

Swedish Military Operations at High Risk of Corruption

Transparency International calls on NATO members to honour commitments to defence integrity

NATO members and partner countries **are at high risk of corruption in their overseas operations**, according to a new Government Index by Transparency International's Defence and Security Programme (TI-DSP).

Using a 77-questionnaire to assess corruption vulnerabilities across the world's defence sectors, TI-DSP ranked the corruption vulnerabilities of NATO member and partner states on a scale from A (low risk) to F (critical risk). Sweden scored a B, representing low corruption risk, but a D for operations.

Risks on operations were generally higher across NATO countries. Only the US, the UK, and Greece scored a B, indicating a low levels of risk to operations. France, meanwhile, scored an E – despite deploying over 10,000 troops in stabilisation and training operations worldwide.

Tackling corruption is critical to the success of international military missions. But, NATO lacks systematic training in anti-corruption for troops going on deployments.

Katherine Dixon, Programme Director Transparency International Defence and Security, said:

“Transparent and accountable defence institutions should be the heart of what NATO stands for as an Alliance. At a time of renewed focus on collective defence, NATO needs to be clear what it is there to defend - societies characterised by the highest democratic standards.

NATO is the world's largest military and political alliance – through partnerships and military deployments NATO also exerts unparalleled global influence. Whether NATO member states are prepared to hold themselves to the highest standards of integrity and whether they are prepared to tackle corruption in states where they are engaged matters enormously to international security.”

Sweden scored better for political and personnel risk, with some strong systems in place. But despite a series of corruption-related defence scandals, Sweden has no overall anti-corruption policy, and there is no evidence that either the Swedish Armed Forces, or most of the other Swedish government agencies, have conducted a corruption risk analysis.

Sweden also has no legislation regulating competition with regard to offset contracts and provides no official figures regarding profits from offset deals.

NATO: the facts

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is the world's largest military and political alliance.
- Six of its member states are among the world's 15 top defence spenders.
- In 2014, their budgets constituted 46.5% of worldwide expenditure.
- 10 out of the world's 20 largest arms exporters are NATO members and a further 3 are European partners.

Results

Country	Band	Corruption risk
United Kingdom	A	Very low
Belgium	B	Low
Canada	B	Low
Denmark	B	Low
Finland	B	Low
Germany	B	Low
Latvia	B	Low
Netherlands	B	Low
Norway	B	Low
Poland	B	Low
Sweden	B	Low
Switzerland	B	Low
USA	B	Low
Austria	C	Moderate
Bosnia & Herz.	C	Moderate
Bulgaria	C	Moderate
Croatia	C	Moderate

Country	Band	Corruption risk
Czech Republic	C	Moderate
France	C	Moderate
Georgia	C	Moderate
Greece	C	Moderate
Hungary	C	Moderate
Italy	C	Moderate
Lithuania	C	Moderate
Spain	C	Moderate
Serbia	C	Moderate
Armenia	D	High
Portugal	D	High
Turkey	D	High
Ukraine	D	High
Afghanistan	E	Very high
Azerbaijan	E	Very high
Uzbekistan	E	Very high

Full results available at government.defenceindex.org on 00:01 (GMT) Thursday 3 December 2015.

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Notes for editors:

The Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index (GI) assesses the existence and effectiveness of institutional and informal controls to manage the risk of corruption in defence and security institutions and of their enforcement. Transparency International's team of experts draws together evidence from a wide variety of sources and interviewees across 77 indicators to provide the government with a detailed assessment of the integrity of their defence institutions.

The 2015 NATO report publishes the country risk rankings derived from this data and examines the trends across NATO members and partner states.

The report follows the G20, MENA and Asia Pacific reports published in November 2015. Forthcoming reports based on the 2015 index will be released on Africa, the Americas, and Fragile States.