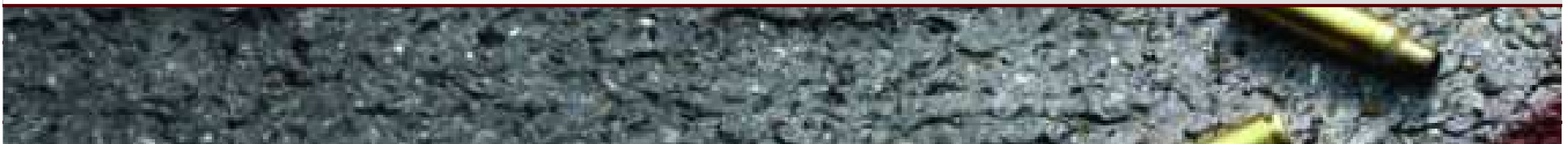


Switzerland

ENAAT Country Report 2008

Annual Meeting of the European Network Against Arms Trade
Barcelona, 29th of May, 2009

Andreas Weibel, Group for Switzerland Without an Army | GSoA, andi@gsoa.ch

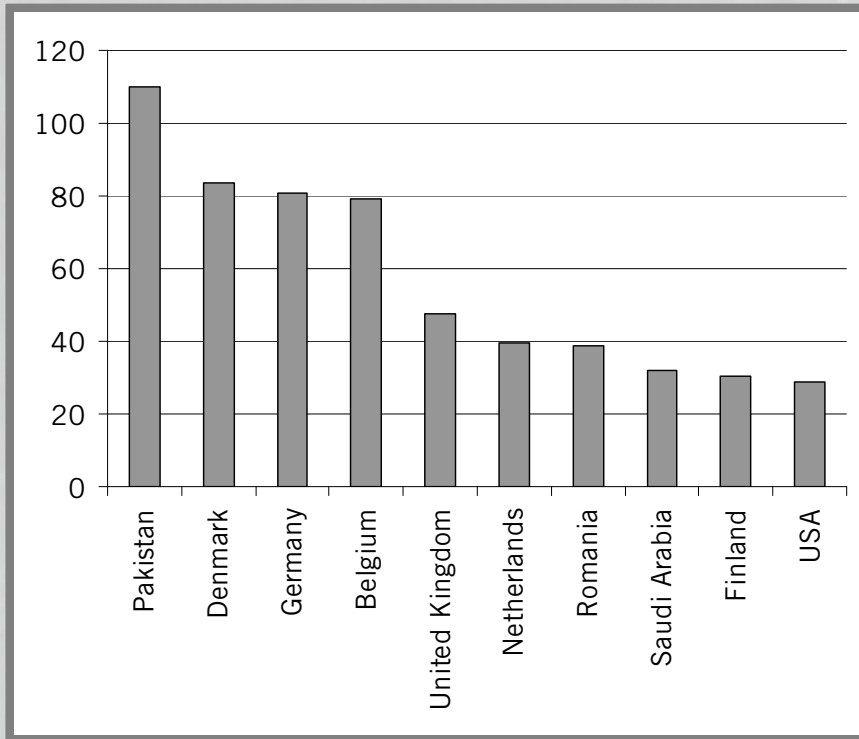


Outline

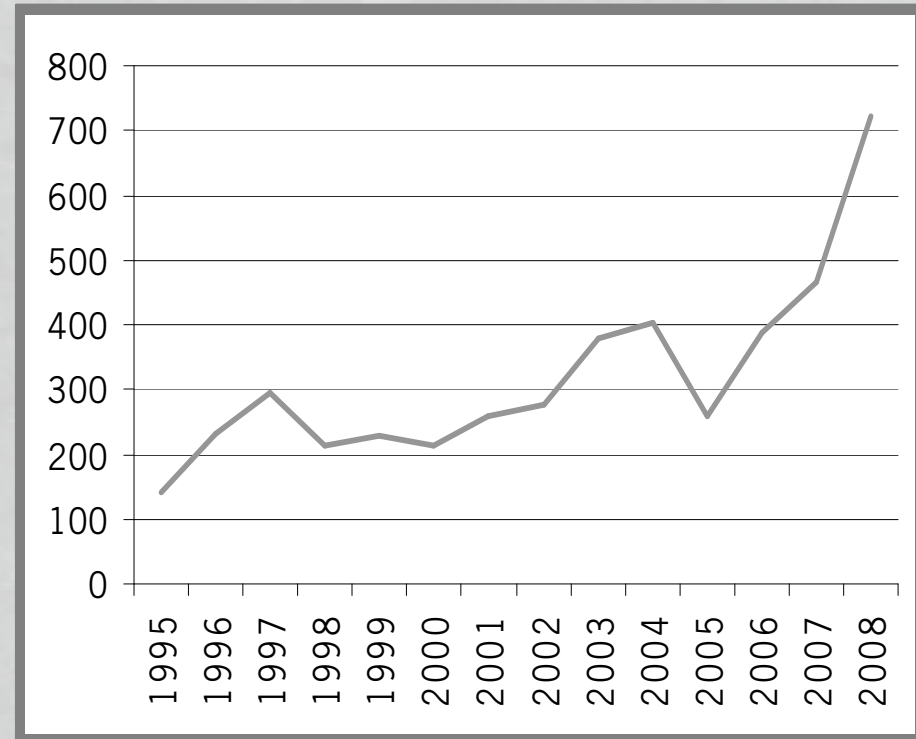
1. Swiss Arms Exports in 2008
2. Swiss Arms Industry
3. Legislation
4. Campaigning / Popular Initiatives
5. Discussion

Arms Exports in 2008

Export Figures



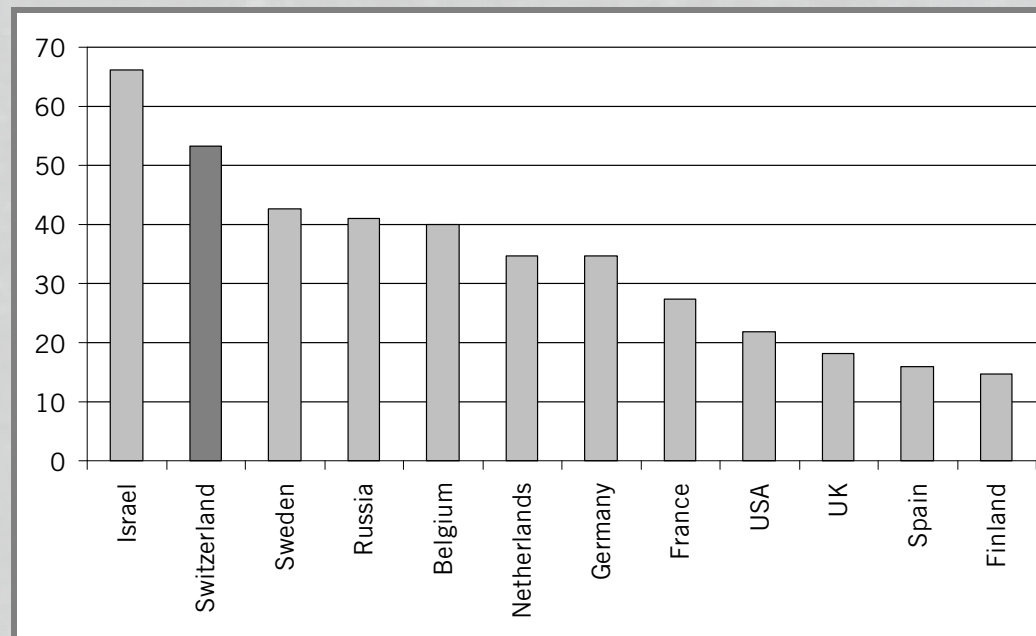
Recipient countries of Swiss war materiel exports in 2008 (in Million CHF, 1 CHF ~ 0.65 Euro)



Swiss war materiel exports per annum (in Million CHF, 1 CHF ~ 0.65 Euro)

Arms Exports in 2008

Export Figures



Arms exports per capita in 2008 according to SIPRI numbers.

Arms Exports in 2008

Destination: Middle East

Explanation for the sharp increase in 2008:

- Air defense artillery for **Pakistan and Saudi-Arabia**
- Armored personnel carriers for usage in **Afghanistan** to Denmark, Germany, Romania, Belgium



Swiss Arms Industry

Niche Players

Swiss arms industry is not a big player in the world market, but quite competitive in a few fields:

- Air defense artillery (Oerlikon Contraves)
- Military „training“ airplanes (Pilatus)
- Armored personnel carriers (MOWAG)
- Small arms ammunition (Ruag)
- Special forces rifles (Swiss Arms / SIG)



Swiss Arms Industry

Trend: Globalisation / Europeanisation

Almost all major Swiss arms producers have been acquired by multinational companies or have become global corporations themselves:

- MOWAG: Acquired by General Dynamics
- Oerlikon Contraves: Acquired by Rheinmetall DeTec
- Ruag (small caliber): Bought up ammunition manufactories throughout Europe and the U.S.
- Ruag (heavy caliber): Sold to Bofors

The tradition of self-reliance for national defense has become mere rhetoric.

Two Laws

- „Law on War Materiel“
 - Munitions List of Wassenaar (except for „special military goods“)
 - Exports must be approved by state secretary of economic affairs and foreign ministry
 - Approval criteria changed in 2008
- „Law on the Control of Goods“
 - Applies to dual-use goods and „special military goods“
 - Exports restricted only due to UN arms embargo

Campaigning

Group for Switzerland Without an Army

- Founded in 1982
- Antimilitarist / peace movement
- Grassroots organisation / NGO
- ~ 20'000 members and supporters
- ~ 10 regional groups
- Current campaigns:
 - Against arms trade
 - Against new fighter jets
 - Against personal rifles at home



Campaigning

Swiss Direct Democracy – Popular Initiative

- Proposal for constitutional amendment
- 100'000 signatures
- National referendum
- Binding decision



Campaigning

Two Popular Initiatives against Arms Trade

- Proposal: Ban all arms exports from Switzerland
- 100'000 signatures submitted by a coalition led by the GSoA
- National referendum probably this November
- Previous initiatives with the same goal:
 - Early 70s: 49 percent in favor
 - 1997: Miserable failure

- Another initiative submitted against the purchase of new fighter jets for the Swiss army
- Vote in 2 to 3 years

Ressources

- German: <http://www.gsoa.ch> <http://www.kriegsmaterial.ch>
- French: <http://www.gssa.ch> <http://www.materieldeguerre.ch>
- Italian: <http://www.gssa.ch/gsse/> <http://www.materialebellico.ch>

- maps.kriegsmaterial.ch

