



WORKSHOP ON EXPORT CONTROLS

BUSINESSEUROPE AND ESARDA
DECEMBER 20, 9H30 – 17H00

CONCEPT NOTE

Exporters are major players in the Export Control System.

They ask for a secure, global and harmonized system.

In this context, we should not forget that the EU Regulation on Export Controls on Dual-Use items applies to exporters who mainly deal with licit civil products and not military.

Industries, Research Centers and the Academia, they all know their products (and their possible uses), they know their customers (the good as well as the doubtful ones), they know their market (and the parallel one) and they are the first line of defence against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), but they do not have any role in the regulatory process.

Regulators consult exporters on a regular basis. It is critical however to take their feedback duly into account, as securing strategic exports is their common goal.

Considering the exporters more as an implementer than a real partner, the regulators would deprive themselves of their greatest ally.

There are different types of exporters with different needs:

- the Industry producing goods and related technology for customers all around the world,
- the Research Centers producing technology (basic as well as applied research), mainly through international cooperation,
- the Academia producing technology and whose mission is to disseminate knowledge.

And we should not forget other actors like brokers, shipping companies and financial bodies.



Can a unique Regulation apply to all of them? How to explain that despite all the controls in place, some individuals and countries continue to illegally develop Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)? Are we sure that we don't aim at the wrong target?

How to involve the exporters in a system without constraints where everyone would like to be involved? How to help small and medium sized (SME) companies to comply and to implement an effective Internal Compliance Programme (ICP)? What is the role of the Export Control Associations for companies of all sizes?

The European Parliament, Council and Commission have a common responsibility to regulate this multidisciplinary world, but do they have the same reading of the situation?

Are they pursuing the same goal or each of them pursues a different objective? How to accommodate in a unique Regulation all the different missions, visions, needs, understanding and ambitions of the different actors?

This workshop will try to provide answers to these questions and distill out useful conclusions to contribute in the Regulation's recast process.