

Information Note¹

Event: “Industry Engagement in Strategic Trade Controls Resolution 1540 (2004)”

Organizers: Government of Germany in cooperation with the Federal Office for Economics and Export Control (BAFA) and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Date: 27-28 November 2019, Wiesbaden, Germany

Background

The role of industry in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is referred to in Operative Paragraph 8 of resolution 1540 (2004) and Operative Paragraph 12 of resolution 1977 (2011) which, respectively, call upon all States to develop appropriate ways to cooperate, work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under the laws relating to the resolution. UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016) further acknowledges “the positive role performed by civil society, inter alia industry and academia, could play in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)...”

In order to facilitate the dialogue between the 1540 Committee, Governments and Industry, to acknowledge the importance of information-sharing on 1540 related activities between governments and their industry, as well as to identify effective practices of 1540 relevant compliance strategies within companies, the Government of Germany, in cooperation with UNODA, has been hosting industry outreach conferences since 2012. Those became known as the “Wiesbaden Process”, as they aim to establish a dialogue between governments and industry on a global level and wider than just national industry outreach.

Overview

The sixth “Wiesbaden Conference” was organised 27 - 28 November 2019 in Wiesbaden, Germany, with a view to continuing the organisation of global “Wiesbaden conferences”, that are planned biannually in Germany, and to discussing up to date challenges in export controls. The conference aimed to address three topics that in past conferences emerged as being central for better engaging industry, and civil society in general, in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) related export controls. The 2019 conference also aimed at taking stock of the outcomes of previous regional conferences, and at planning to use its findings as basis for developing new ideas and discussions for future regional conferences.

The organisers of the sixth Wiesbaden conference announced that they aim at contributing with an outcome paper to the 1540 comprehensive review of 2021, too, by summarizing discussions

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and contributions into a best practices paper, to be used as food for thought in the Comprehensive Review process, where appropriate, and for other States, where applicable.

The majority of the approximately 60 participants represented companies, research institutions, industry associations, the banking sector and non-governmental organisations. Other participants included representatives of government authorities from different countries as well as representatives from international and regional organisations.

The discussions during the two-day conference were lively and fruitful. Opening statements were delivered on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Controls and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Apart from discussions on up to date topics in export control, industry representatives were informed about updates and trends in the area of strategic trade control laws from export control authorities from around the world. Government representatives present at the conference provided overviews about developments in their respective States, especially with regard to national legislations, licensing procedures and trends.

It was underlined during the course of two days discussion that cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the security value chain, such as governmental, regional, sub-regional institution as well as the private sector is of vital importance and that conferences like those under the “Wiesbaden” process series are valuable and helpful for better understanding controls and need for internal compliance.

Additional Comments

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