



Auswärtiges Amt

**Information on confidence-building measures
in the field of conventional arms (Resolution 61/79)**

**National contribution to the database on confidence-building measures
Federal Republic of Germany
2007**

© 2008 Federal Foreign Office – Division 241

**Federal Foreign Office
Division 241
DE-11013 BERLIN
GERMANY**

Telephone +49 30 18 17 42 79
Facsimile +49 30 18 17 5 42 79
Email 241-2@auswaertiges-amt.de

1. Introduction

Germany is convinced that confidence-building measures (CBMs) play a key role in disarmament and arms control. Cooperative arms control approaches often start with CBMs, which contribute to post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation. They create the climate of transparency, dialogue and cooperation that is the foundation of arms control or disarmament agreements between the parties to a conflict and often a precondition for conflict prevention. CBMs have to be developed and agreed on a voluntary basis, on the principle of cooperative security. The confidence-building process is facilitated by good governance and the rule of law. CBMs should be in full compliance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international humanitarian law. It is important that all states in all regions feel that their participation in transparency- and confidence-building measures serves their security interests. Conflicts in various regions where CBMs were not initiated at an early stage have shown the need for a worldwide awareness of the potential for CBMs to contribute to peace and stability. This implies, inter alia, verification regimes that ensure the reliability of the information provided. Bilateral, sub-regional and regional CBMs have produced encouraging results throughout the world in supporting peace and stability. With regard to Europe, the OSCE area is an encouraging example of what CBMs can contribute to the building of peace and stability at the bilateral and regional level. Since the first CBMs were agreed at the Stockholm Conference in the mid-1980s, the CFE Treaty, the successive Vienna Documents and the Treaty on Open Skies have been instrumental in the creation of a new military culture of openness and transparency. These documents, along with additional documents of the OSCE acquis, constitute a mutually reinforcing network of security in Europe.

For the Federal Republic of Germany, the Bundeswehr Verification Centre (BwVC) ensures the implementation of those arms control treaties and agreements that are binding under international law. It acts in accordance with the directives of Germany's Foreign Office and under the direction of the German Ministry of Defence.

2. German participation in treaties and agreements with regard to CBMs and related activities

a) Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces

Germany is a party to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty). The CFE Treaty aims to eliminate the capability to launch surprise attacks and to initiate large-scale offensive action in Europe by placing limits on conventional weapon systems. In order to attain the specified ceilings, more than 60,000 weapon systems were destroyed in the 1990s. The inspection regime, which is laid down in the CFE Treaty, provides the States Parties with the opportunity to verify compliance with the Treaty's provisions by conducting on-site inspections.

In 2007, Germany conducted four active inspections pursuant to Section VII of the Protocol on Inspection to the CFE Treaty, one inspection pursuant to Section VIII of the Protocol on Inspection and four supplementary inspections at the cost of the inspecting State Party. Additionally, Germany conducted one inspection pursuant to Section C of the Protocol on Inspection. Furthermore, the BwVC escorted 17 inspections on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and two transits of foreign inspection teams through Germany pursuant to the CFE Treaty.

German guest inspectors took part in 25 inspections of other States Parties. 29 inspectors from allied states or cooperation partners participated in German inspections.

In 2007 further changes to the armed forces' structures and the Treaty-limited equipment (TLE) holdings of the units resulted again in a high number of event-triggered notifications to update the data provided in the annual exchange of information.

In toto, Germany submitted the following numbers of notifications within the reporting period:

- 14 notifications of changes to the organization of the armed forces, and
- 87 notifications of changes to holdings.

As a rule, several changes to the organizational structure or TLE holdings are summarized in a single notification.

Moreover, personnel and material support was provided to other States Parties to assist in the implementation of the Treaty. Training inspections were conducted to support other States Parties, and personnel and material support was also provided to NATO School Oberammergau for the conduct of arms control training courses.

b) Treaty on Open Skies

Germany is a party to the Treaty on Open Skies and in 2007 made the following contributions to its implementation:

Within the scope of the Treaty on Open Skies, which authorizes observation flights over the territory of all States Parties from Vancouver to Vladivostok, BwVC conducted nine active observation flights, the majority shared with other State Parties and five training flights with different aeroplanes.

Furthermore, BwVC escorted three Open Skies passive observation flights which were conducted by Russia/Belarus over Germany. Germany supported RACVIAC in the preparation for and conduct of Open Skies Training flights over Croatia as well as data gathering flights over Hungary and Romania.

For further information please see <http://disarmament.un.org/TreatyStatus.nsf>

c) Vienna Document

The Vienna Document aims to strengthen confidence and security among the participating States, which pledge to refrain from the threat or use of force, by stipulating an exchange of information and providing possibilities for verifying the data submitted. This is accompanied by mechanisms for consultation and cooperation.

Germany is a signatory to the Vienna Document 1999 and made the following contributions to its implementation in 2007:

BwVC representatives accepted all fourteen invitations submitted in the framework of contacts. In 2007, BwVC representatives participated in the following contact events

pursuant to Chapters IV and V of the Vienna Document 1999: two visits to air bases, one visit to military facilities and two demonstrations of new major weapon systems.

In toto, six evaluation visits and six inspections were conducted, including five reciprocal bilateral evaluation visits.¹ The practice of inviting guest inspectors to participate in every measure led by Germany has proven its value. The practice has served as a means to familiarize more OSCE participating States with the VD 99 verification regime and to involve those states actively in the implementation measures. Germany dispatched a guest inspector to each of ten inspections and one evaluation visit conducted by other participating States in 2007.

BwVC representatives escorted two inspections and three evaluation visits (two of them bilateral) pursuant to the Vienna Document 1999 on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 2007, Germany supported the United States of America in preparing and conducting a demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems in Grafenwöhr, Germany.

In the reporting period, no military activities took place were on a scale that, pursuant to the VD 99, were subject to prior notification and observation. Germany notified, on a voluntary basis, a military significant exercise in September 2007.

Germany provided training support to one OSCE participating States in 2007. Six officers from Turkmenistan received instruction on the conduct of inspections pursuant to the Vienna Document 1999; this training activity was supported by a Swiss instructor.

Furthermore, Germany continues to support a Central Asian state in the establishment of a regional arms control training centre. More information is available under:

http://www.osce.org/documents/html/pdfiohtml/4265_en.pdf.html

d) OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

Germany has fully fulfilled its obligations under the Code of Conduct including submission of the annual information exchange. The German submission is available under:

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/de/Aussenpolitik/Themen/Abbruestung/KonvRueKontrolle/OSZE-CoC.html>

e) Dayton Peace Agreement

In 2007 Germany continued to assist the Parties to the Dayton Peace Agreement in the implementation of their obligations under Annex 1-B, Article IV.

In 2007, assistants from the BwVC participated in both inspection and escort teams in a total of eleven missions within the scope of quota inspections pursuant to the Article IV Agreement (in accordance with Annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Agreement). Germany is supporting the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement with personnel.

¹ One measure each with Belarus, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Macedonia.

Germany and Albania as well as Germany. These visits were carried out pursuant to the rules of the Vienna Document 1999, and the teams included guest inspectors, including some from states of the region. The personnel support that the Regional Conventional Arms Control Division of BwVC has rendered to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center in Vienna since 1996 will continue. Germany will continue to support the NATO School and RACVIAC by dispatching instructors for training activities within the framework of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Information on the Dayton Peace Agreement can be found on the following website:
http://www.ohr.int/dpa/default.asp?content_id=380

f) Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction (Ottawa Convention)

Germany signed the Ottawa Convention on 3 December 1997 and, by 1 March 1999, had destroyed its national stockpiles of more than 1.7 million anti-personnel mines. Since 1992, Germany has committed an amount of more than 205 million USD to mine action projects in more than 42 mine-affected countries. Germany participates in the yearly transparency measures according to Art. 7 of the Convention.

The German annual report 2007 is published on the following website:
[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/A5378B203CBE9B8CC12573E7006380FA?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/A5378B203CBE9B8CC12573E7006380FA?OpenDocument)

g) UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

Germany has ratified and implemented the Convention and its 5 Protocols. Germany provides annual reports according to Art. 13 of Amended Protocol II.

The 2007 annual report can be found on the following website:
[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/8E895D5E74711AFCC12571CA003B2390?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/8E895D5E74711AFCC12571CA003B2390?OpenDocument)

h) UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Germany submits a national report on the implementation of the UN PoA. The 2007 report is available on the website:

<http://disarmament.un.org/cab/salw-nationalreports-2007.htm>

i) OSCE Document on SALW

Germany takes part in the annual information exchange pursuant to the OSCE Document on SALW every year. The latest report for 2006 was submitted to the OSCE on 30 June 2007. Furthermore Germany dispatches experts for staff assessment visits on a regular basis, and continuously evaluates the applications for support that are received from other participating States.

j) OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

Germany dispatches experts for staff assessment visits on a regular basis, and continuously evaluates the applications for support that are received from other participating States. Furthermore Germany supports the efforts of the OSCE to develop a "Best Practice Guide on Ammunition" (BPG). The aim of this BPG is to give the member states and interested states guidance on how to handle ammunition.

k) OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers

Germany takes part each year in the information exchange on conventional arms transfers. The report for 2006 was submitted to the OSCE on 28 June 2007. Furthermore, Germany annually submits answers to the Questionnaire on the Participating State's Policy and/or National Practices and Procedures for the Export of Conventional Arms and Related Technology.

l) UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNGA Resolution 61/77)

Each year, Germany submits a national report under the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The report for 2007 is available on the website:
<http://disarmament.un.org/cab/register.html>

m) UN Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures (UNGA Resolution 60/44)

Each year, Germany submits a national report according to the Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. The report for 2007 is available on the website:
<http://disarmament.un.org/cab/milex.html>

3. Other German Activities (Conferences and Seminars) with regard to CBMs in 2007 (list is not exhaustive)

Germany pays particular attention to regional and subregional dialogue with regard to issues relating to confidence-building measures, landmines and small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Recent activities include the following:

- International Expert Meeting 'Enhancing controls and promoting reductions in stockpiles of conventional arms and ammunition' (Berlin, 3-4 April 2007)
- EU-LAC Expert Meeting 'Management and security of public stockpiles of small arms and light weapons including ammunition' (Costa Rica, 6-7 September 2007)
- Visit of SALW Focal Points of the Member States of the League of Arab States (Berlin, Geilenkirchen and Vienna, 21-25 October 2007)
- ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar 'Management and security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons including their ammunition' (Phnom Penh, 13-14 December 2007)
- ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on "Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe" (Berlin, 12-14 March 2008)
- ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on Landmines (Penang/ Malaysia, 8-10 April 2008).

With a seminar about the "Political Aspects of Conventional Arms Control in Europe" which was conducted in Berlin in December 2006, Germany initiated the "Berlin Seminars on

Conventional Arms Control". In 2007 three seminars were successfully conducted under this label: a workshop on chapter X of the "Vienna Document 1999" on regional measures, an "Open Skies"- Seminar on digital sensors and a special seminar on the "Political Importance of Conventional Disarmament and Arms Control in Europe" for OSCE Cooperation Partners and partner states of the Barcelona Process. This seminar cycle will be continued in 2008.