

## **INFORMATION NOTE FOR FOREIGN ASSOCIATIONS**

### **WISHING TO ATTEND A FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE EVENT IN BELGIUM**

This practical guide aims at explaining how a foreign association can import weapons/firearms into the territory of Belgium in order to participate in an event organized to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War (e.g. parades or historic reconstructions) :

- only associations are entitled to participate to commemorative events. Individuals wishing to participate are required to do so through an association ;
- as regards the completion of administrative formalities, in Belgium the main responsibility lies with the local organizer of the event who also acts as a contact point for the competent licensing authority ;
- for each event, the local Belgian organizer shall obtain a temporary import license for each participating association from the competent licensing authority and afterwards send a copy to the respective association. In order to obtain a license, a foreign association should provide the local organizer of the event it intends to participate to, with the accurate name of the association, its contact details as well as a complete list of participants and their weapons<sup>1</sup> in an inventory list available in 4 languages at [http://economie.wallonie.be/Licences\\_armes/Accueil.html](http://economie.wallonie.be/Licences_armes/Accueil.html) ;
- the license applications shall be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. This rule, however, does not apply to associations and their members registered in the Netherlands and in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg which benefit from the Benelux exemption ;
- throughout the duration of the event in Belgium, the head of an association must be present on site and hold the copies of relevant licenses as well as an inventory of weapons. He or she shall be able to present these documents to the Belgian authorities for the purposes of control ;
- the inventory of weapons must be approved by the local police of the territory where the social seat of an association is situated as well as by the Belgian authorities<sup>2</sup> as some weapons may be prohibited in Belgium. This inventory can be used several times if an association intends to participate in several events consecutively. In fact, an inventory should be completed with the relevant information on each specific event. Therefore, if an association participates in several events consecutively in Belgium, it should mention them all in the inventory list and afterwards send the copies thereof to all the event organizers ;
- during the event, the weapons shall not be loaded with live ammunition and the weapon holder shall not have ammunition on him. The weapons shall be loaded exclusively with adapted blank ammunition or with used ammunition if this is in accordance with the scenario of the respective parade or reconstruction ;
- before and after the parade or reconstruction, the weapons shall be safely kept by the head of an association ;
- after the event, weapons can only be held by associations either :
  - to participate in a similar activity at a later stage,
  - for further re-export,
  - finally, if, after having participated in an event in Belgium, an association intends to directly participate in another event in another country without returning to its home country, an export license should be obtained from the Belgian competent licensing authorities.

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<sup>1</sup> As regards portable firearms capable of full automatic fire, a certificate of deactivation or transformation into weapons not prohibited under Belgian legislation must be provided. As regards non-portable firearms capable of full automatic fire and military equipment as referred to in Article 3, § 1, 3<sup>o</sup> of Belgian Firearms Act of 8 June 2006 (Loi sur les armes), they must be demilitarized according to the standards applied in the country of origin of the association that files a license application.

<sup>2</sup> The competent licensing authority and the Liège Proof House.