

Information Note¹

- Event:** Conference “Export Control Dialogue with Science and Research”
- Organizers:** Government of Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
- Date and Venue:** 9 September 2019, Berlin, Germany
- Participants:** **German Government:** Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Federal Authority for Economics and Export Control,
Academia: universities, scientific and research institutions, scientists, professors, university staff and industry representatives.

Objectives of the participation of a 1540 Expert:

- To highlight the international context of export controls by presenting the key elements of the implementation of the resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016) in this regard and support the conduct of the conference, where appropriate and as required
- To inform participants about details of export control obligations as laid out in resolution 1540 (2004), where appropriate
- Develop contacts with the German government and the participants from academia, as appropriate, to facilitate future engagement and sustainability of government –academia meetings in the region and beyond.

Background

Operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) requires States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of these weapons, their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

While resolution 1540 (2004) imposes these legally-binding obligations on all UN Member States, the private sector, and specifically scientist, researchers, universities and other academia representatives are important stakeholders in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) as they are subject to national laws deriving from States obligations. As industry, also academia can become a key player in achieving the objectives of the resolution, the combating of

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the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to and by non-state actors. Sensitive technology and technological expertise are found inter alia, in institutes, research institutions, departments of universities and technical colleges. They need to be aware of control regulations for handling potentially critical goods, including technology, software and sensitive knowledge transfer.

The conference “Export Control Dialogue with Science and Research” aimed at awareness raising and discussing specifically the role of academia in non-proliferation and the duties and tasks of universities, researchers and scientists in the field of non-proliferation of WMD and the importance and relevance of having internal compliance programs in place at such institutions.

Highlights

The Export Control Dialogue with Science and Research brought together more than 140 export control experts and representatives from different academic and research institutions in Germany. The event was organized by the German Government as a one-day conference. The conference aimed at engaging the academic community in a deeper dialogue on proliferation issues and on introducing a compliance culture in academic institutions.

The conference was composed of two discussion panels which focused on the practical experiences in the academic field. The first panel tackled the challenges and needs of researchers in their daily assessment of critical technologies, i.e. whether export controls apply, and a licence is needed or not. The second panel brought together lawyers and administrative experts from universities and addressed their experiences with compliance measures in academic and research institutions. Extensive Q&A sessions gave room for lively debates.

The panellists and general attendants delivered many examples of compliance strategies, hands-on advice for others, but also raised remaining questions and challenges. The participants of the Conference unanimously affirmed the importance of countering proliferation, while export control officials stressed the important role of academia in non proliferation efforts. Attendants were interested about tackling the subject on international level and would welcome common international guidelines for academic and research institutions in the field of non proliferation and export controls.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.