

Arms Trade

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Barcelona, Catalonia on 19th and 20th November 2009:

A number of groups and bodies associated with the defence of human rights, as well as private individuals, have, in studies; papers; and the media, raised their concerns about and expressed their disapproval of the trade in arms between countries, and especially those countries notable for their constant violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, it being the case that some of these countries receive economic aid in the field of cooperation for development from the countries arming them.

Furthermore, the European Union Code of Conduct states that arms should not be sold to countries that are sanctioned, unstable, in armed conflict, that violate human rights, fail to condemn terrorism or whose living standards are precarious. In view of the foregoing, the exports to a number of countries that do not meet the requirements of this Code of Conduct are surprising.

Calls on Member States:

- To promote the adoption of the European Union Code of Conduct on arms exports as a truly binding document for all the Member States of the European Union, and hence a legal instrument for all these states;
- To comply strictly with the terms of the European Union Code of Conduct, and in order for arms exports to be legal they must obtain government authorization and to implement this in such a way as to strengthen aspects of control and transparency of such decisions;
- To conclude all international undertakings aimed at controlling and reducing armaments and in favour of a culture of peace playing an active part in the process of drafting a world treaty to regulate the arms trade.

Resolution:
Arms Trade

Year and Congress:
November 2009,
Barcelona

Category:
Foreign Affairs –

Foreign &
Humanitarian Policy

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