



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the Arms Trade Treaty

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Ms. Riona Nicholls from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Mr. Valentin Vasilenko from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and thanks them for their informative presentations on the Arms Trade Treaty and multilateral control over illegal arms supplies.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship for maintaining this important topic high on the Security Dialogue's agenda thus facilitating the implementation of the relevant provisions of MC Decision 8/13. We hope that this discussion, along with the discussions held under the Chairmanships of Luxembourg and Malta, will pave the way for concrete outcomes regarding the ATT's possible implications for the OSCE activities and commitments.

The European Union and its Member States, as illustrated by today's presentation, have been staunch supporters of the ATT since the beginning of the process that led to its adoption by the UNGA on 3 April 2013. Since then the EU devoted considerable efforts and resources in order to secure its early entry into force, effective implementation and universalisation. It is not our intention to further elaborate on these since we have had several opportunities to do so within the FSC. However, we would like to reiterate our firm conviction that, once effectively and globally implemented, the ATT will serve its very purpose of bringing about more responsible and transparent international arms transfers.

We are pleased to note that most of the member states of both the EU and the OSCE have already signed or ratified the ATT thereby significantly contributing to reaching the threshold of 50 ratifications needed for its entry into force. To date, 41 OSCE participating States, out of which all 28 EU Member States, have signed the

Treaty, while 24 OSCE participating States, out of which 20 EU Member States, have already deposited their instruments of ratification. Against this promising background the Treaty could be expected to enter into force by the end of this year.

As suggested by Ms. Nicholls, we look forward to the OSCE maintaining the momentum of the ATT entry into force. In this context, we encourage OSCE participating States, who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the ATT at their earliest convenience.

We reiterate that the OSCE can play an important role, based on its comprehensive track record in SALW issues, in the promotion and the implementation of the ATT in the OSCE area. Possible venues to be further examined in this respect encompass activities related to both providing assistance to participating States, upon their request, in implementing the Treaty and bringing in line relevant ATT and OSCE norms in the field of arms transfers and export controls. We could consider as well whether any perceived shortfalls could be addressed by operationalising relevant provisions of this global instrument at regional level.

In this connection, we thank Mr. Vasilenko for having raised the issue of illicit arms transfers. On this specific point, we would like to indicate that, even though the ATT does not explicitly prohibit arms transfers to non-State actors, its very purpose of strengthening arms transfer control does contribute to carefully monitoring and, where relevant, possibly denying arms transfers likely to be diverted to non-State actors such as terrorist groups.

In conclusion, we would like to thank once again the speakers and the FSC Chairmanship for the opportunity to discuss an issue of special interest for the OSCE and the broader international community.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and

^{*} The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

^{**} Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.

Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ANDORRA and MONACO align themselves with this statement.