

# Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the origin of the name "Wassenaar Arrangement"?**

The name comes from Wassenaar, a town located in a suburb of the Hague, Netherlands, where an agreement was reached in 1995 to start a new type of multilateral co-operation.

### **How many countries participate in the Wassenaar Arrangement?**

The Wassenaar Arrangement is presently composed of 41 countries.

### **Since when does the Wassenaar Arrangement exist?**

The Wassenaar Arrangement became operational in 1996, after the adoption of the Initial Elements at the July 1996 Plenary.

### **Where is the Wassenaar Arrangement Secretariat located?**

The Secretariat is located in Vienna (Austria). Most WA meetings are held in the Secretariat.

### **When do Wassenaar Arrangement Meetings take place?**

Its decision-making body, the Plenary, normally meets once a year in December. Subsidiary bodies meet periodically.

### **How are Wassenaar Arrangement decisions taken?**

All decisions are taken by consensus and the deliberations are kept in confidence.

### **How are regulations on export controls implemented in the WA?**

Export controls are implemented by each individual WA Participating State. Although the scope of export controls in Participating States is determined by WA lists, practical implementation varies from country to country in accordance with national procedures.

For more information please refer to the respective national authorities by referring to our website topic [Participants States and Links](#).

### **What is the Working Language of the WA?**

The only official language of the WA is English and no official translations in other languages can be provided by the Secretariat.

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