

WEBINAR

PROJECT DIVERT

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STEALING PRECIOUS STEEL: FIREARMS THEFT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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09:30



This project
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— Police



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Fight against weapons trafficking



General context

Belgian government – National Public safety plan – all actors/aspects

Strong contribution by Police – 5 years term

Evaluation just released: picture of criminality by Dpt Strat Analysts

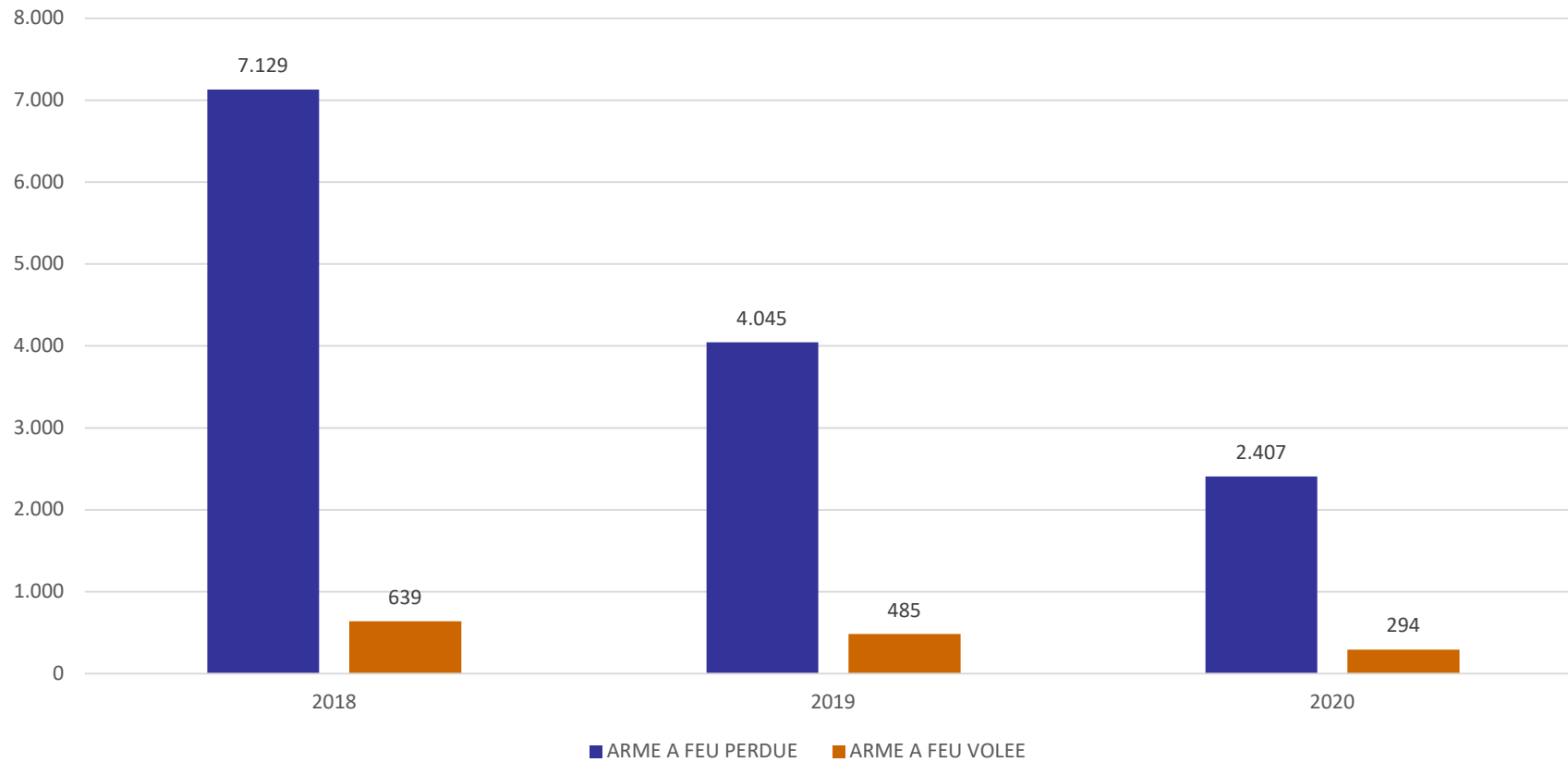
Next plan starting 2022 : Firearms trafficking not a priority in BE

Cases of firearms trafficking in 2015 = peak with more than 300

Since 2015 figures remain stable between 200 and 240 cases/year

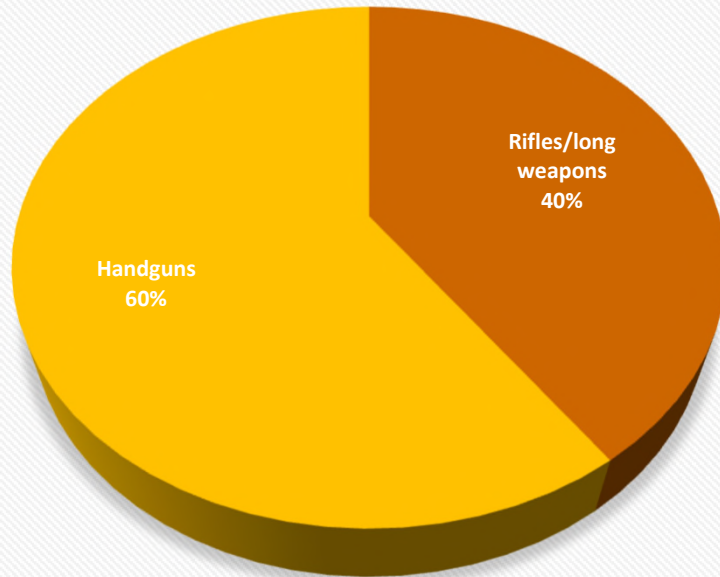
Legal firearms – lost and stolen

Lost and stolen firearms - last three years
(source: RCA)

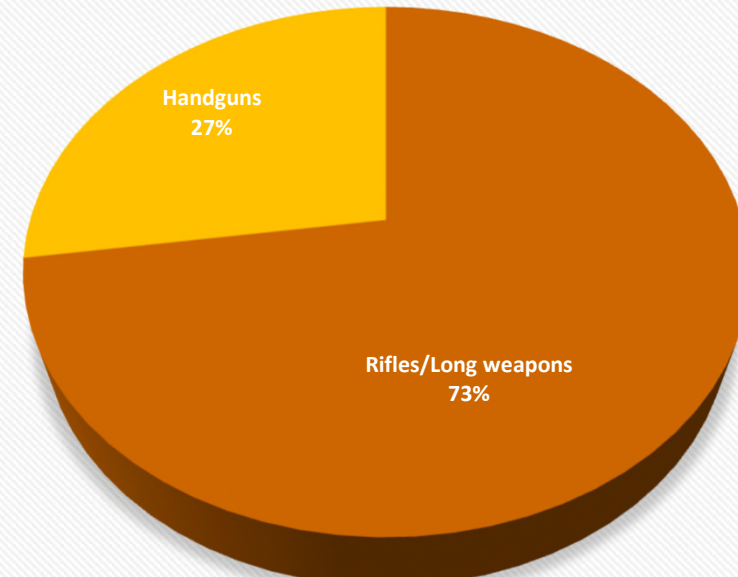


Types of firearms and geographical distribution

Percentage - type of stolen firearms in BE between
01/01/2018 and 01/05/2021
(source: BNG)

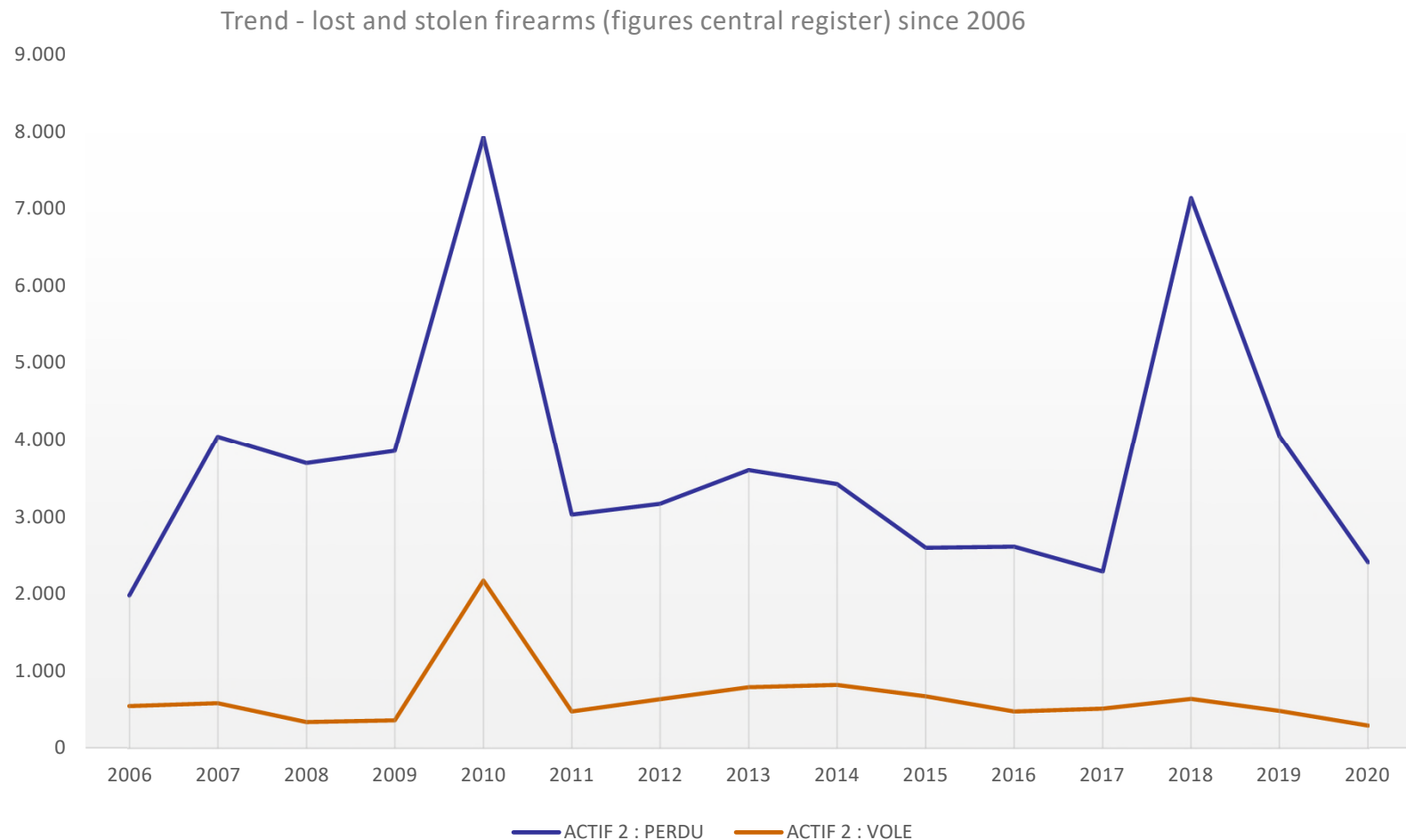


Percentage - type of lost firearms in BE, between
01/01/2018 and 01/05/2021
(source: BNG)



Geographical distribution : Hainaut + Liège above average
Possibly related to local criminality

Amnesty is an opportunity



Comparison between
Lost and stolen
Peaks 2010 and 2018
Same cause → same results

Methodology – strategical analysis

Quantitative analysis : some difficulties related to counting methodology

Two databases with two logics of registration

- Central register legal firearms = known/declared
- Judicial DB = firearms to be searched/wanted

More lost firearms in central register >< judicial DB

More stolen firearms in judicial DB >< central register

But at the end the trend is the same !

Methodological challenges → analysts tried a new way → **qualitative analysis**

With this kind of approach : detection of significant cases

Interesting observation during National picture in 2018 : theft by opportunity in private houses >< theft with premeditation and/or crim org. in police/gunsmith/army stockpile

Last year more than 1000 police reports → results released a few weeks ago

Theft real or not ?

Weapons legislation becomes stricter

→ One goal : keep the weapon even if they know it became illegal

During amnesty period false declarations about theft or lost weapons

Difficult to make the difference between real and fake theft

Narrow border between

- Non regularisation
- Theft (fake)
- Fraudulent activities

Thank you for your attention

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