



Cessez d'alimenter la guerre

The alternative guide for media to Eurosatory 2018

or why say « no to Eurosatory »

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1) What is Eurosatory?

Eurosatory takes place every two years in Paris and is the largest armament show in the world. It covers **all the land and air-land defence and security industry**, who come to present the latest trends and technological innovations in the field of weapons and war material: tanks, combat helicopters, firearms, knives, grenades, missiles ...

More than 200 official delegations are also there to meet the arms dealers and discuss their armies needs.

Arms sellers and repressive or warring states: Eurosatory offers you the opportunity to meet!

Eurosatory is organized by COGES (General Commissariat of Exhibitions and Exhibitions of GICAT), a subsidiary of GICAT, a group of French land and air-land defence and security industries. It is dedicated to **the international promotion of the French land and air-land defence and security industry** and related sectors.

Eurosatory is a friendly occasion for arms sellers and delegations, who gather around cocktails to discuss missiles and violent crowd control tools. A great gala evening is also organised in glitzy places (Louvre, Museum of fairground arts ...). Costly festivities - **many peace projects could be funded with the budget spent on entertaining the arms industries clients.**

Eurosatory is also the occasion to meet « **Cessez d'alimenter la Guerre - Stop Fuelling War** », an association that opposes the Arms Fair, the normalisation of the arms trade and denounces a dangerous and opaque business. « Cessez d'alimenter la Guerre - Stop Fuelling War » is a new organisation, but for twenty years there has been a presence of protesters and peace activists at Eurosatory, international showcase of the arms trade, to pass these messages and promote pacifist solutions to tackle the underlying causes of conflict.

Eurosatory is the tip of the iceberg, the opportunity to discuss seriously the arms trade and its dangers

Worth knowing:

Saudi Arabia will most likely be present at Eurosatory. Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia has been carrying out a deadly war in Yemen, which has killed nearly 10,000 people and displaced more than 3 million. The most serious humanitarian crisis since the end of the second world war according to the United Nations. A child dies every ten minutes of the war in Yemen according to Unicef. At Eurosatory, Saudi Arabia will be able to meet arms dealers and equip its army which is taking part in this massacre.

Eurosatory does not avoid Russia. While the European Union has decided on an embargo on Russian arms imports and exports, Rosoboronexport, the Russian government's arms export agency, could be present at Eurosatory! In 2012, Rosoboronexport was singled out by NGOs for continuing to export arms to Syria during the civil war.



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2) Getting ready: know everything about the arms trade Is the arms trade doing well?

Compared to the 2008-2012 period, arms sales have increased by 10% over the past five years, according to the latest Sipri report.¹

Some of these weapons are used in current wars, the rest are stored for future militarisation and as a show of force. This logic and these wars have a cost: in 2017, global military spending reached 1,739 billion US dollars. Expenditure financed by public money, taxpayers' money.

Do arms exports contribute to insecurity?

Selling missiles, tanks and ammunition around the world is not the way to make it safer.

France and the United Kingdom have sold billions of euros of arms to repressive regimes or those at war, such as Egypt or Saudi Arabia. These arms sales allow crises to continue.

Worth knowing:

In 2016 alone, more than one billion euros of French military equipment was delivered to the Saudi regime, even though, since October 2015, Amnesty International has called for the suspension of arms transfers to Saudi Arabia because of war crimes committed in Yemen.

Beyond arms sales to violent regimes, it is very difficult to maintain control over exported materials, which can end up in the hands of opponents. Today, [ISIS has recovered European weapons](#), in particular, the German-French MILAN missile which had been sold in the past to Syria. Because of the unlimited arms trade, our armies are now attacked by weapons that we have made.²

Arms exports are probably illegal in many cases

Countries that signed the Arms Trade Treaty or those bound by the Common Position of the European Union have committed not to export arms when there is a risk of human rights violations, violations of international law, or destabilisation of a region.

Arms sales to countries at war or to repressive regimes are therefore most likely illegal under these laws.

Examples:

- the corvettes provided by France to Saudi Arabia, which can be used to maintain the blockade starving the Yemenis
- Mirage jets sold to the United Arab Emirates that could participate in targeted bombing of civilian populations
- The Renault Truck Defense armored vehicles used for the Egyptian crackdown in 2013.

Worth knowing:

Between 2013 and 2017, 42% of French arms exports went to the Middle East.

¹ https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2018-03/fssipri_at2017_0.pdf

² <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1428122015ENGLISH.PDF>



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What is the armaments sector's economic value?

While arms exports contribute positively to the trade balance of some major producing states, their economic interest must be put into perspective:

- Arms purchases weigh heavily on national budgets: just for the renewal of its nuclear deterrence, France is preparing to spend 37 billion euros of public money. Military expenditure is the second largest expense item of the French State, after education and far ahead of the environment or employment. A significant part of this budget is spent on the purchase of new weapons.

- The armaments sector is highly subsidised: public guarantees, financial advances, employment of state officials to promote French arms abroad (such as defence attachés and officials of the Directorate General of Armaments). Arms merchants also benefit from public support for research, particularly via European Union funds. How many jobs would be created if these public funds were redirected to other sectors - such as energy transition, education or health?

- Defense companies do not have job creation as their first priority: They relocate as soon as they can - Safran and Thales for example produce in Morocco. And they give compensation or "offset" to the states that buy their weapons, that is to say they commit that the investments are not made in France, but in the country of purchase. Sometimes this involves up to 50% of the market value. In France, with around 200,000 direct and indirect jobs, the arms sector represents between 6 and 7% of industrial jobs, and less than 1% of jobs in general. A study by the CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade) in the United Kingdom estimates that the renewable energy sector, if seriously developed, could employ more workers than the arms industry for jobs with the same type of qualifications³.

- Arms exporters have embarked on a competitive race that contributes to proliferation, insecurity, and their own economic difficulties. Since contracts are usually accompanied by technology transfer, they have enabled more and more countries to develop armaments industries. China now manufactures and exports its own helicopters thanks to the know-how acquired with the production of Aerospatial (now Airbus) helicopters in the 80s, Saudi Arabia has just announced the creation of its own company: Saudi Arabian Military Industries, and Naval Group is training Brazilians to construct its submarines ...

Public spending could be shifted to other sectors such as ecological transition or health to create wealth, jobs, and contribute more effectively to security and peace.

³

See:

<https://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/arms-to-renewables/arms-to-renewables-background-briefing.pdf>



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France: host of Eurosatory and champion of arms sales and opacity

France is the third largest arms salesman in the world, behind Russia and the United States. Since 2012, France has delivered more than 24.6 billion euros worth of arms around the world. Its best client: Egypt, which received 25% of French arms exports over the period 2013-2017, despite the decision of the European Union to suspend arms sales to the dictatorial regime of General al-Sisi.

In 2016, almost 99% of requests for arms exports to France were approved. The executive decides alone, without control by Parliament or civil society. A report on French arms sales is sent to French MPs each year. The information provided is vague, with aggregated figures, and there is no debate on this document.

Worth knowing:

In the United Kingdom, there is a parliamentary commission with oversight on arms sales.

Who uses French weapons?

Renault Truck Defense armored vehicles were sighted in Egypt during the anti-terrorist operation in Sinai. Because of this operation, Sinai was on the edge of the humanitarian crisis. Cluster bombs were used, and images of extra-judicial executions by the Egyptian army were broadcast.

In Yemen, there are also Nexter Leclerc tanks, Dassault Mirages and Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie (CMN) corvettes.

→ **At the show, you can find the Nexter and Renault Truck Defense booths to talk about it!**

What do the French think?

When asked the question, 75% of the French are opposed to arms sales in Yemen and 88% of the French believe that France must stop arms exports to countries that may use them against civilian populations⁴. Thirty members of Parliament today are trying to get a parliamentary inquiry on this subject, but there is no guarantee that it will succeed. If the arms dealers and their buyers are visible at Eurosatory, they prefer to remain discreet the rest of the time ...

To see and to do: our programme for the week of the show

9th June - rally at place St Michel: from 14h to 18h with Quakers, le Mouvement pour la Paix, le Mouvement Rurale de Jeunesse Chrétienne, le MAN, l'Union Pacifiste... Distribution of leaflets, public information, games and music.

10th June – training workshop for protesters, Institut IN VIAM (Paris 8), from 14h30 to 18h. Registration required

11th June – March for Peace : departs at 11h from Parc Monceau.

Silent gathering then march to the offices of COGES, organiser of Eurosatory (3 Avenue Hoche). Delivery of letters to COGES and GICAT, then walk (finishing at 12.30h)

11th to 15th June - presence in front of Eurosatory. Members of "Cessez d'alimenter la Guerre – Stop fuelling War" will be present outside Eurosatory at Villepinte (except Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon). To be sure to meet them, do not hesitate to contact them beforehand!

⁴ YouGov opinion poll prepared for SumOfUs, 2018



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3) Who can you meet? Peace activists

The Peace Activists of “Cessez d'alimenter la Guerre -Stop fuelling war” and their colleagues are available for interviews: contact us!



Holly Spencer (English / French)

Eurosatory mobilisation coordinator for “Cessez d'alimenter la Guerre – Stop fuelling War”, Holly has been mobilising against the arms fairs in Paris and London for six years.

“Eurosatory is a place where arms sellers come to exhibit their latest products, and present them to dozens of official delegations who visit the show, including delegations from countries that do not respect human rights. In 2016, Saudi Arabia was a VIP visitor, and the Saudis will certainly be present this year too. For us this is very problematic, as their army has been bombing Yemen since 2015 and is probably guilty of war crimes.”

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Erik Dries (English/Dutch)

Artist and activist, member of “Cessez d'alimenter la Guerre – Stop fuelling War”, he draws to illustrate the problems related to the arms trade: “I’m dutch and a professional artist, I like to draw and paint and so you’ll find cartoons and paintings I made on our website and during the demonstrations.”

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Yves-Jean Gallas (French)

Yves-Jean Gallas, retired engineer, is President of Ile-de-France region of "Mouvement de la Paix" and member of their National committee. In particular, he advocates for the conversion of the armaments industries towards socially useful civilian production.

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Email : yves-j.gallas@wanadoo.fr

Edith Boulanger (French)

Édith Boulanger, retired academic, is spokesperson for "Mouvement de la Paix" and member of the National Secretariat. Her commitment to peace is long-standing, especially for the stringent regulation of the arms trade.

Email : edithboulanger@orange.fr

Dr James Jakob Fehr (English / German)

Director of the German "Mennonite Peace Centre", researcher and active member of the "Christian Peacemakers Team2 (notably in Lesbos and Palestine)

"I have millions of reasons to oppose the arms fair: the millions of innocent civilians who have been senselessly killed and maimed by weapons. This arms fair will continue the immoral bloodshed in countries around the world. I am the director of the German Mennonite Peace Committee (DMFK); I work together with many people who are opposing oppressions and providing more space for peace and justice."

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Laetitia Sédou (English / French / Flemish)

Coordinator of the European Network Against the Arms Trade (ENAAT).

"Many studies show that the military industry is a dysfunctional economic sector because highly subsidized, opaque, subject to corruption and inefficient in terms of job creation. On the other hand, arms exports fuel the spiral of insecurity in areas of tension and favor military responses to political or social problems to the detriment of dialogue and diplomacy. "

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Arms sellers

Eurosatory is also an opportunity for journalists to meet with arms sellers who exhibit there. In addition to those mentioned above, we recommend some champions in this area:

Elbit Systems: the largest Israeli weapon manufacturer, who notably developed combat drones used during **Operation Protective Edge in Gaza** in 2014. Since September 2009, the Norwegian Government pension fund has chosen to divest from Elbit in because of the company's contribution to the Israeli separation wall surveillance system, which constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law.



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BAE Systems: the largest British arms company and the third largest weapons company in the world. **Its Typhoon fighter jets were used during bombing in Yemen by the Saudi army**, contributing to the thousands of victims of this conflict. BAE Systems is also a manufacturer of nuclear submarines and nuclear missiles via its subsidiary MBDA (co-owned with Airbus and Leonardo)

Otokar: this Turkish company, which specializes in the manufacture of land-based military vehicles, supplied Cobra 2 armored vehicles to patrol the Turkish-Syrian border. These combat vehicles were financed with European public money, and **help prevent Syrian refugees from fleeing their war-torn country**.

Thales: French company partly owned by the French state, tenth largest arms producer in the world in 2016. Thales has sold sighting systems to the Saudis, which could be used in the bombing in Yemen. Thales has also worked to obtain more public funds from the European Union, and it is one of the manufacturers of French nuclear weapons.

PLEASE NOTE: On the question of the potential illegality of arms sales by France to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, ACAT (Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture - Christian action for the Abolition of Torture) is available by phone:

Mariam Chfiri, media relations officer, ACAT, mariam.chfiri@acatfrance.fr / +33 (0)1 40 40 40 24



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4) Where are the Peace Fairs? The recommendations de Cessez d'Alimenter la Guerre - Stop Fuelling War

«*World military spending has doubled and has not made the world safer*»

Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, April 2018⁵.

“Cessez d'alimenter la guerre - Stop fuelling war” is opposed to Eurosatory because it is the showcase of the arms trade, a dangerous and opaque trade. In the long run, the current threats and difficulties cannot be solved by armaments and wars. On the contrary, **violent conflicts exacerbate migration crises, famine, underdevelopment, terrorism ...**

There will always be conflicts and disagreements between different people or different groups of people: it's natural. But resorting to violence to solve them is neither inevitable nor desirable. To solve these conflicts in a peaceful way, it is necessary to engage in diplomacy, education and justice for the safety of people and to ensure development ...

⁵ <http://time.com/5250773/global-military-spending-security-arms-race/>



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Over the last 35 years, 77% of violent conflicts ended with peace agreements and only 16.5% ended with military victories.

Violence is therefore an exception to the rule, and must remain so.

There is no single peaceful "model" solution that would solve all conflicts: each case must be studied according to its particular nature and the different context. However, there are peaceful solutions that are more effective in the long run than violence.

The media are part of the solution for peace

The media also has a role to play for peace. By distributing mostly images of deadly conflict, they help to give the impression of a violent and threatening world and feed fears, even though war is not the norm - the majority of the world lives in peace.

On the contrary, by taking the time to analyse and put into perspective the origins and complexity of conflicts, taking care to respect all parties to avoid excessive polarization and documenting peace-building strategies and solutions, the media can contribute to peace.

5) Links and Resources

To go deeper into the issues related to the arms trade and peace, you can:

- Visit our website : <https://stopfuellingwar.org/en>

- Discover who profits from Eurosatory with the report « who Profits from Eurosatory ? » by War Resisters' International – English version attached to this document

- Read Preventing crisis, resolving conflict, building peace - FDA

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/1214246/057f794cd3593763ea556897972574fd/preventing-crises-data.pdf>

- Read Pathways to Peace by the World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/publication/pathways-for-peace-inclusive-approaches-to-preventing-violent-conflict>

- Read our partner's guide to peaceful solutions: Building Peace Together

<http://www.gcea.org/peace/research-project/>

- Read "The Business Plan for Peace : building a World Without War" by Dr Scilla Elworthy

<https://www.scillaelworthy.com/the-business-plan-for-peace/>



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To act, you can:

- Support the request for a commission to investigate arms sales in Yemen:

<https://www.amnesty.fr/actions/armes-francaises>

- Sign the petition to stop the Arms Fair in Paris

<https://www.mvtpaix.org/wordpress/petition-pas-de-salon-de-larmement-a-paris>

www.stopfuellingwar.org/stopfuellingwar@gmail.com

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