, as a para-parliamentary institution, also contributed by explaining its tasks and activities in various forums for the newly elected MPs. For example, the Institute actively contributed to the welcome days for new MPs on 11 June and 25 September 2014.

On 16 October 2014, the Institute assisted in the reception of parliamentary delegations from the United Kingdom and Ireland visiting Flanders in the framework of the commemoration of World War I. A VIP evening was organized for the delegations at the exhibition 'The graves are nice this time of year' by Jimmy Kets (see 6.1.2).

Finally, the members of the Flemish Parliament were welcomed to and actively involved in the events (seminars, workshops, conferences) that the Peace Institute organized in 2014 (see 6.1.2).

#### *Working visits*

On 21 and 22 February 2014, researcher Maarten Van Alstein and director Tomas Baum accompanied the Committees for Tourism and Immaterial Heritage of the Flemish Parliament during a working visit to the Westhoek region in the framework of the Centenary of the Great War.

On 4 and 5 December 2014, a delegation of the Flemish Peace Institute and the Flemish Parliament Committee for Foreign Affairs visited The Hague. The theme of this working visit was "norms in international politics". The programme included meetings with the Flemish Representative and the

Belgian Embassy and a visit to the International Law Courts, the International Criminal Court and the OPCW.

## 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 arise from scientific research or may respond to a political or social stimulus. The other advisory functions of the Institute are to provide advice as requested by the Flemish Parliament, and 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 imports, exports, transit and transfer of defence-related products, other materials especially intended for military use, law enforcement material, civil small arms, components and ammunition.

All the opinions of the Flemish Peace Institute are issued by the Institute's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is composed of 19 voting members from different sectors of Flemish civil society. The members hold a five-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 2014, it issued two advisory notes on its own initiative. The Board of Directors issued these advisory notes unanimously. They were sent to the speaker of the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Members of Parliament and the competent ministers. The advisory notes were also published on the Institute's website and disseminated by newsletter.

### 4.2.1 *Advice concerning the decision to purchase new fighter aircraft for the air component of Belgian defence forces*

#### Context

During the 2014-2019 coalition period, the federal government will have to come to a decision about the possible purchase of new fighter aircraft for the armed forces. The Flemish Peace Institute is of the opinion that defence policy in a democracy requires transparency, civilian control and parliamentary control. In its advice note, the Institute emphasized the importance of a well-informed political and social debate. To this end, it saw a need to clarify the forces' long-term vision and the economic impact of such a contract.

#### Content

In the context of the impending decision on purchasing new fighter aircraft for the air force component of Belgian defence forces, the Flemish Peace Institute drew attention to a number of important elements:

- Existing public information does not cover all the angles needed for an assessment of whether the purchase of new fighter aircraft is opportune:
  1. The choice of a possible replacement for the F-16s is embedded in a broader defence and foreign policy context, in a European framework, and within the setting of NATO. At

present, a comprehensive vision of the challenges facing the Belgian forces is lacking. Absent such a clear and public long-term vision, it is impossible to make informed and explicit choices on the future use of people and resources within the land, air and naval force components.

2. A careful assessment of the economic return on this public expenditure in terms of industrial participation is currently unavailable. A simple comparison with previous compensation arrangements for the F-16 is not enough. In contrast with the old compensation arrangement, Belgium did not decide to participate in the development phase of new fighter aircraft. As a result, Belgian companies have a relatively small chance of direct or semi-direct industrial participation.
- A potential purchase and the related operating costs will have a significant impact on the government's budget.
  - Currently, only one in four Belgians supports the purchase of new fighter aircraft.

The Flemish Peace Institute advised the Chamber and Senate, the Flemish Parliament and the federal and regional authorities, according to their respective competences and before taking a decision on whether or not to buy the new fighter aircraft -

1. to formulate a comprehensive vision for Belgian defence and to justify defence purchases or replacements on the basis of this vision;
2. to assess the full cost - including operational expenses - of the various options and to publish these figures;
3. to have independent bodies calculate the expected indirect economic return for Belgian industry and the impact on employment for the various options, and to publish these figures;
4. to conduct a public parliamentary debate on whether such a purchase is opportune, during which all the options - including not replacing the aircraft - are discussed based on comprehensive background material.

#### Action taken

The advisory note on the purchase of new fighter aircraft was sent to the President of the Flemish Parliament and the President and members of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, European Issues and International Cooperation as well as to the Flemish parliamentary parties and the Defence Minister.

#### 4.2.2 *Wish-list for Flanders and Peace, 2014-2019*

##### Context

From 2014 until 2019, a newly elected Flemish Parliament will further light the way for our society. The Flemish Peace Institute considers it important that parliament should fully exercise its core duties - namely pursuing the political debate, passing laws and monitoring the government – also in the interest of peace and the prevention of violence. In a wish-list document, the Institute set out a number of guiding principles for a policy aimed at peace and the prevention of violence during the 2014-2019 coalition period.

##### Content

The Flemish Peace Institute proposed the following guiding aims:

1. Dealing with our war past in a nuanced manner:
  - a. Projects about the war must highlight the many voices in history, reflecting not a unitary version of history but differing points of view, even if they are conflicting. This also applies to the remembrance landscape itself: it must be a negotiating table at which various parties remember the events in different ways.
  - b. To be historically valid 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. The larger historical context and the structural dynamics that facilitated the war should also be highlighted. A bottom-up approach will encourage people to think about war and peace.
  - c. During the 2014-2019 coalition period World War I will be in the centre of attention, but this approach should probably also be used for other episodes in our history.
2. More attention to peace building in Flemish foreign policy:
  - a. There have been proposals to incorporate peace and security in Flemish foreign affairs policy but this should become more visible. Parliament is best placed to lay out policy lines of a more value-driven kind. Moreover, it should not limit itself to policy guidelines but also put its commitments into practice.
  - b. To this end, the Flemish Peace Institute proposes creating a strong base for launching economic missions to (post-)conflict areas in support of diplomatic solutions, conflict transformation and peace building.
3. An adequate regulation of the arms trade, focussing on transparency and under parliamentary control:
  - a. Together with other Belgian authorities, Flanders should actively work for harmonising the arms export policies of EU Member States.
  - b. Every year the Flemish Parliament must be given the opportunity to thoroughly investigate arms trade policy and, where necessary, to adapt it. The debate should not be limited to administrative aspects; rather, controls on arms trade must also be integrated into a more comprehensive vision of foreign affairs and security policy.
4. A non-violent approach to societal conflict:
  - a. processes of non-violent conflict management and the negotiation of solutions must be stimulated and facilitated everywhere from classrooms to the workplace, and in the public space.

- b. As societal conflict has a tendency to crystallize in our cities, a balanced Flemish urban policy, local government, and informal urban communities can all play a role in dealing with societal conflict.
- c. A platform formed by MPs from various parliamentary committees with the aim of incorporating societal conflict management in policy for the long term would provide significant added value for Flanders.

#### Action taken

The wish-list ‘Vlaanderen en Vrede 2014-2019’ was sent to MPs, political parties and stakeholders. It was also made available online in the form of an infographic (<http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/vlaanderen-en-vrede-2014-2019-infographic>) and a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzZQq5zrFQ4>).

### **4.3 Documentation centre**

In cooperation with the Parliamentary Information Centre, the Flemish Peace Institute in 2014 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.

## 5 Evaluation report of the Scientific Council

In accordance with the 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 4 November 2015 by the members of the Scientific Council.

Following the installation of a new Board of Directors, the Scientific Council of the Flemish Peace Institute completed its process of reconstitution during the first half of 2015. The membership is now as follows: Dr. Sibylle Bauer - Director of the Dual-use and Arms Trade Control Programme of SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute); Prof. Dr. Huub Dijkstra - Professor of Philosophy of Science and Politics at the University of Amsterdam; Prof. Dr. Elise Féron - Tampere Peace Research Institute; Prof. Dr. Keith Krause - Professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Genève); Dr. Marcel Maussen - Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam; Prof. Dr. Antoon Vandevelde - Professor at the Centre for Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy at the K.U. Leuven; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wagner - Professor of International Security at the Department of Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU).

One of the first tasks of the new Scientific Council was to evaluate the research of the Institute in 2014: the members evaluated one book, eight reports and one advisory note. These publications concerned a range of topics related to arms trade and production (the yearly reports on transactions of military goods and dual-use products, a report on the impact of the Arab Spring in European arms export control policies, a report on the export control lists, a book on the Belgian arms trade and an advice on the purchase of new combat aircraft for the Belgian army) and issues related to peace and violence in society (two reports on city riots and one report on the impact of peace education). In addition, the Council took note of the external publications of the staff of the Institute, which range from articles in peer reviewed academic journals to contributions to online media. The work on the centenary of the First World War and commemoration policies has been published in European fora such as the newly established European Review of International Studies and in the network of European Foundations.

In the Scientific Council's opinion the Institute's output of 2014 reflects an impressive body of research and publishing for a single year, and underlines the level of competence and professionalism that the Institute and its researchers have attained. It is an achievement for which the Scientific Council would like to congratulate all concerned.

In its evaluation of the work of 2014, the Scientific Council would like to underline some specific positive aspects in the performance of the Institute's research assignments, as well as raise some critical remarks and identify some room for improvement.

In 2014, as in previous years, the Institute's research addressed very relevant topics within its core areas. In the area of arms trade and production, the Institute continued its series of annual reports about the Flemish foreign arms trade and about trade in dual use products with new volumes on developments in 2013. In addition, the Institute published, among others, a very topical report on the impact of the Arab Spring on the European arms control policies. A particular highlight of the work published in 2014 is the book on Belgian arms trade that brings together authors from within and outside FPI and provides a valuable overview of the various aspects to a broader audience. In the area of peace and violence in society, the Institute published a literature study on peace education, which addresses the key question of whether peace can be taught. Furthermore, two reports were published on city riots, an issue which has become a part of the Institute's research portfolio more recently.

Although all publications are designed and written with an eye to advising decision-makers, the policy orientation is most obvious for the advisory note on the decision to acquire a new fighter jet.

All publications are of good quality. The Scientific Council is particularly happy to see that research is increasingly contextualized internationally because it had recommended to do so earlier. Developments in the arms trade are presented and interpreted with an eye to developments in neighboring countries and at the level of the European Union. In the area of peace and violence in society, the two reports on city riots clearly speak to each other with one addressing riots in Flanders and the other one aiming to identify lessons-learned from the riots in Stockholm.

Partly due to fluctuations in staff, the research area of arms trade in Flanders is more firmly established than the area of peace and violence in society, and this is also reflected in the publications of the Institute. With its annual reports, special reports and advisory notes, the area of arms trade has established an impressive system of regular publications on which future work can build. In contrast, the area of peace and violence in society has not yet established such a firm system of publications. In 2014, the focus of publications in this area has been on a review of existing literature and a study of pertinent cases in Flanders and abroad (the Stockholm riots). The Scientific Council considers these publications as important steps towards the future publication profile of the Institute.

A lesson that can be learnt from the current publications is that the intended goals of the publications can be made clearer. Sometimes this means to identify the key audiences for a publication more explicitly; at other times it is important to identify relevant scholarly debates to which a publication aims at contributing more clearly.

It is inevitable that the various authors have their own voice and approach to the subject under study. Nevertheless, the Scientific Council recommends to keep an eye on the tone of the reports as this should not become too idiosyncratic.

All in all, the Scientific Council is very happy with the quantity and the quality of the publications. Therefore, its main recommendation is simply to continue the good work. In areas in which the Institute has built up a unique expertise (most obviously in the area of arms trade), the Scientific Council encourages the researchers to consider additional publications in internationally recognized outlets.

In order to further improve the quality of the work, the Scientific Council recommends to further contextualize the research in two ways wherever that is possible. First, existing studies and debates should be taken into account wherever they are relevant for the subject under study. Second, references to developments in other, comparable countries should be made wherever possible in order to fully comprehend the situation and the developments in Flanders.

## 6 External relations

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 needed *inter alia* for the exchange of information, developing networks, and conducting complementary research. In 2014, 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, setting up collaborative activities or publications, and through personal contacts.

In 2014, the staff of the Flemish Peace Institute gave presentations at the following academic events:

On 17 March 2014, the Institute's director Tomas Baum gave a guest lecture on the EU's arms export policy to the 'Conflict and Development' department of the University of Ghent.

On 24 March 2014, Tomas Baum gave a lecture titled 'European arms export policies: a challenge to the normative power of the EU' at the Centre for European and International Studies Research of the University of Portsmouth.

On 6 August 2014, researcher Jorg Kustermans presented his paper 'To explain a riot' at the WISC Fourth Global International Studies Conference in Frankfurt.

On 6 September 2014, researchers Nils Duquet and Maarten Van Alstein presented their paper 'EU strategy to tackle illicit acquisition of firearms' at the ECPR General Conference in Glasgow.

Researcher Sara Depauw participated in the 2014 Chaudfontaine seminar organized by the European Studies Unit of the University of Liège, in collaboration with the European Commission, from 28 to 30 September 2014. The seminar's theme was "Clarifying concepts and parameters of essential elements of a trade control system".

On 13 November researcher Maarten Van Alstein gave a guest lecture during the 'Herdenkingshype?' research seminar organized by the Institute of Public History (Instituut voor Publieksgeschiedenis) of Ghent University.

#### 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 organization of conferences and seminars (see Chapter 4).

Together with its role in the Flemish Parliament, the Peace Institute has also forged contacts with Flemish policy-makers in general, including the Strategic Goods Control Unit (Flemish Department of

Foreign Affairs) for the arms trade and arms production and the Project Secretariat 2014-2018 with regard to the commemoration of the Centenary of WWI.

In 2014, 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 20 March 2014 in the run-up to the European elections of May 2014, the Board of Directors of the Flemish Peace Institute visited the European Parliament and met with Flemish MEPs.

On 24 March 2014, researcher Nils Duquet presented the report 'Business as usual?' at the COARM-NGO meeting in Brussels.

On 15 May 2014, researcher Nils Duquet participated in an Expert Consultation by the United Nations Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

On 24 June 2014, researcher Nils Duquet addressed the Second Formal Regional Meeting of the South East Europe SALW Commissions of SEESAC (UNDP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Researcher Sara Depauw contributed to the special session 'Regulating Small Arms' of the Third EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference in Brussels on 4 and 5 September 2014.

On 5 November 2014, director Tomas Baum gave a lecture on export control of strategic goods to a delegation of Saudi Arabian diplomats in Brussels.

#### 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. After all, the Institute is more than a centre of expertise; it is also a Flemish political-social institution. Structurally, this partnership is embedded in the strong representation of civil society organizations on the Institute's Board of Directors.

In addition, the 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 2014 regularly included broad representation from organizations engaged in issues of peace. However, this is not a one-way process: the Peace Institute looks for a two-way flow and exchange of information and experience.

During a session on the Day of Cultural Education in BOZAR on 4 February 2014, Wies De Graeve provided an insight into the conceptual, artistic and educational process behind the photo exhibition, 'The graves are nice this time of year' by Jimmy Kets (see 6.1.2).

On 16 February 2014, researcher Maarten Van Alstein gave a lecture titled 'Antwerpen, belegerde stad: een verhaal over armoede, onrust en een moeilijk te besturen stad' in the Peace Centre in Antwerp.

On 3 March 2014, director Tomas Baum and researcher Maarten Van Alstein conducted an in-depth interview with the team that advised the Dutch War Graves Foundation to chart a new course.

On 23 April 2014, researcher Jorg Kustermans participated in a panel discussion on international conflicts in the framework of the Peace Education training programme on the University of Antwerp's Stadscampus.

On 23 April 2014, researcher Maarten Van Alstein gave a refresher course about '14-18 van dichtbij' to PEDIC East Flanders.

On 5 May 2014, researcher Maarten Van Alstein took part in a debate on the Contemporary History Day at the University of Antwerp.

On 12 June 2014, researchers Nils Duquet and Maarten Van Alstein contributed to a one-day seminar on 'Illegaal wapenbezit in België', organized by Politeia.

On 25 June 2014, researcher Maarten Van Alstein participated in a debate organized by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, titled 'What Do We Commemorate When We Commemorate WWI? The Impact of the First World War on Europe Today'.

From 7 to 14 July 2014, director Tomas Baum and researcher Maarten Van Alstein participated in a study trip (pilot project) of the Auschwitz Foundation to the WWII extermination camps in East Poland.

On 3 August 2014, researcher Jorg Kustermans gave a brief speech about 'fighting for peace' at a remembrance ceremony in Meensel-Kiezegem.

Director Tomas Baum and researcher Jorg Kustermans contributed to the 'Vechten voor Vrede' symposium organized by Vredeshuis Aalst and Artsen voor Vrede on 15 October 2014 in Aalst.

On 19 November, researcher Maarten Van Alstein gave a lecture titled "In Flanders Fields. Das Gedenken an den Ersten Weltkrieg in Flandern" at the Deutsche Historische Museum in Berlin, in collaboration with the Flemish Representative in Germany.

On 25 November 2014, director Tomas Baum gave a lecture on peace treaties at the 'Europe out of Conflict' youth conference, organized by the not-for-profit association Ryckvelde vzw.

On 11 December 2014, researcher Jorg Kustermans gave a lecture to Davidsfonds Zandhoven on the subject of violence in our society.

Finally, employees of the Flemish Peace Institute gave monthly guided tours in the Flemish Parliament for visitors, as a contribution to the activities of "de Kracht van je Stem", the Flemish Parliament's educational service.

### *6.1.2 Events*

Along with Transparency International, the Flemish Peace Institute organized a seminar on 18 February 2014 with experts and MPs from the various Belgian parliaments on parliamentary control in the framework of a security and defence policy.

On 10 March 2014, Cate Buchanan was the Peace Institute's guest for a policy briefing on her book 'Gun Violence, Disability and Recovery'.

On 25 and 26 September the Flemish Peace Institute was invited to the Flemish Parliament for an international Pugwash workshop, 'The Future of Nuclear Weapons in Europe'.

On 30 September 2014 the Flemish Peace Institute invited researchers of the Policy Research Centre on Equality Policies and Flemish MPs and their staff, experts and stakeholders to a lunch during which they discussed the state of affairs in terms of homophobic violence in Flanders and in Brussels, linked to the broader context of urban societies. The lunch seminar was organized during the Flemish Peace Week, which in 2014 was part of the wider international 'No Hate' campaign of the Council of Europe.

On 16 October 2014 the Flemish Peace Institute organized a seminar on the role of science in peace building. This seminar took place in the framework of a project undertaken by the institute in support of a Government of Flanders initiative to establish a Trauma and Transformation Network.

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, former UN diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi in 2011, Jan Techau in 2012 and the Canadian historian Margaret MacMillan in 2013, the Dutch author and politician Jan Terlouw accepted an invitation to portray his vision of war and peace in commemoration of the First World War. The vocal ensemble Aquarius provided the musical accompaniment to the Remembrance Day Lecture.

On 12 November a working meeting was held in the Flemish Parliament, involving a delegation of the Flemish Peace Institute and a delegation of the Japanese Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) with Japanese researchers and CEOs. The working meeting looked in detail at the existing EU regulations on export controls, the Belgian context, and exports to sensitive destinations.

The book 'Belgische wapenhandel', published by Acco, was presented during a lunch seminar on 20 November 2014 in the Flemish Parliament. During the book launch an introduction was provided by the editors, Tomas Baum and Nils Duquet. Comments came from a respondent panel made up of Herman De Croo, Bert Anciaux and Filip Reyniers.

### ***Exhibition 'The graves are nice this time of year'***

Jimmy Kets's photo exhibition ran from September to December 2014 in the Loketten hall of the Flemish Parliament. At the request of the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Peace Institute and the Council of the Flemish Community Commission, Kets created a photo series, which portrays the contemporary remembrance landscape in a novel and surprising way.

The curators were director Tomas Baum and Wies De Graeve and the exhibition drew between 7,000 and 9,000 visitors.

The following events took place in the margin of this photo exhibition:

- the official opening and evening opening of the exhibition were held on 25 September 2014 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Loketten hall in the Flemish Parliament.
- On 11 October, a Teacher's Day was organized at the exhibition, in partnership with Lerarenkaart (Teacher's card) and Klasse (a magazine for teachers).
- On 16 October, a VIP evening was organized for a select VRT audience and for parliamentary delegations from the United Kingdom and Ireland, visiting Belgium in the framework of the commemoration activities for World War I.

### 6.1.3 *Communication*

#### Strategic communication

Effective external communication is the phase that rounds off the Flemish Peace Institute's research, advisory and documentation work. In order to enhance its effectiveness and in line with the Institute's strategic plan for 2011-2014, a strategic communications plan was drawn up with a view to creating the best possible mutual links between the Institute's mission, vision, and strategy and its external (strategic) communications.

In 2014, 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 technical support for the website.

#### Website

The website of the Peace Institute is the central vehicle for information and communication: The website address is therefore clearly indicated on all printed and digital materials, and the maintenance and development of the site are a constant focus of attention.

[www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu](http://www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu)

[www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu](http://www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu)

In 2014 the website was updated and integrated in a new, user-friendly hosting platform. A new registration module for activities was also developed.

#### Digital Newsletter

In 2014, electronic newsletters were regularly sent to 1,500 subscribers. By subscribing to the newsletter, interested parties can keep abreast of the Peace Institute's activities and new publications.

#### Social media

The Peace Institute has its own Facebook profile at [www.facebook.com/vlaamsvredesinstituut](http://www.facebook.com/vlaamsvredesinstituut) and a Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/Vredesinstituut](http://www.twitter.com/Vredesinstituut) (@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

21/01/2014 ‘Europese wapenexport naar het Midden-Oosten bereikt recordniveau’

24/03/2014 ‘The Arab Spring did not lead to a more restrictive or harmonized EU arms export policy’

26/09/2014 ‘Zes op tien Belgen wil kernwapens weg uit Kleine Brogel’

09/12/2014 ‘Impact nieuw Vlaams Wapenhandeldecreet is groot – Jaarrapport’

##### Audiovisual media coverage

21/01/2014: ‘Cijfers over Europese wapenexport’

VRT Radio: Nieuws (The News)

08/06/2014: ‘War on terror na 9/11’

VRT Radio 1: Interne Keuken

12/06/2014: ‘Illegale wapenhandel’

Radio 1: De Ochtend

16/06/2014: ‘Advies Vredesinstituut over vervanging F-16’

Radio 1: De Ochtend

11/07/2014: ‘De mogelijke verkoop van divisie Defense & Aerospace van Barco’

Kanaal Z: News loop

26/09/2014: ‘Jimmy Kets in de Loketten’

Actua TV: news loop

20/11/2014: ‘Belgische wapenhandel’

Radio 1: Vandaag

24/11/2014: ‘Belgische wapenhandel’

Kanaal Z: Z-Expert

09/12/2014: ‘Jaarrapport Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2013’

Eén: Het Journaal (The News)

Radio 1: Nieuws (The News)

Radio 1: Vandaag

##### Print media

22/01/2014 ‘België grootste exporteur wapens naar Midden-Oosten’ – De Tijd

01/02/2014 ‘Antwerpen stond in lichterlaaie’ – De Nieuwe Antwerpenaar

01/02/2014 ‘Stichting zet werk Aurore verder’ – Het Laatste Nieuws

10/02/2014 'Lezing over Antwerpse oorlogsjaren' – Het Laatste Nieuws  
05/03/2014 'Zeppelins zaaien paniek boven Antwerpen' – Primo  
29/03/2014 'De feitenrechter' – De Morgen  
02/04/2014 'FN opent poort tot Brits leger' – De Morgen  
30/05/2014 'Vechten voor vrede' – De Bond  
17/06/2014 'Geen draagvlak voor opvolger F-16' – Metro  
18/07/2014 'Had vlucht MH17 zich kunnen beschermen tegen raketaanval?' – De Tijd  
08/08/2014 'Laat die Menenpoort maar staan' (op ed) – De Standaard  
12/08/2014 'Europees wapentuig vindt vlot weg naar Israël' – De Tijd  
13/08/2014 'Europa verdient aan oorlog in Gaza' – Het Nieuwsblad  
29/08/2014 'Honderden negen verloren toekomsten' – Krant van West-Vlaanderen  
11/09/2014 'Strijd tegen IS creëert momentum' (op ed) – De Tijd  
30/09/2014 'Un autre regard sur la mémoire de 14-18' – La Libre  
01/10/2014 'Bling bling defensie in Absurdistan' - Sampol  
02/10/2014 'Pas d'armes nucléaires en Flandre' – Trends/Tendances  
13/11/2014 'Koorleden verijdelen diefstal' – Het Laatste Nieuws  
10/12/2014 'Vlaamse wapensector minder transparant door nieuwe regels' – De Tijd  
10/12/2014 'Vlaamse wapenhandel nauwelijks nog te controleren' – De Morgen  
19/12/2014 'Wapenhandelsverdrag van kracht' – De Bond  
24/12/2014 'The graves are nice this time of year' – Beeldexpressie

#### Online media (selection)

21/01/2014 'Europese wapenexport naar Midden-Oosten bereikt recordniveau' – Knack.be  
21/01/2014 'Europese wapenexport naar Midden-Oosten bereikt recordniveau' – demorgen.be  
21/01/2014 'Europese wapenexport naar Midden-Oosten bereikt recordniveau' – hln.be  
21/01/2014 'Europese wapenexport naar Midden-Oosten bereikt recordniveau' – deredactie.be  
22/01/2014 'War is Business voor de Belgische 'deelstaten'' – dewereldmorgen.be  
05/02/2014 'Het Vlaams buitenlandbeleid is... Belgisch' (column) – mo.be

02/03/2014 'Drones veroveren moeizaam de wereld' – veto.be

05/03/2014 'De vredesdrone' (column) – mo.be

24/03/2014 'Belgische wapenexport naar Midden-Oosten neemt toe' – deredactie.be

02/04/2014 'Lente tussen woord en daad' (column) – mo.be

14/04/2014 'Wereldwijde militaire uitgaven gedaald door besparingen Westen' – mo.be

30/04/2014 'Over moorden, vuurwapens en dodelijke statistieken' – mo.be

07/05/2014 'Politiek voor primaten' (column) – mo.be

08/05/2014 'Vlaamse wapenexport goed voor meer dan 120 miljoen euro' – deredactie.be

08/05/2014 'Vlaanderen exporteerde in 2013 voor 121,3 miljoen euro vergunde wapens' – tijd.be

04/06/2014 'Een blauw of kaki antwoord op terreur' (column) – mo.be

16/06/2014 'Geen vlucht vooruit voor opvolger F-16' (op ed) – mo.be

26/06/2014 'Vijftig tinten herdenking in Ieper' (column) – mo.be

28/06/2014 'Panda's met een leeuwenhart' – doorbraak.be

10/09/2014 'Wapens voor de peshmerga! Of toch niet?' (op ed) – mo.be

17/09/2014 'Het appèl van de herdenkingsites van de Holocaust' (column) – mo.be

24/09/2014 'Jimmy Kets: verleden en heden van de Grote Oorlog' – brusselnieuws.be

26/09/2014 '61 procent Belgen wil kernwapens weg' – standaard.be

26/09/2014 '61 procent Belgen wil kernwapens weg' – demorgen.be

27/09/2014 'Meerderheid Belgen wil af van kernwapens' – mo.be

27/09/2014 'Beste politici, de Belg wil de kernwapens weg.' – demorgen.be

06/10/2014 'Vrede komt later' (column) – mo.be

13/10/2014 'De Nobelprijs voor de Vrede brengt belang kinderrechten onder de aandacht' – Knack.be

16/10/2014 'Herdenking van WO I door de ogen van Jimmy Kets: 'Respectvol, maar ook gerelativeerd' – Knack.be

03/11/2014 'Van de tafel naar de straat... en terug' (column) – mo.be

21/11/2014 'De toekomst van het Belgische leger' – mo.be

01/12/2014 'Martelaarschap: een keuze' (column) – mo.be

09/12/2014 'Vlaamse wapenexport is minder transparant' – tijd.be

09/12/2014 'Helpt Vlaamse wapenexport wordt niet meer gecontroleerd' – [deredactie.be](http://deredactie.be)

09/12/2014 'Alarmerend: Helpt Vlaamse wapenexport niet langer gecontroleerd' – [Knack.be](http://Knack.be)

29/12/2014 'Jaarlijks hoofdonderhoud' (column) – [mo.be](http://mo.be)

## **7 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 Audit Office audits the Institute's accounts.

For a financial report on the Flemish Peace Institute's working year in 2013, please see the 'Flemish Peace Institute accounts for financial year 2014' submitted to the Flemish Parliament.

## 8 List of Publications 2014

### 8.1 *Documentary clips and fact sheets*

In 2014, the Peace Institute published the following documentary clips and factsheets

#### Documentary clips

‘Het Vredesinstituut heeft goed nieuws voor u’ – June 2014

‘Niet te missen foto’s van ‘The graves are nice this time of year’ – September 2014

#### Factsheets

‘EU Wapenexport en de Arabische Lente’ – March 2014

‘Opinies over de aankoop van nieuwe gevechtsvliegtuigen voor Defensie’ – June 2014

‘Ambities Vlaanderen en Vrede 2014-2019 (infographic)’ – June 2014

‘Opinies over kernwapens op Belgisch grondgebied’ – September 2014

### 8.2 *Publications in Dutch*

#### Reports

##### *Kan je vrede leren?*

**Authors:** Bram Spruyt, Mark Elchardus, Lilith Roggemans and Filip Van Droogenbroeck

**Publication:** Brussels, 30 January 2014

ISBN 9789078864646, 117 p.

##### *Onrust in de stad*

**Author:** Jorg Kustermans

**Publication:** Brussels, 25 March 2014

ISBN 9789078864653, 38 p.

##### *SIPRI Yearbook 2013 - Samenvatting in het Nederlands*

**Publication:** Brussels, 8 October 2014

##### *Omgaan met stadsrellen – Meer dan repressie, meer dan preventie*

**Authors:** Jorg Kustermans & Brent Van Lierde

**Publication:** Brussels, 3 December 2014

ISBN 9789078864721, 40 p.

##### *Vlaamse buitenlandse wapenhandel 2013*

**Authors:** Tomas Baum & Nils Duquet

**Publication:** Brussels, 9 December 2014

ISBN 9789078864707, 60 p.

*Vlaamse buitenlandse handel in producten voor tweëërlei gebruik 2013*

**Author:** Nils Duquet

**Publication:** Brussels, 18 December 2014

ISBN 9789078864714, 35 p.

#### Book

*Belgische wapenhandel – Een politiek, economisch en ethisch hangijzer*

**Authors:** Tomas Baum, Sara Depauw & Nils Duquet

**Publication:** Acco publishers; Leuven/The Hague, 20 November 2014

ISBN 9789078868015, 190 p.

#### Advisory notes

*Ambitietekst - Vlaanderen en Vrede 2014-2019*

**Publication:** Brussels, 4 June 2014

*Advies over de beslissing tot aankoop van een nieuw gevechtsvliegtuig voor de luchtcomponent van de Belgische Defensie*

**Publication:** Brussels, 16 June 2014

#### Annual report

*Jaarverslag 2013*

**Publication:** Brussels, 17 June 2014

Document 44 (2012-2013) – No. 1

#### Lectures

*Elfnovemberlezing*

by Jan Terlouw

**Publication:** Ypres, 10 November 2014

*In Flanders Fields: het herdenken van de Eerste Wereldoorlog in Vlaanderen*

by Maarten Van Alstein

**Publication:** Berlin, 19 November 2014

### 8.3 *Publications in English*

#### Reports

*Revising Export Control Lists*

**Author:** Dr. Samuel A. Evans

**Publication:** Brussels, 24 March 2014

ISBN 9789078864677, 56 p.

*Business as usual?*

**Author:** Nils Duquet

**Publication:** Brussels, 24 March 2014

ISBN 9789078864660, 92 p.

*Unrest in the City*

**Authors:** Jorg Kustermans

**Publication:** Brussels, 16 April 2014

ISBN 9789078864684, 40 p.

*Can peace be taught? - Researching the effectiveness of peace education*

**Authors:** Bram Spruyt, Mark Elchardus, Lilith Roggemans and Filip Van Droogenbroeck

**Publication:** Brussels, 16 July 2014

ISBN 9789078864691, 108 p.

#### Annual report

*2013 Annual Report*

**Publication:** Brussels, 17 June 2014

#### Lectures

*Remembrance Day Lecture*

by Jan Terlouw

**Publication:** Ypres, 10 November 2014

#### 8.4 *Publications in external forums*

- Duquet, N. (2014), 'Dodelijke statistieken: van inzicht tot preventiestrategieën', mo.be.
- Van Alstein M. (2014), 'Jagen met vuurwapens in Vlaanderen', in *Politiejournaal*, 4, April 2014, p. 28-30.
- Depauw, S. (2014), Bridging the gap: the role of regional organizations in developing universal export controls, the case of the European Union in Jankowitsch-Prevor, O., Michel, Q., Paile, S. (eds.), *Modelling Dual-Use Trade Control Systems*, Brussels, P.I.E. Peter Lang, coll. *Non-Proliferation and Security*, Vol. 10, 2014, 261 p.
- M. Van Alstein (2014), 'De verbeelding van veelstemmigheid', in Jimmy Kets, *The Graves Are Nice this Time of Year*, Veurne: Hannibal, p. 6-10.
- Van Alstein M. (2014), 'Memories of War & Peace in Flanders Fields: The Great War Centenary and the Memory Boom', in *European Review of International Studies*, 1(2), p. 31-49.
- Kustermans J. (2014), '“Roguary” and Citizenship’ in W. Wagner, W. Werner and M. Onderco (Eds), *Deviance in International Relations, 'Rogue States' and International Security*, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 15-38
- Van Alstein M. (2014), *From Ypres to Brussels? Europe, Peace, and the Commemoration of WWI*, Heinrich Böll Stiftung EU
- De Graeve W. (2014), 'Een explosieve erfenis. Of hoe de wapens níét zwegen na 11 november 1918', in *De Geus*, May 2014, issue 5, year 46, p. 18-20.
- M. Van Alstein (2014), 'De republiek der digits', in *Streven*, 81(3), p. 195-196
- N. Duquet & M. Van Alstein (2014), 'Illegale vuurwapens in België', in *Het Politiejournaal*, November 2014, p. 28-31