

## **'From war lobby to war economy': Arms industry drives EU militarisation and military greenwashing**

- ✓ New report shows increasingly close ties between arms industry and EU policy-makers
- ✓ Growing industry influence on EU policies and access to sustainable finance

*Brussels, 07 December 2023* – The EU arms industry has been fostering increasingly close ties with EU policy-makers and institutions, driving new steps in EU militarisation, the new report 'From war lobby to war economy' by the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) finds. The ongoing process of allocating more money to arms production, introducing new support instruments and calling for the industry's access to sustainable finance have been sped up since the Russian invasion in Ukraine, but have been in the making for years, building on industrial lobby efforts.

*"The industry-driven new steps in European militarisation push the EU further away from its inception as a peace project, increase the risk of involvement in armed conflicts and will lead to an increase in arms exports, fueling war and repression around the world"*, says **Laëtitia Sédou, EU project manager at ENAAT** and editor of the report. 'From war lobby to war economy' will be launched at an online event on Thursday 7 December with presentations from its authors, Chloé Meulewaeter (Centre Delàs) and Mark Akkerman (Stop Wapenhandel), and from Bram Vranken of Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO). CEO recently published a report about the influence of the mining and arms industries on EU policies regarding access to critical raw materials.

The report shows that the largest EU arms companies and major lobby organisations have had hundreds of meetings with the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament in the last decade. The European Commission has established a new Directorate-General for the Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), which functions as a service provider for the arms industry. DG DEFIS is headed by Commissioner Thierry Breton, former CEO of ATOS, who also created a permanent dialogue between the Commission and industry through a new expert group.

One of the most important issues for arms companies is their access to private finance. The industry has been lobbying relentlessly against its exclusion in investors' ESG policies and the proposed label of 'socially unsustainable' in the EU social taxonomy. While the military sector contributes significantly to GHG emissions and environmental damage, the industry seeks recognition of the relationship it claims exists between security and sustainability.

These lobby efforts and close ties with policy-makers bear fruit, the report argues. The influence of the industry can be seen in many EU policies, including the establishment of funding instruments like the European Defence Fund, the Act in Support of Ammunition Production and the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act – all explicitly aimed at increasing arms exports to non-EU-countries – and the easing of export rules. Similarly, the EU Defence Ministers' statement of 14 November about access to private finance, calling on investors to set aside ESG policies when it comes to the arms industry, clearly echoes like other similar calls the repeated demands by the industry.

*The European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT) is an informal network of 20 European peace groups from 15 countries, working together in research, advocacy and campaigning.*

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**For more information:**

- **Laëtitia Sédou (ENAAT - EU Programme Officer) - +32 496 15 83 91 / [laetitia@enaat.org](mailto:laetitia@enaat.org)**

The report 'From war lobby to war economy: How the arms industry shapes European policies' can be found at: [https://enaat.org/\[url\]](https://enaat.org/[url])

The report 'Blood on the Green Deal' by l'Observatoire des Multinationales & Corporate Europe Observatory can be found at: <https://corporateeurope.org/en/2023/11/blood-green-deal>

Registration for the online launch event on 7 December via:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odOCsrDMoGNc2o\\_TFYchlqtHskIKvp1h3](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odOCsrDMoGNc2o_TFYchlqtHskIKvp1h3)