



## EUROPEAN UNION

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#### EU Statement on Arms Transfers and Arms Transfer Controls Reporting Instruments

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The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome Mr. Mark Bromley, Co-Programme Director from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), to the FSC and thank him for the presentation of the Study on participation of OSCE participating States in arms transfers and arms transfer controls reporting instruments. Our thanks also go to the FSC Chairmanship for arranging this interesting discussion.

The OSCE has been playing an important role in the efforts of the international community to prevent the illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversion to illicit markets ever since the adoption of its Principles Governing conventional Arms transfers in 1993. These norms have been further enhanced by the adoption of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2000 as well as other relevant OSCE decisions.

We commend the OSCE transparency efforts on conventional arms transfers, which are in line with our longstanding support to the principles of transparency and responsibility in arms trade. The Council of the European Union reports every year on the implementation of the EU Common Position of 2008 defining common rules governing control of arms exports, which provides detailed information on the destination and volume of arms exports authorised by the EU Member States. All reports are publicly available to enable public and parliamentary scrutiny over arms exports. We believe that such transparency is the prerequisite for responsibility of competent authorities.

Moreover, various reporting requirements that OSCE participating States have towards the OSCE, other international organisations, including the UN, and under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), help to build confidence and cooperation among them. The information provided enhances transparency as to states' intentions and thus helps avoid misinterpretations, miscalculations and contributes to peace and security. We believe that there is a compelling need for strengthening the OSCE conventional arms control commitments through their full implementation and respect by all pS. As presented, the reporting requirements agreed at different levels, including the UNROCA, Wassenaar Agreement and the OSCE, have difficulties to be implemented. This means that transparency instruments are in place, but compliance at least by some is lagging behind. Even though there is a significant correlation among various reporting requirements participating States have within different international organisations, the administrative burden put on participating States' authorities is significant and administrative capacities of individual states vary. We therefore appreciate the analysis of reporting requirements provided by the study as well as concrete recommendations how states can better manage their multiple commitments with regard to arms transfers and arms control transfers reporting instruments, including proposals how to reduce the reporting burden on participating States.

Finally, we underline the need to ensure increased coherence and complementarity of the OSCE commitments with important UN documents. In this context, we reiterate that the OSCE can play an important role in the promotion and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in the OSCE area by bringing in line relevant ATT and OSCE norms in the field of arms transfers and export controls.

Madame Chair, in conclusion we would like to request the distinguished speaker to actively explore how the results of the study could be best taken forward in the OSCE context, in order to achieve greater harmonisation of different reporting instruments so as to raise the overall level of reporting and thus to further enhance transparency.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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