

# Israel: Arms trade and military relations – the Dutch connection



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# Dutch arms industry features

High-Tech

Navy

Aircrafts (parts)

Space technology

Research

Few big military producers: Thales Damen Fokker Airbus TNO

Woensdrecht (Elbit / AAR / ESA)

Many MKB / SME's → both military and civil production

Most production = components

# Import, export, research, training

## Israel, Netherlands sign \$305 million defence export deal

Reuters

May 18, 2023 10:19 AM GMT+2 · Updated 8 months ago

### F-35-SAMENWERKING

# Kabinet levert Israël onderdelen F-35 ondanks ambtelijk advies

Ambtenaren waarschuwden dat Israël mogelijk het oorlogsrecht schendt, maar toch leverde de regering F-35-onderdelen.

On July 21, **Elbit Systems** and the NIDV, held a virtual industry day for Dutch companies. The event was conducted in cooperation with the Commissariat for Military Production of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. With about 100 participants, a large part of the Dutch defense technological and industrial base participated in the three-hour live broadcast.



# Arms transfers – EU to Israel

## Exports and licences of military goods by EU states to Israel since 2011

Value of exports or licences (hybrid)

€4.1bn

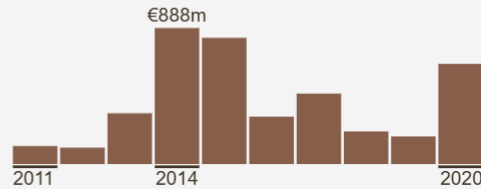
€4,087,255,434 from  
7,079 licences

Number of licences approved

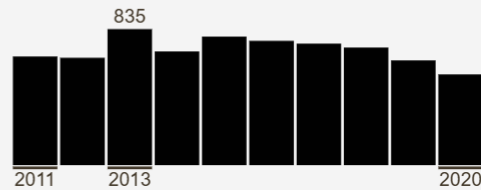
7.1k

7,079 licences

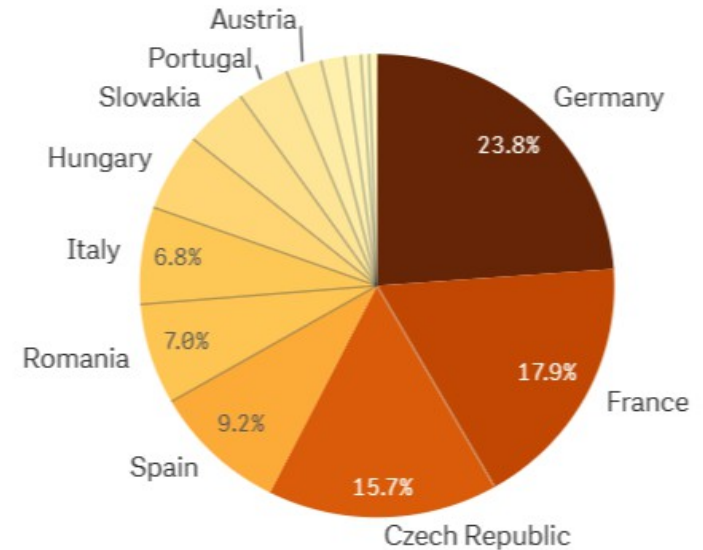
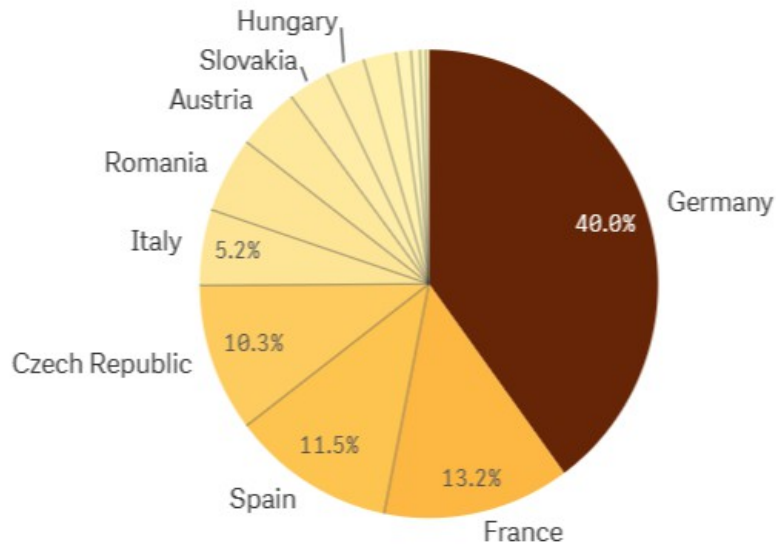
Value of exports or licences (hybrid)  
over time



Number of licences approved over time



Country of origin	Value of exports or licences (hybrid)
Germany	€2.5bn
Italy	€510m
United Kingdom	€481m
Romania	€186m
France	€180m
Czech Republic	€90m
Bulgaria	€33m
Belgium	€29m
Slovakia	€18m
Spain	€17m
Portugal	€7.1m
Austria	€6.6m
Ireland	€6.4m
Netherlands	€5.8m
Slovenia	€4.0m



# Arms transfers

## Netherlands to Israel

- Value export licences 2013-2022: €23 million
- Restrictive policy since 2002: “In connection with the negative developments in the Middle East, and Israel in particular, the Netherlands, as well as various EU partners, have tightened their export policy towards Israel in the past two years. Permit applications are in principle rejected on the basis of criteria two (human rights), three (internal tensions) and four (tensions in the region), as a result of the daily reality in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in particular, especially if deliveries are to the army or air force.”
- However:
  - Transits via Schiphol (until 2008 → moved to Luik)
  - Dual use exports (image intensifiers, night vision)
  - Military components via other countries
    - US (F-16, Apache, Hellfire, F-35)

# Concerns about future exports

In his [ruling](#), the judge takes the position that the state granted a general license in 2016 to transport F-35 parts to Israel and other countries. In his opinion, Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot 'reasonably' decided to 'maintain the permit' after the start of the Israeli offensive in Gaza:

Datum 14 juli 2023

Betreft Maatregelen ter bevordering van Europese defensiesamenwerking en verdere Europese convergentie van het wapenexportbeleid

- A. Toetreding tot het verdrag tussen Frankrijk, Duitsland en Spanje inzake exportcontrole in het defensiedomein.<sup>5</sup> Toetreding is onder voorbehoud van instemming van de verdragspartijen met Nederlandse deelname en goedkeuring van het parlement;
- B. Facilitering van grensoverschrijdende industriesamenwerking middels gebruik van de algemene exportvergunning;

## German military exports to Israel up nearly 10-fold as Berlin fast-tracks permits

Reuters

November 8, 2023 1:29 PM GMT+1 · Updated 2 months ago

Germany rewards Saudi Arabia for its 'constructive' Israel stance by lifting arms export ban

# **EU Common Position on control of exports of military technology and equipment**

Binding EU legislation

Obligation for a licence system

Check against 8 (flexible) criteria

Reporting to EEAS

Loopholes

Possibility for additional national legislation

Special legislation on dual use products

# **Eight criteria in short:**

1. Respect for international obligations and commitments
2. Respect for human rights in the country of final destination.
3. Internal situation in the country of final destination, the existence of tensions or armed conflicts.
4. Preservation of regional peace, security and stability.
5. National security of the Member States.
6. Behaviour of the buyer country towards the international community.
7. Existence of a risk of diversion.
8. Compatibility of the exports with the technical and economic capacity of the recipient country.



# Arms transfers – Israel to EU

POLITICS | Company News | News Wire

Sep 28, 2023

## Germany, Israel Seal Jerusalem's Biggest Defense Export Deal



18.05.2023

Elbit Systems Awarded \$305 Million Contract to Supply PULS Rocket Artillery Systems to the Royal Netherlands Army

21.08.2023

Elbit Systems Awarded a \$55 Million Contract to Supply a Counter UAS Solution to the Netherlands

07.09.2023

Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) Expands Use of Elbit Systems' DIRCM to VIP Aircraft

# Marketing strategy

## 'Battle-Proven:' Weapons Expo Shows One Way Israel Profits from Occupation

Hundreds of arms and cybersecurity companies showcase their state-of-the-art weaponry—often tested in Gaza or the West Bank—to war industry dealers from all over the world.



## Gaza war offers the ultimate marketing tool for Israeli arms companies

As investors worldwide drop cash on Israeli start-ups for 'battle-tested' weapons, defense tech CEOs are poised to be the war's only victors.

# Border security



**The EU buys Israeli  
drones. They were  
tested in Gaza**

Second Frontex drone crashed near Crete: Airbus was allowed to fly the “Heron 1” alongside civilian aircraft

27. August 2023

**Hungary, Bulgaria ask Israel  
about barrier to keep out  
migrants**

**Israel's Elbit Systems Wins £87m Contract on  
US-Mexico Border Fence**

# Cooperation

- EU – Israel
  - Association agreement (2000)
  - association to the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (since 1996) → security
- Netherlands – Israel
  - Cooperation armed forces → MoU and SOFA (2021)
  - Cooperation between companies
  - PMSC firearms training
  - Joint research (in EU Framework Programmes)
  - Universities → joint research / student exchange

## Strong Positions across Europe support organic growth

-  Austria
-  Belgium
-  France
-  Germany
-  Hungary
-  Italy
-  **Netherlands**
-  Romania
-  Sweden
-  Switzerland
-  United Kingdom



European subsidiaries employ hundreds of local employees and support domestic suppliers



# Cooperation



Netherlands fire their first GILL

DONDERDAG, 20 MEI 2004 LEO VAN WESTERHOVEN

17.11.2022

Elbit Systems Joins Forces with Fokker Services Group

*The "Elbit Systems – Fokker Services Group" team aims to provide advanced, cost-effective military flight training solutions*

At Woensdrecht Air Force Base in Brabant, the European warehouse was officially opened under the watchful eye of around two hundred guests from home and abroad, including representatives from the Pentagon and US government. From this distribution center, the Dutch will take care of the logistics of the spare parts of the new fighter plane for the next twenty years. The first JSF aircraft for the Netherlands landed in Leeuwarden last Thursday. But the logistics deal is much larger than just the Netherlands. Richard Laurijssen, Commander Logistics Center Woensdrecht (LCW): "It's not just about our own fleet, but about the entire F-35 fleet in Europe – from Israel to Norway and from the United Kingdom to the eastern border of Europe."

Photonis is proud to announce that we will continue to supply and support the Dutch Armed Forces with state-of-the-art **4G image intensifier tubes**. Early this year the DMO (Defense Material Organisation) signed a contract with Elbit Systems to supply the XACT 32 NV Micro night vision monocular which features a high performance 16mm **4G image intensifier tube**. The system and image intensifier offers high performance in combination with a reduction in size and weight for the operator.

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# Israel Aerospace Industries

## Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

- A large Israeli state-owned weapon manufacturer, Israel Aerospace Industries makes multiple weapons systems specifically for the Israeli military, including the Heron TP killer drone.
- On a Nov. 22 call with investors, IAI CEO, Boaz Levy, said that Heron drones have “played a pivotal role” in Israel’s attacks on Gaza, including in strike operations. In early October, Germany approved a request by Israel to use two Heron TP drones, manufactured by IAI, in its attacks on Gaza.

Systems that are developed and manufactured by IAI include: Unmanned air vehicles (UAV), Radars, mission aircraft and AEW aircraft, EW, ELINT/ESM, SIGINT and COMINT/COMJAM, Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missiles (ATBM), Missiles and smart weapons, Satellites, ground stations and space launchers, upgrading of military aircraft and helicopters, maintenance, and conversion of commercial aircraft, including conversion to aerial refueling. Israel Aerospace Industries also offers cyber defense, maritime, border protection, defense surveillance systems, and crisis and emergency management systems, as well as business jets and aero assemblies.

November 14, 2023

### IAI's UAVs play pivotal role in ongoing operation against Hamas

By Arie Egozi



# Resources for research arms production / arms trade

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute <SIPRI.org>

- Arms export database, only complete systems not components.
- Trend indicators

<StopWapenhandel.org> (use search machine)

Parliament & government

- Annual Report on export licenses strategic goods
- Online overview granted military export licenses
- Parliamentary questions and debates

European Network Against Arms Trade <ENAAT.org>

- EU Export Data Browser

European External Action Service

- Responsible EU body for arms export control and policy
- Online database arms export licenses EU countries



# Resources for research military industry

NIDV - Nederlandse Industrie voor Defensie & Veiligheid/Dutch Industry for Defence and Security

→ Lobby organisation.

→ Company guide, announcement of fairs and conferences.

ASD European Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries

→ European lobby

Individual Companies

→ Websites, annual report, general media (google), military media

Top 100 international military companies

→ <https://sipri.org/databases/armsindustry>

→ <https://people.defensenews.com/top-100/>

# Direct action / legal action



**BDS** FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY

EN FR DE ES PT

WHAT IS BDS? GET INVOLVED CAMPAIGNS

GET UPDATES DONATE

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

## MILITARY EMBARGO

**OVERVIEW**

Israel uses military force and technology to maintain its system of military occupation and apartheid.

Israel's violations of international law and war crimes during its frequent attacks on Palestinians are well documented.

Israel is only able to act with such impunity because governments, companies and research centers cooperate with and support its military and security industry.

Palestinian civil society is calling for a comprehensive military embargo on Israel to end all this cooperation. This will hold Israel accountable for its crimes and help end them. To reach this goal we must deploy a variety of strategies, including direct action, lobbying and grassroots campaigning.

Amnesty International and several local governments around the world are calling for an end to the arms trade with Israel.

WHY? IMPACT TAKE ACTION

