



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 741 Vienna, 18 December 2013**

#### **EU Statement on the Arms Trade Treaty**

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The European Union (EU) would like to take this opportunity to inform the Forum for Security Co-operation of the adoption on 16 December of a Council Decision regarding EU activities in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), in the framework of its European Security Strategy.

As Delegations know, the UN General Assembly adopted the ATT on 2 April 2013 by an overwhelming majority and it was subsequently opened for signature on 3 June 2013. All EU Member States have signed the Treaty and many expect to complete ratification in early 2014. We look forward to the Treaty's entry into force, 90 days following the 50<sup>th</sup> ratification. We see the Treaty as being a major step forward in saving lives, helping to promote sustainable development, to reducing human suffering and in combating terrorism.

This Decision establishes a substantially-funded implementation support programme for the ATT. The programme will assist a number of countries, upon their request, in strengthening their arms transfer control standards in line with the ATT requirements. The programme is thus intended for partner countries that are a signatory of the Treaty and willing to ratify it, but which face some capacity challenges.

In addition to those concrete implementation support activities and because universalisation will enhance the effectiveness of the ATT, the programme will also include an outreach component to promote the ATT to a wider group of partner countries. The German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) has been selected as the key implementing agency of the EU's

activities. The overall volume of the project is 6, 4 Mio. €, of which around 20% is co-financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The EU implementation assistance and outreach programme adopted on 16 December will contribute to addressing three main challenges for the ATT: promoting its early entry into force, ensuring effective implementation and working towards universalisation of the Treaty.

Addressing those challenges is definitely a collective ambition and it will matter for our efforts to best deliver that assistance in arms transfer controls is appropriately coordinated. As a regional security organisation with a proven track record in SALW issues, we are convinced that the OSCE can play an important complementary role in the promotion of the ATT, which we believe will enhance peace and security.

Let me therefore conclude by encouraging once again all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

We would also like to take this occasion to congratulate you Ambassador Wurth and your devoted team for the efforts invested and the excellent work done in chairing the FSC during the last trimester of 2013.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND\*\* and SERBIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

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\* 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.