

BUSINESSEUROPE



DG Trade Conference on Dual Use

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Comments from BUSINESSEUROPE

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What is BUSINESSEUROPE?



- ✓ The Confederation of European business, representative of more than 20 million small, medium and large companies
- ✓ A Social Partner

Mission

- ✓ „Actively promote and represent business in Europe“
- ✓ „Advocate a favourable and competitive business environment to foster sustainable economic growth“

Purpose

- ✓ Influence EU policies to create a business-friendly environment

Pillars

- ✓ Members FIRST
- ✓ Staff: about 45 persons
- ✓ Supporting network of 30 companies (ASGroup)
- ✓ Alliance for a Competitive European Industry
- ✓ European Employers Network



EU Recast and Business Vision

Industry has actively supported the 'recast'

- Strong support from the very beginning of the process
 - Regular participation in all events
 - Several position papers
- ➔ Business has highlighted the considerable changes in the export control environment, calling for innovative solutions

Industry is disappointed by the limited results

- A very long process for small output
 - Only several minor points have progressed
 - Brokering, transit and transshipment definitions
 - Proposals for Community General Export Authorisations
- ➔ It seems that National Administrations are stuck in outdated – but perhaps 'comfortable' – regulations and procedures



EU Recast and Business Vision

Trade is becoming very complex

- A new global geopolitical environment with new strategic concepts: more control on end-users and / or end-uses
- Major technological revolution
- More and more sophisticated trade patterns (internationalisation of operations, industrial cooperation, etc.)

Export Control remains of paramount importance

- For the security of democratic countries ... as well as for responsible corporations
- Strict commitment to develop a 'level playing field'
- ➔ **An absolute necessity to develop efficient regulations and procedures which do not hamper legitimate trade**



EU Recast and Business Vision

Effective progress is possible

- The new Directive on 'Intra-Community Transfer of related Defence goods' shows that progress is achievable
- Despite more sensitive issues, innovative approaches have been established
 - Based on increased trust between countries
 - Based on confidence in business: certified companies + art. 10

Effective progress is necessary

- To reduce legal uncertainty: catch-all clause, absence of information on sensitive end users, etc.
- To reduce delay: maximum time for delivering a licence
- To avoid redundant control: Annex 4 should be suppressed. Also control within a trans-European company or between Authorized Economic Operators



EU Recast and Business Vision

Proposals from business:

- To finally open a high level forum to explore the challenges of export control on dual use items
- To improve awareness of all concerned economic actors
- To develop systemic approaches to control: trade issues are globalized (security, IPR, ethics, etc;)
- To address US extraterritorial policy
- To support the concept of Certified Companies and Authorized Economic Operators
- To promote a system less based on rules but more on responsible company behaviour

