

NATO Members Face High Corruption Risks

Transparency International warns that NATO members and partner countries are at high risk of corruption in their overseas operations.

NATO members and partner countries ***are at high risk for 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). While the overall risk to defence corruption was moderate (C) overall, TI-DSP found NATO member and partner states had surprising high levels of vulnerabilities across their operations—scoring a 'D' on average.

Only the US, the UK, and Greece scored a B for low levels of risk in operations.

France, meanwhile, scored an E for "very high" risk – despite its deploying over 10,000 troops in stabilisation and training operations worldwide.

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

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

"It is troubling that many NATO members don't yet recognise the threat that corruption poses to their military operations overseas. The continuing instability in Afghanistan and Iraq serves as a warning to any new international mission: ignore corruption at your peril."

"At a time when defence budgets are under pressure across the alliance, NATO needs to ensure that it does everything it can to ensure that military spending contributes to NATO's ability to operate effectively around the world."

Other areas of concern include:

Arms Exports:

The Index has also identified shortcomings in arms exports control among NATO members. Only two countries – the US and Greece – have adopted provisions requiring parliamentary approval of upcoming arms exports. Nine NATO members and top arms exporters – France, Germany, the UK, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada, Norway, and Turkey – have no parliamentary oversight of upcoming exports, despite evidence of exports to countries with weak human rights records and high corruption risks.

Procurement

At a time when many NATO members struggle to meet the alliance's 2% defence spending goal, it is essential that what they spend is spent well. However, in 17 NATO countries, Transparency International found little or no evidence of independent oversight over purchases that were exempt from general procurement laws. Only 4 countries – the **US, Greece, Norway, and Bulgaria** – require that defence suppliers have compliance programmes in place for high-value contracts.

ENDS

Results

NATO members: overall

Country	Band	Corruption risk
United Kingdom	A	Very low
Belgium	B	Low
Canada		Low
Denmark		Low
Germany		Low
Latvia		Low
Netherlands		Low
Norway		Low
Poland		Low
USA		Low
Bulgaria		Moderate
Croatia		Moderate
Czech Republic		Moderate
France	C	Moderate
Greece		Moderate
Hungary		Moderate
Italy		Moderate
Lithuania		Moderate
Spain		Moderate
Portugal	D	High
Turkey		High

Partner states: overall

Country	Band	Corruption risk
Finland	B	Low
Sweden		Low
Switzerland		Low
Austria	C	Moderate
Bosnia & Herz.		Moderate
Georgia		Moderate
Serbia		Moderate
Armenia	D	High
Ukraine		High
Afghanistan	E	Very high
Azerbaijan		Very high
Uzbekistan		Very high
Uzbekistan		Very high

NATO members & partner states: Overseas operations corruption risk

Country	Band	Corruption risk
United Kingdom	B	Low
United States		Low
Greece		Low
Georgia	C	Moderate
Netherlands		Moderate
Belgium		Moderate
Canada		Moderate
Hungary		Moderate
Serbia		Moderate
Germany	D	High
Switzerland		High
Denmark		High
Sweden		High
Czech Republic		High
Ukraine		High
Norway		High
Finland		High

Lithuania		High
Austria		High
Bosnia & Herz.		High
Poland		High
Bulgaria		High
Italy	E	High
Spain		Very high
Portugal		Very high
Afghanistan		Very high
Latvia		Very high
France		Very high
Croatia		Very high
Turkey		Very high
Armenia		Very high
Azerbaijan	F	Critical
Uzbekistan		Critical

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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 33 states, encompassing 22 NATO members and 11 partner states.

The report follows the G20 report published on 4 November 2015. Forthcoming reports based on the 2015 index will be on Africa, the Americas, and Fragile States.