

## **Initial Plans for an ECAAR-Germany**

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In spring 2001, the Bremen State Ministry for Economic Affairs, with support from several German Länder, Communities and major research institutes in Germany and the EU, convened an International Conference on Conversion. The program was designed to evaluate and review efforts to transfer resources from military to civilian production and to plan proactively for the future.

The conference linked the experience of researchers, trade unions, companies, regional and national actors and European networks to examine prospects for peace-keeping, civilian conflict resolution and continued disarmament in the light of emerging international military and political concerns and industrial policy.

The main coordinator of this event was the Bremen State official for Industrial Arms Conversion, Professor Wolfram Elsner of the Department of Economics and the Institute for Institutional and Social Economics at the University of Bremen. An international conference volume has just been edited (International Restructuring and Conversion of the Arms Industries and the Military Sector: Industrial, Regional and Sociocultural Aspects. Ed. W. Elsner. New Brunswick (NJ): Transaction Publ. 2002).

Following the conference Prof. Elsner began an initiative to establish a German affiliate of ECAAR, which is strongly encouraged by the ECAAR-US Board. The founding meeting of the Section is planned to take place in Bremen in March 2003.

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