

European Working Group Non-Lethal Weapons (EWG-NLW)

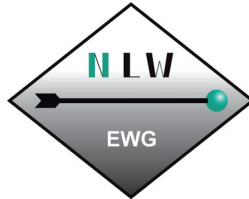
EWG-NLW Information Leaflet

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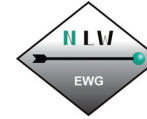
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- EWG-NLW interacts with related organisations
- EWG-NLW organises information exchange, meets at least twice a year.
- EWG-NLW facilitates programmes and joint projects of partners.
- EWG-NLW can help with advice and support to government activities.
- EWG-NLW organises Europe's biggest scientific symposium on NLW: The European Symposium on Non-Lethal Weapons.

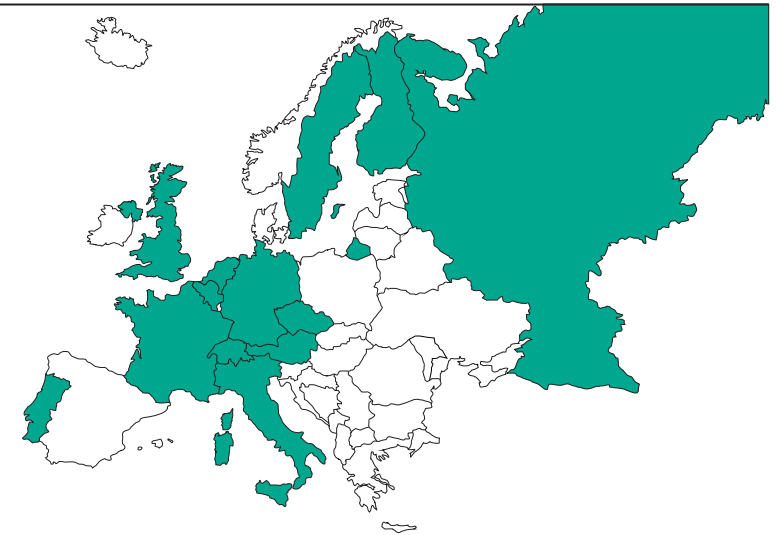


NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT AND MEMBERS OF SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

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European Working Group Non-Lethal Weapons EWG-NLW



European Working Group Non-Lethal Weapons

INTRODUCTION

Several European organisations are currently developing and implementing non-lethal capabilities. This enables many emerging and non-traditional threats (which may appear in low intensity, asymmetric conflicts, peace support, and anti-terrorism operations) to be countered with an innovative solution.

Non-lethal weapons are of interest to both the military and law enforcement agencies as, in many cases, the character of the scenarios might be similar. Non-lethal weapons can be seen as having dual-use application and they provide armed forces, law enforcement agencies, and policy makers with additional options to respond in a tailored and graduated manner.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1998.

Present members: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

The working Group is open to all European organizations working in the area of Non-Lethal Weapons.

AIMS OF THE EWG-NLW

There are two complementary strategies of the EWG-NLW to improve awareness of NLW:

1. Holistic approach, i.e. by considering all essential aspects (legal, ethical, sociological, technological, medical etc) and,
2. High Tech solutions

ACTIVITIES OF THE EWG-NLW

- Exchange of information and harmonisation of activities.
- To promote Research & Development of Non-Lethal Weapon technologies to meet future operational requirements.
- To encourage the European defence industry to become more innovative and more competitive in designing, developing and validating new Non-Lethal Weapon technologies.
- To include related activities on law enforcement and homeland security.
- Independent operational expertise of NLW technology, development and deployment.

Mission Statement

The EWG-NLW supports the development and use of technologies, devices and tactics which are intended to preserve life whilst enabling lawful and appropriate use of force in response to threats, be they individual or crowd based.

Furthermore the EWG-NLW advocates full co-operation between European partners to share information, scientific advancement and recommended operational practice.

WHY NLW ARE NEEDED ?

New means have to be found to address threats whilst minimising the risk of fatalities and harm to the environment or other critical infrastructure.

WHO USES THEM ?

Authorised civilian and military organisations.

WHERE SHOULD THEY BE USED ?

At any place and during any situation whereby the relevant authority may seek to resolve a situation using lawful and appropriate force, possibly supported by conventional, lethal options.

WHEN SHOULD THEY BE USED ?

When it is deemed safe to do so and it is believed any life maybe saved. The benefits of using non-lethal technologies must be balanced against the risks to military or law enforcement personnel and the general population. It should be recognized that no technology or device can be guaranteed to be completely nonlethal and injuries may still occur, even when used with minimal force according to the rules of proportionality.

WHAT TYPES OF NLW SHOULD BE USED ?

Any option considered to be appropriate, acceptable and lawful given the situation. Development of new non-lethal technologies will allow military and law enforcement personnel to exploit alternative means of countering potentially hazardous threats, expanding their capability with new options that offer an acceptable alternative to lethal force.

Non-Lethal Weapons (NATO Definition)

Non-Lethal Weapons are weapons which are explicitly designed and developed to incapacitate or repel personnel, with a low probability of fatality or permanent injury, or to disable equipment, with minimal undesired damage or impact on the environment.