



CHARLES UNIVERSITY

The role of the national Military-Industrial Complex in the establishment of the European Defence Market: The Case Study of Italy

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Supervisor UofG: Prof. Maurizio Carbone

Supervisor Charles Uni: PhD. Tomas Kucera

Abstract

This thesis deals with the issue of European defence industrial fragmentation and evaluates the role of defence industries in the development of a European Defence Market (EDM). More precisely, this dissertation argues that industrial nationalistic pressure has hampered the path of defence integration, with the intention of preserving the monopolistic market environment of defence manufacturing and to protect the financial security of national commissions. While the issue of the European Defence Market has already been acknowledged by the literature as one of the main obstacles for the achievement of a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), this thesis identifies the industrial sector - and not the political will - as the main stumbling block for the establishment of a European Defence Market. In these regards, national defence industries have used their influence in domestic Military-Industrial Complexes (MICs) to directly inform EU Member States' positions on the defence industrial integration process. This thesis presents a scenario based on the hypothesis that the more uncompetitive the national defence manufacturing base, the stronger the reluctance of the Military-Industrial Complex to allow the opening of the market. In this sense, the case study of Italy demonstrates that weaker industrial complexes have hindered the path of defence integration with the intention of preserving their very existence. This thesis has made use of direct interviews and empirical findings to present the reader with a more comprehensive portrayal of the current EU industrial framework. Today, European defence manufacturing fragmentation remains one of the weaknesses of the Union and threatens to put Brussels out of action over the next few decades, preventing the EU from gaining its rightful place as a global actor at the international level.