

**Rete Italiana per il Disarmo  
Italian Network on Disarmament**



**“The Italian Government should immediately stop sending military systems to Israel and should promote an EU arms embargo on Israel and Palestine”**

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*Events in support of a ceasefire will be held in all Italy on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of July.*

“The Italian Government should immediately stop sending military systems to Israel and should promote an EU arms embargo on Israel and Palestine”. The request comes from the Italian Disarmament Network (which brings together the major Italian organizations engaged on disarmament and arms control) considering the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip, a situation which - as stated by UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon – “could spiral quickly beyond anyone’s control”.

Italy is the largest supplier in the European Union of military systems and light weapons to Israel. A few days ago, during the Israeli air raids on Gaza Strip, Alenia Aermacchi (a company of the State controlled Finmeccanica group) sent the first two M-346 trainer aircraft to the Israeli Air Force.

Italian Disarmament Network shares the “deep concern” expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini, on the worsening of the situation. The Network demands that the dutiful words of the Minister condemning the air attacks on civilian areas are quickly followed by an unequivocal action by the Italian Government, such as the immediate suspension of the shipment of military systems and light weapons to the region. Moreover, the Italian Government, which this semester holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, should urgently promote actions leading to an EU embargo on weapons and military systems to all parties in the conflict, in order to protect civilians and foster the resumption of negotiations.

The Alenia Aermacchi M-346 is a new-generation trainer optimised for the role of training pilots who fly on latest-generation high-performance military planes but, as shown by technical datasheets and images, these planes can also be armed and used for bombing. In particular, thanks to their versatility, these trainer aircraft can be used in urban areas and in areas of scarce deployment of armed forces and anti-aircraft systems. Our concerns therefore appear to be well-founded: it appears likely that military equipment produced in our country may end up making even more serious a long-lasting situation of conflict that has never healed.

According to the Italian Network for Disarmament all this is happening despite the principles enshrined in the Italian legislation on arms export, which expressly prohibits (in its very first and fundamental article) the supply of weapons to countries engaged in an armed conflict or to governments which are responsible for grave violations of the International conventions on human rights, as assessed by the competent bodies of the UN, the EU or the Council of Europe.

In what was a regrettable coincidence, the recent delivery of the first two (of the 30 planned) military trainer aircraft M-346 took place on the 9th of July, the exact day on which the Italian Law laying down “New rules for the control of export, import and transit of military goods” (Law 185/1990) was approved by Parliament 24 years ago. An excellent Law, which our country should be promoting as the “gold standard” internationally in the implementation of the new Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), but which unfortunately has often been disregarded, authorizing export licences that violate its clauses and the principles underpinning it. This same legislation, Law 185/90, empowers the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to decide on the export of armaments: for this reason, the Italian Disarmament Network has asked Minister Federica Mogherini to take a prompt and unambiguous decision suspending the supply of M-346 aircraft, so as to stop Italian military systems from fostering future acts of war and human rights violations, against a population already hard hit by decades of conflict.

### EU: Export Licences of Military Systems to Israel - Years 2008-2012

(Values in € at current prices - Source: EU Annual Reports)

Country/Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Italy	1.885.712	226.304	1.315.521	172.586	472.910.249	476.510.372	41,1
Germany	25.083.601	32.632.918	31.620.418	62.905.618	49.108.100	201.350.655	17,4
France	75.033.595	45.980.190	32.830.696	25.904.723	21.197.885	200.947.089	17,3
Romania	15.455.195	16.833.879	15.215.527	18.389.460	28.323.848	94.217.909	8,1
United Kingdom	31.555.334	6.633.633	7.291.376	5.710.932	25.082.700	76.273.975	6,6
Spain	157.200	2.805.955	5.766.600	11.955.201	4.318.591	25.003.547	2,2
Poland	7.008.296	4.008.423	2.617.826	9.373.232	205.612	23.213.389	2,0
Bulgaria	2.435.187	1.297.297	4.886.538	7.490.110	3.012.361	19.121.493	1,6
Czech Republic	285.430	292.494	3.587.573	2.251.057	3.043.692	9.460.246	0,8
Belgium	1.406.573	1.730.856	2.277.176	938.034	1.739.055	8.091.694	0,7
Greece	35.160		3.361.095	1.573.972	1.865.714	6.835.941	0,6
Ireland			24.750	6.137.875	3.952	6.166.577	0,5
Hungary	28.035	126.035	642.000	1.217.768	595.768	2.609.606	0,2
Slovenia	52.159	526.573	615.908	741.033	579.357	2.515.030	0,2
Slovakia	607.355		100.000	1.696.551	103.150	2.507.056	0,2
Netherlands	314.011	80.000	717.029	75.000	900.000	2.086.040	0,2
Austria	176.925	553.551	483.600	500.600		1.714.676	0,1
Denmark	657.000		228.180			885.180	0,1
Finland	84.776	17.145	7.930	1.980		111.831	0,0
Portugal				80.000		80.000	0,0
TOTAL	162.261.544	113.745.253	113.589.743	157.115.732	612.990.034	1.159.702.306	100,0

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