

SPANISH WEAPONS EXPORTED TO ISRAEL



Israel gets armed

Israel is the tenth main importer of arms in the world. In 2002 they imported arms for a total amount of 229,7 millions of euros, mainly from the EUA. Between 1993 and 2002, they spent more than 5.000 millions of dollars in this concept. Moreover, Israel is the twelfth major arms exporter, for an amount of 180,09 millions of euros in 2002, and 1.731 millions of dollars between 1993 and 2002. Their main clients are, in this order: Singapur, EUA, Chile, India, China and Sri Lanka.¹

Spain collaborates with them

Spanish companies sell weapons to Israel. From 1991 these sales have not stopped increasing, up to a total amount of approximately 170.000 million pesetas (more than 1000 million euros). In the next table you can find the relation of sales from Spain to Israel:

Company	Product	Million (Pta./€)	Year
Fabricaciones Extremeñas	sheaths	9 Pta.	1991
...	58 guns	12 Pta.	1992
...	...	108 Pta.	1992
...	911 guns	23 Pta.	1993
...	...	85 Pta.	1993
...	519 guns	13 Pta.	1994
...	...	45 pta	1995
...	...	453 Pta.	1996
...	...	90 Pta.	1997
...	Radar	309 Pta.	1997
...	...	748 Pta.	1998
...	...	255 Pta.	1999
...	...	817 Pta.	2000
...	Missiles	0'49 €	2001
...	Technology	1'6 €	2002
IZAR (within AFLON)	2 corvettes (maybe 3)	1.000 €	In negotiation (2004)

Source: Peace Culture School, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

¹ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: SIPRI Yearbooks (<http://www.sipri.se/>)

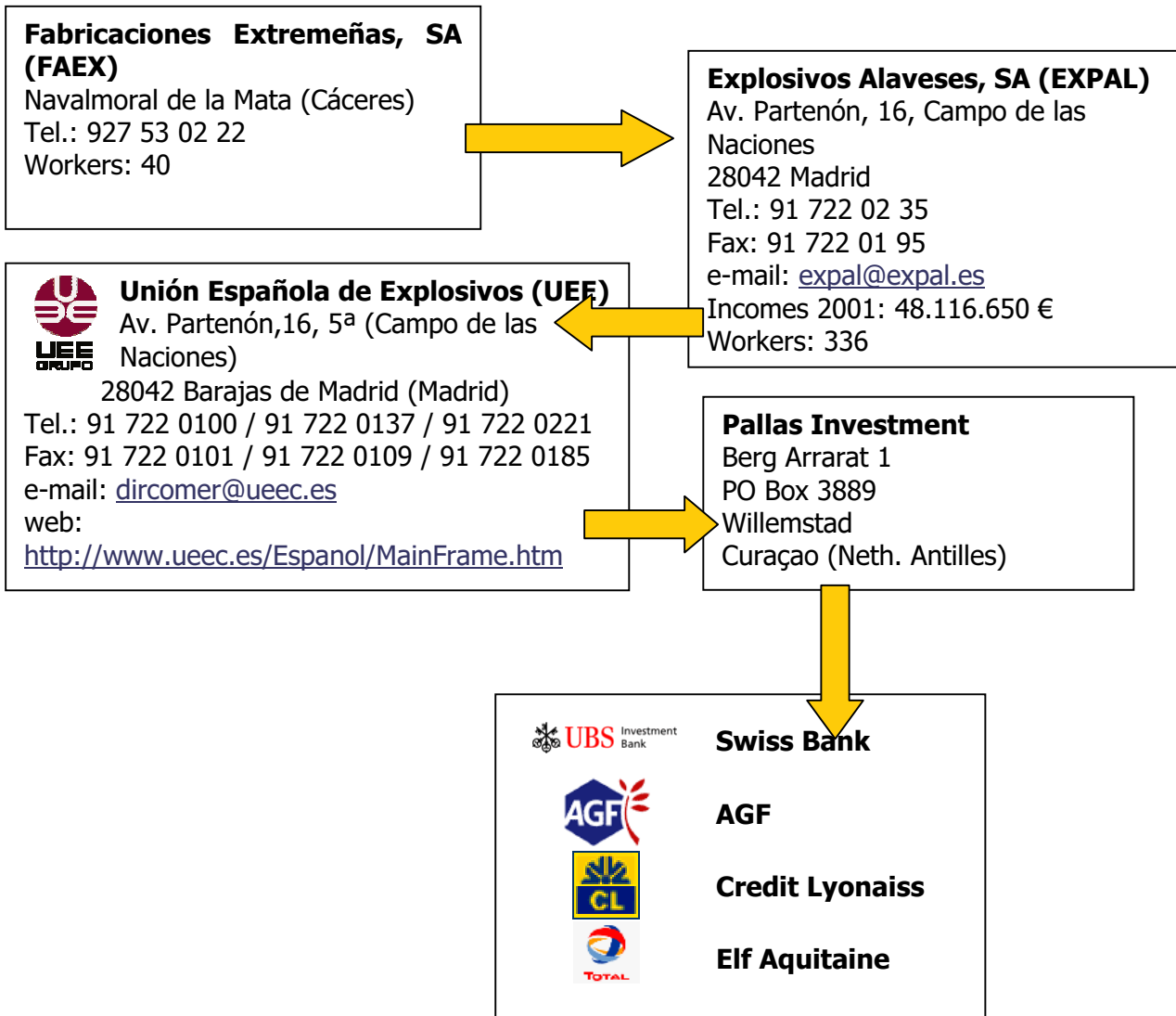
Implicated companies



Public Shipyards. The company is divided into two sections, one for civil construction, nowadays in crisis, and another one for military construction.
AFLON, the company which is in association with, is from the USA.

Fabricaciones Extremeñas

Fabricaciones Extremeñas (FAEX) belongs to *Explosivos Alaveses (EXPAL)*. EXPAL is the head of the defense division of *Unión Española de Explosivos (UEE)*, which belongs to the investor group Pallas Investment. Pallas Investment has the central office in Curaçao, in Dutch Antillas, and is formed by Swiss Bank, AGF, Credit Lyonnais and Elf Aquitaine.



Sources:

<http://defensa.com/extras/63/extra63-especialindustria.htm#abrir>

www.mde.es

<http://www.icpcredit.com/SearchReport.asp>

Political supervision of weapons exporting

In global terms, the 85% of weapons trade is approved by the governments. In Spain, this percentage is even higher and it is difficult to do any transfer without the government.

The authorization to export is given by the *Junta Interministerial de Material de Defensa y de Doble Uso (JIMDDU)*. This is composed by 10 members from different ministries: 5 from Trading, 2 from Foreign Affairs, 2 from Defense and 2 from Industry. By the leading members are those belonging to Trading Ministry. In Assembly there is no one related to International Cooperation or Human Rights; thus, you can easily suppose that export criteria are mainly the economic ones.

There is no international document to regulate weapons exporting, but we are on the way to reach the International Agreement on Weapons Trading, which is due to be signed in 2006. One of the election commitments of the new Spanish government was the signature of this Agreement. José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero made the announcement on July, the 9th 200, the World Day of Weapons Destruction, decreed by United Nations.

Currently, Spain is asked to follow the recommendations of the Code of Weapons Exporting Behaviour, which dates of 1998, through the approval of two Proposals presented in the Parliament in 1997 and 2001. This Behaviour Code urges to avoid exports to those countries which have been seized by UN or other organisms, where there are tense or conflictive situations, or where human rights are violated and the International Humanitary Law is not accomplished. (see Annex 2)

Why should weapons exports to Israel be stopped?

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed and tens of thousand have been injured as a consequence of the indiscriminated use of strength by the Jewish army. Selling weapons to Israel:

- Is morally unacceptable for the way they are using them in the occupied territory.
- It infringes the 1998 Code of Weapons Exporting Behaviour of EU, which urges not to export weapons to those countries where there are tense or conflictive situations, or where human rights are violated and the International Humanitary Law is not accomplished.
- It puts the Spanish Government in a situation in the Near East conflict which goes against the majority of Spanish and makes it impossible to act as a credible. Selling weapons to Israel the Spanish Government does not solve the problem, but it is part of the problem.

Moreover, other EU countries are preceding experiences. Germany, France or United Kingdom have already applied a seizure to Israel sales of weapons (see annex 3). On the other side, the European Parliament resolution about the Near East on April, 10th 2002 asked the European Council to declare a seizure to Israel sales of weapons.²

² <http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/delegations/mash/20020516/003A%20ES.pdf>

ANNEX 1: Report by UNESCO UAB Professorship about Peace ³

Report

15th of March, 2002

The last five years Spain has exported to Israel military items for a total amount of 14 million Euros. UNESCO UAB Professorship about Peace asks the Government to immediately stop selling Spanish weapons to Israel, and urges the other EU countries met in Barcelona to do the same.

Due to the increase of violence levels during the last weeks in Palestinian territory, the illegal occupation and the partial destruction of refugees camps, the bombardment of civil zones, the murders of disarmed population, the systematic arrest of thousands of people and the vulneration of fundamental Human Rights, UNESCO UAB Professorship about Peace and Human Rights has addressed to José M^a Aznar, President of the Government, to try and make him take the decision to immediately stop any military item export to Israel.

The last five years, according to the Government, Spain has sold defense materials for a total amount of 14.20 million Euros (2363 million pesetas), and 0.43 million euros (72 million pesetas) during the first half year 2001. These material might have been used to break fundamental rights.

Militar items exports to Israel:

year	million pta	million €
1996	453	2'72
1997	90	0'54
1998	748	4'50
1999	255	1'53
2000	817	4'91
2001 (E-J)	72	0'43

UNESCO UAB Professorship about Peace and Human Rights thinks that Israel actions clearly infringe several criteria of the EU Behaviour Code which regulates weapons exports, as it forbids those sales which can show any possibility of using the exported weapons for internal repression, when they may cause or extend conflicts or increase already existing tensions, and if there is any possibility that the weapons may be used with other aims different from national security or self-defense. Moreover, Israel is one of the countries with a negative report form the annual EU Human Rights Report of 2001, which means that all the EU countries should stop their weapons exports to Israel .

³ <http://www.pangea.org/unescopau>

ANNEX 2: Behaviour Code Project on weapons exports⁴

EU Bulletin 5-1998

Foreign Policy and Common Security (6/22)

1.3.6. Behaviour Code Project on weapons exports.

References:

Luxemburg European Council Conclusions, Bul. 6-1991, p. I.47

Lisboa European Council Conclusions Bul. 6-1992, p. I.28

Political Agreement of the General Matters Council, on May 25th. This code, based on the criteria established by the European Councils of Luxemburg and Lisboa in 1991 and 1992 about non-proliferation and non-exporting weapons, stands several operative arrangements to guarantee the application of the above mentioned criteria (respect to International commitments of the member States and the Community, respect to Human Rights by the final addressee, internal situation of the addressee country, maintenance of regional peace, security and stability, national security of the member States, friends or allied countries and those territories whose foreign relations depend on a member State, behaviour of the purchasing country in relation to international community, possibility of internal deviation or not wished reexporting and compatibility of the exported weapons with the technical and economical capacities of the beneficiary country). Specifically, the code foresees a consulting system among member States and a notification protocol about rejections of export license concessions. Every State which decides to give a license that has been rejected by another State will have to inform and justify its decision to the latter. It also has been foreseen an annual exam on the application of this system.

⁴ <http://europa.eu.int/abc/doc/off/bull/es/9805/p103006.htm>

ANNEX 3: Arms seizure on Israel from Germany and UK⁵

Secret UK ban on weapons for Israel

Blocking of sales mirrors German action

John Hooper in Berlin and Richard Norton-Taylor

Saturday April 13, 2002

[The Guardian](#)

Britain has imposed a de facto arms embargo on Israel for the first time in 20 years, official sources have told the Guardian. The ban applies to military equipment that could be used in Israel's continuing operations in the Palestinian territories.

The sources insist Britain has not imposed a formal or complete ban and Whitehall officials are coy about discussing which sales have been blocked. Decisions, they say, are being taken on a case-by-case basis. However, they add that military equipment that would have been cleared before Israel's offensive against the Palestinians, is now being blocked.

One Whitehall official pointed to the government's guidelines which state that arms exports would be blocked if they were for "internal repression", affected "adversely regional stability in any significant way", or if there was a clear risk "that the intended recipient would use the proposed export aggressively against another country, or to assert by force a territorial claim".

London's undeclared policy mirrors that of Germany and is likely to be discussed today when the German chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, meets Tony Blair at Chequers.

One source said the shift in Britain's stance had not been made public because of deep divisions of opinion in Whitehall over the best response to developments in the Middle East. These divisions went "a long way up", said the source.

France had also quietly suspended sales of certain arms, another source said. The parallel moves by European powers emphasise Israel's growing estrangement from its allies and make it more dependent than before on US goodwill.

In Britain's case, refusals to approve arms exports are more significant politically and diplomatically than militarily, since Britain is not a major supplier to Israel's armed forces. Nevertheless, according to the latest figures, the government last year approved £12.5m worth of military equipment for export to Israel.

It included demolition charges, general purpose machine guns, rifles, small arms ammunition, components for small calibre artillery ammunition, and components for air-to-surface missiles, armoured fighting vehicles, armoured personnel carriers, combat aircraft and helicopters, and tanks. Whitehall officials made it clear these items would not now be approved for export to Israel.

Ministers have demanded an explanation from Israel about its use of British equipment in actions against Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Foreign Office disclosed last month that Israeli armed forces had modified British Centurion tanks, exported between 1958 and 1970, into armoured personnel carriers.

Speaking to reporters in London on Thursday, the German defence minister, Rudolf Scharping, confirmed reports that his country was refusing export licences for tank parts and other equipment for Israel. Though he insisted Germany was not operating a formal arms embargo, Berlin had delayed shipments at what he called "this crucial time".

The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot had reported that Germany slapped an embargo on 120 parts necessary for the construction of Merkava tanks. Britain formally embargoed arms to Israel following its invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

⁵ http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,683668,00.html