

Report on the export of Arms from Switzerland 2011

Group for Switzerland without an Army
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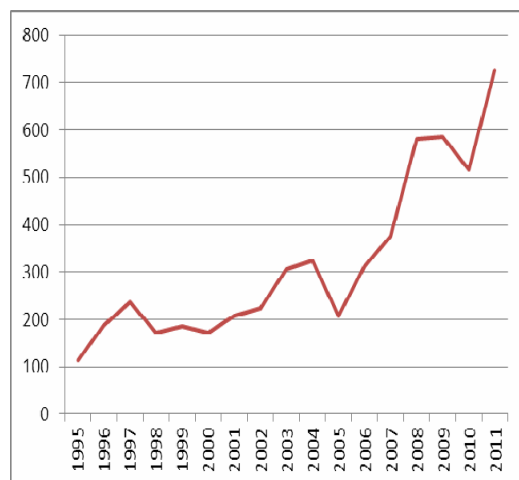
Introduction

Swiss arms exports reached a new all time record in 2011. Exports of war material totalled 727 Mio Euros last year. In addition, Swiss companies exported an unknown amount of “special military goods”. There are no statistics available for this category, which comprises primarily military training aircraft.

Most exports went to countries that either are at war in Afghanistan or to regimes like the United Arab Emirates (UAE) or the Saudi Kingdom.

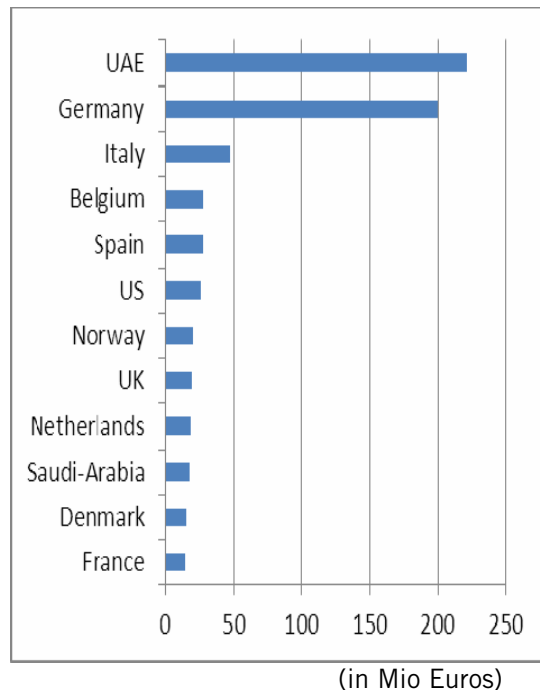
The largest customer of the Swiss arms industry were the UAE – despite their engagement in the suppression of the democratic movement in Bahrain together with Saudi Arabia.

Swiss arms exports 1995 – 2011
(in Million Euros)



Where did the exports go to?

Switzerland exported war materiel to 68 different countries in 2011. The most important customers were:



The Middle East

During the last 15 years, Switzerland has exported considerable quantities of arms to the Middle East and North Africa, especially to Saudi Arabia, to the United Arab Emirates and to a lesser extent Bahrain. The government promised not to grant any more export licenses to Saudi Arabia. However, this pledge has been reflected in the actual export figures only to a limited extent.

The revolutions and uprisings in Northern Africa in early 2011 have prompted discussions about the responsibility of the Swiss arms industry (and the banking sector) – even in the mainstream media.

While there have been very few records of exports to Egypt and Tunisia, there were some accounts of earlier arms deliveries to Libya (to which Switzerland had an especially tense relationship). During the last 15 years, Switzerland's best customers in the region were the countries on the Arab peninsula. Therefore, it was no surprise when GSoA unveiled pictures of Saudi armed forces entering Bahrain with armoured vehicles

made in Switzerland



Military Training/Light Attack Aircrafts to the UAE in 2011 and to Saudi-Arabia in 2012. Even a ban on exports to Bahrain itself was lifted after a few months so that the final batch of a sale of laser targeting devices for small arms could be delivered.

Small arms ammunition of the state-owned RUAG appeared in July 2011 in Libya. Its origin could be Qatar, which had signed an end user agreement, pledging not to re-export this ammunition. Subsequently, the Swiss government imposed a ban on arms export to the country, which it lifted just a few months later, after the Qatari Government stated a "logistical problem" as reason of the re-export.



Upcoming Deals in 2012

Two big arms sales were sealed in the last few weeks. Both concern Pilatus Aircraft in Stans and their military training and light attack

aircraft PC-21 and PC-7 Mk II. Due to a special regulation (i.e. because of intense lobbying by that company), these aircraft don't qualify as "war material" in Switzerland. They are qualified as "special military goods" and don't appear in the statistics. (The Swiss authorities exceptionally qualified the deal with the UAE as falling under the stricter war material law, as the UAE ordered the planes armed.)

India

After months of negotiations, the Indian government announced to buy 75 PC-7 Mk II military training aircraft from Pilatus for 420 Mio Euros. Included in the deal is the licenced production of 130 further aircrafts in India itself by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).



Saudi Arabia

Early in 2011, media reported that the government rubber-stamped the sale of some Pilatus PC-21 military training aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, as a harbinger of a much larger deal. As expected, an announcement for the purchase of 55 PC-21 Aircrafts followed. It is part of a much larger deal under the umbrella of BAE. The Pilatus part of the deal is estimated to be worth 920 Mio Euros (based on the numbers of the UAE deal).

The GSoA

Apart from arms trade issues, the Group for Switzerland without an Army primarily focussed on the collection of a popular initiative to end compulsory conscription, which we successfully deposited with 107'000 signatures on 5. January 2012. A popular vote on the topic will be held in one to three years.



Switzerland and new fighter aircrafts

After a decision by the Swiss government to buy 22 new Saab Gripen fighter aircraft (in the not existing version E/F) worth 2.6 Billion Euro, GSoA is working on the forming of an alliance against that acquisition. There will likely be a popular vote on the topic in the coming years.

