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TOOLS

Financing the arms industry

Société Générale Group's involvement in this sector has always been extremely limited and if anything has diminished further in recent years. The Group applies strict rules in the selection and execution of its financing projects which concern a restricted number of players in the communications and electronics sectors.*

This type of financing is subject to strict internal rules:

- ▶ export finance by known clients that uphold OECD regulations as well as all relevant national and international legislation;
- ▶ contracts with purchaser States with an acceptable level of political risk and according to the criteria set by the relevant international authorities and treaties.

Transactions must be authorized and controlled by the exporter countries. In France, they are controlled by COFACE which acts on behalf of the French government and by its overseas equivalents elsewhere.

Société Générale regulations uphold the international commitments of each State (e.g. the prohibition of anti-personal mines) and forbid any sales to countries that do not respect basic human rights and international law or which are subject to domestic conflict.

Furthermore, this type of financing is subject to an increasingly precise global legal framework: European Code of Conduct (1998), Wassenaar Arrangement (1995), United Nations Register (1992), etc.

* Verified by Ernst & Young (see [Statutory Auditors' Report](#))

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