



FLASH

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Charlotte Cederschiöld/ Jacques Toubon/ Andreas Schwab (all EPP-ED):

Internal Market Committee adopts Defence Package

Following the vote in the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee on the future co-ordination of procedures concerning public procurement in the field of defence and security, Charlotte Cederschiöld MEP, the EPP-ED Shadow Rapporteur; said: "I am pleased that the Internal Market Committee has adopted a report that will contribute to achieving greater value for tax money and will strengthen market capacity and competitiveness in the European defence sector, at the same time as our armed forces will benefit from the best possible equipment."

The new package will resolve the concerns that the traditional procurement Directive does not take sufficient account of the defence market's specificities. It aims to put into place a legal framework which the Member States can apply without risking their security interests. "The integration of the Remedies Directive is an important step towards transparent and competitive procurement procedures", said Andreas Schwab, EPP-ED Coordinator on the Defence Package. He continued: "Between 2000 and 2004, only 13% of the defence tenders were published in the official journal. This will change in the future."

The purpose of the Transfer Directive is to reduce existing obstacles to the circulation of defence-related products within the internal market and to diminish the resulting distortions of competition. Therefore, the proposal focuses particularly on simplifying and harmonising licensing conditions and procedures for the transfer of defence-related products. "It is positive that our committee has adopted a report which will considerably reduce administrative burdens on companies, strengthen industrial competitiveness and the emergence of a European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM) as well as the functioning of the internal market. It is now clearly stated that Member States may limit or revoke the use of transfer licences to protect their essential interests on grounds of public policy and public security", said Jacques Toubon MEP, EPP-ED Shadow Rapporteur on the Transfer Directive.

"As Shadow Rapporteur, I deplore, however, that our committee adopted some provisions on article 10 which gives Member States a veto right on the export policy of another Member State. I am confident that the Council and the Commission will convince the EP Rapporteur to reconsider her position", he concluded.

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