

Production and trade of armaments: our responsibilities

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At such a time, when the international tensions are growing, the instability of many regions is strong and age-old conflicts with always new ones make the military spending and the arms race increase, a Seminar on all these issues had to be done.

This has been the position of the organisers that wanted a public confrontation with the Government and the Institutions involved in this sector on production and export of military systems and 'light weapons'.

The question is, first of all, related to the national responsibility of Italy and the role that we play in the international game, according to the article 11 of the Constitution: *'Italy rejects war as an instrument of aggression against the freedom of other peoples and as a means for the settlement of international disputes'*, and the Charter of the United Nations (art 51) that justify and legitimate production and trade of armaments only in case of individual or collective self-defence and/or in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Under these conditions, the promoters of the Seminar:

1. **Reiterate** the request to the Italian Government to stop all the supplies of arms to countries in conflict, where, moreover, human rights violations are known. In particular, this is the case of the arms export to the coalition led by Saudi that –as reported by the UN– are indiscriminately bombing Yemen. Such war crimes nurture the deep humanitarian crisis that is wiping out the Yemenite population.
Urge the Government to respect all the bans formally expressed in the law 185/1990, but also the strict criteria of the EU Common Position on Arms Exports (1998 e 2008) and the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (2014) that forbid arms export when they could be used to perpetrate an offence to the International humanitarian law and the human rights, or to jeopardise peace and security.
Ask the Italian Government and the parties to strive at European and international level to promote a real control of the arms and light weapons trade in order to regain the maximum transparency in the National Reports on arms exports and in any information that Italy has to produce at European and international level.
Invite the Parliament to intensify the relations with the associations and the civil society in order to make more efficient the control on the Italian trade export and in case of legislative actions on the existing laws.
2. **Underline** the commitment to dialogue with all the industrial and financial actors, trade unions and stakeholders to promote a broad reflection on a needed progressive reorganisation of the national military productions in the European frame in order to answer in an effective, rational and sustainable way to the real needs of security and common defence minimizing the social and economic costs.
Solicit the Government and the social players to define, realize and sustain projects of reconversion from military to civilian starting from the activities more in contrast with the Italian Constitution, article 11.
3. **Invite** the civil society and the churches to promote at local and national level meetings to deepen the production and trade of armaments issues.

Confirm the willingness to sustain any initiative to foster growth of an economy of peace and life, in favour of rights and dignity of the human beings, the safeguard of the environment and a real improvement of communities.

4. **Commit** themselves to continue the common action on the production and trade of armaments, inviting to join them all who are interested to promote the awareness about this subject.

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[SEP] Ufficio Nazionale per l'Ecumenismo e il Dialogo interreligioso della C.E.I.*