

Moving up the priority lane

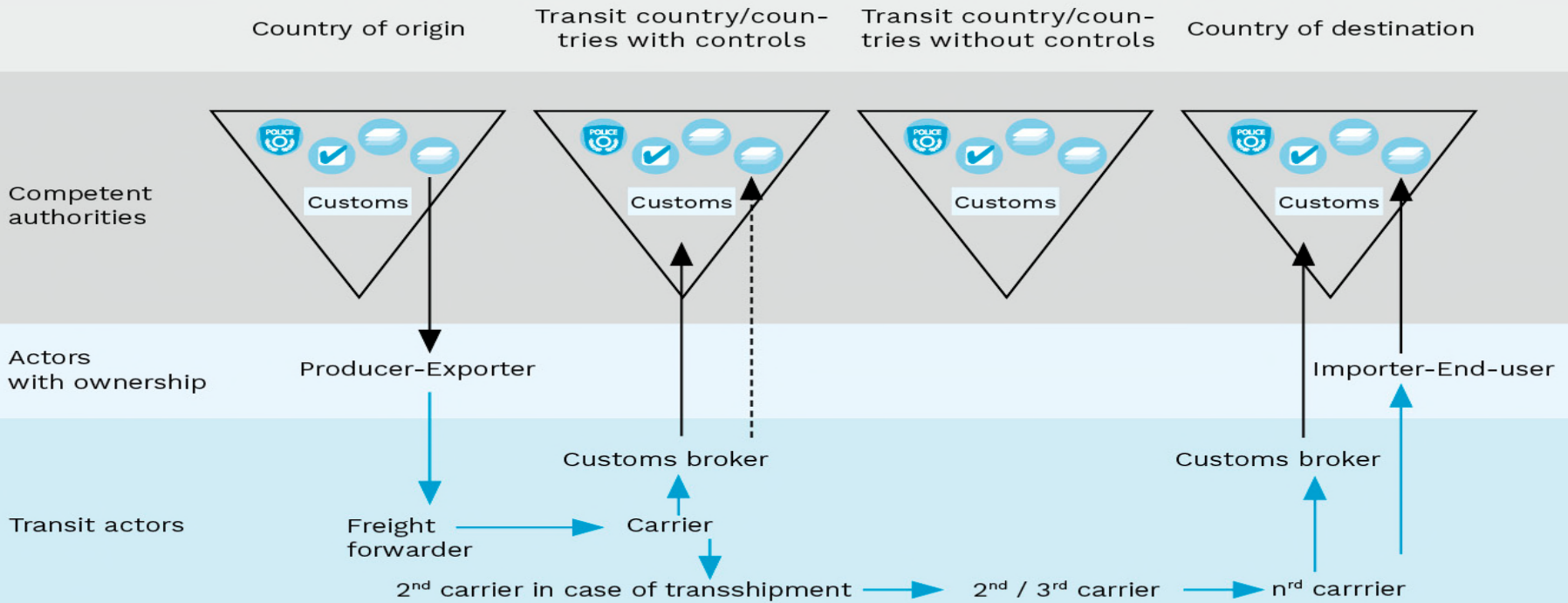
Lessons for the ATT and states parties
to make transit controls on military
goods more efficient and effective

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Controlling transit of military goods – crucial, but challenging

- Effective and efficient controls on transit of military goods crucial in
 - Identifying and intercepting illicit arms flows,
 - Preventing diversion during the arms transfer
 - Enforcing arms embargoes
- Transit controls challenging for various reasons
 - Less detailed information in Customs trade management systems
 - Involvement of logistical/transport service providers
 - International trade flows move quickly, increasingly via closed containers, using multiple transit hubs and actors



Scope of the study

- Commissioned by foreign affairs committee of Flemish Parliament
- Twofold approach
 - Analysis eight transit control systems (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom)
 - Prospects, possibilities and challenges for international cooperation
- Document analysis & >30 interviews (licencing & Customs authorities, logistical service providers, international organisations)



Lesson 1 – Make transit controls less complex

- National transit control systems highly complex & substantially divergent
- National coherence of little relevance given international character of transit – international action needed to reduce complexity
- Within ATT framework
 - Sub working group on transit to increase substantive reporting on national transit control systems
 - Include substantive information on transit control regulations and policies in initial report template
 - Increase analytical capacity to identify avenues for complexity reduction

Lesson 2 – Increase transparency on transit control policies and practices

- Very little information available on transit control policies, practices and on licenced/denied transit
- Lack of transparency reflects limited interest in the issue of transit controls
- Concrete actions
 - Introduce easily accessible inventory of contact details of competent control authorities for transit controls
 - Extend annual reporting templates to include information on issued and denied transit licences

Lesson 3 – Improve communication and information exchange

- Lack of detailed information main challenge to identify transit of military goods
- Adequate information sharing as early as possible in supply chain
- Within the ATT framework
 - Legal obligation for logistical service providers to share information of strategic character of the transported goods
 - Develop practices and procedures for information sharing between national licencing authorities on international transfers of military goods

Lesson 4 – Increase awareness among private actors

- Transporters ≠ manufacturers/buyers of military goods
- Often unaware of export control obligations and of risk indicators for suspicious transactions
- Concrete actions:
 - Outreach programmes to transport and logistical service providers
 - Proactive monitoring and oversight of logistics actors' activities
 - Cooperate with international umbrella organisations to include strategic goods control compliance in international transport security instruments

Lesson 5 – Increase practical and strategic knowledge and expertise

- Better technical knowledge, especially among Customs
 - Build training programmes for Customs officials and structural expertise within Customs
 - Enhance alignment between Customs nomenclature and export control lists
- More knowledge on characteristics of international arms trade
 - Greater transparency on arms trade and transit transactions
 - Improved cooperation with law enforcement agencies
 - Customs – export control agencies cooperation to use Customs declaration systems for identifying controlled transit transactions

Lesson 6 – From licencing to control system

- Comprehensive system approach needed for efficient and effective transit controls
- National and international cooperation and information exchange between various actors involved
- Technical possibilities are available, depending on increased political will and interest



REPORT

Under the radar

Transit of military goods -
from licensing to control

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