

Information Note¹

Event:	11th International Export Control Conference
Organizers:	The Governments of the United States and Ukraine and the European Union
Date and Venue:	8-10 June, 2010, Kiev, Ukraine, Hotel Intercontinental
Participants:	Representatives from 100 States, organizations and institutions, mainly from Eastern Europe, the CIS and the EU.

1. Objectives

To continue exchange of views on new challenges and new tools in strategic trade control and to enhance international cooperation in the field of export controls to strengthen global non-proliferation regime.

2. Background

This workshop was the 11th in a series of events devoted to the analysis of export controls in the context of global strategic trade and non-proliferation. The main task of this event was to discuss how to prevent proliferation of WMD through the implementation on a national basis of effective export control measures without hindering international trade in strategic goods and how to enhance multilateral cooperation.

3. Overview

The conference program consisted of two plenary sessions (introductory and closing) and a number of group sessions covering the following topics: policy, licensing, industry, investigation and prosecution. At the plenary session the representatives from the US, Great Britain, Ukraine and Germany noted that recent developments in the world confirm the need for all States to exercise extreme vigilance and to make their best efforts to ensure that the export of WMD-related goods and materials do not contribute to proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

The speakers noted that, with the increased economic cooperation and significant advances in information and communication technology, it has become easier than ever to transfer sensitive materials, technologies and know-how to different destinations. In this regard the task of preventing non-state actors from having access to these materials acquires additional importance.

The representatives of international export control regimes and arrangements invited to the conference – Nuclear Supply Group (NSG), Wassenaar Arrangements and Missile Technology Control regime (MTCR) - called on all States to accommodate their export control systems to modern standards, stressing the importance of enforcement measures, and to adopt internationally acknowledged control lists or to develop their own national control lists to prevent WMD-related materials from falling into the hands of terrorists.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

4. **Presentation by the 1540 Committee expert**

The speaker drew attention to the results of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with a stress on export controls as an indicator. He noted that more than 160 States of 192 UN Member States have submitted initial reports and more than 100 have provided additional information. However, he admitted, the situation with extent of information on export and border control systems is not so good with respect to many countries. In practice it means that the 1540 Committee and the experts lack official data on the very important issue related to the implementation of the resolution and, thus, they experience difficulties in making assessments on the ability of many States to combat proliferation of WMD and related materials.

The expert also noted that many countries do a lot to strengthen controls over their strategic trade. Acknowledging this progress the 1540 Committee repeatedly mentioned that a number of States need a legislative framework clear and consistent with international standard so as to provide a solid legal and regulatory context for enforcement measures and capacity building efforts. In this regard he expressed the view that many laws and administrative acts in the sphere of export controls were adopted by States many years or even decades ago for the purposes other than those of resolution 1540 (2004). Important and useful as they are, they are sometimes insufficient for making a judgment whether the requirements of the resolution are met or not.

5. **Working groups**

The main task of the working groups was to involve the participants in interactive discussions. The group on policy-making studied such issues as: promoting peaceful use of nuclear technology while preventing proliferation, multilateral policy effort in addressing non-proliferation and transforming policy into concrete actions. It was agreed that the struggle against proliferation of WMD and related materials and against smuggling of sensitive strategic goods starts at the national level. The existence of effective of export control system in every country involved in international trade is a prerogative and precondition of any international cooperation in this field.

Participants of the group on licensing exchanged views on the existing national licensing procedures. It was noted that, though many States have established licensing systems, the task of improving and modernizing them remains important. The key element is to provide adequate technical assessment of export to ensure that exported items could not be used for the purposes of production and development of WMD. Experts also agreed that the screening of foreign end-users is crucial for those States that suspect that their sensitive export could be diverted.

The 11th International Export Control Conference was an important event devoted to strengthening international cooperation in the field of export controls related to the prevention of proliferation of WMD. It is noteworthy that this conference was focused on enforcement measures and gave the participants a good chance to exchange their views and experiences in this area.

6. **Additional comments**

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