



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No 796 Vienna, 16 September 2015

EU Statement on Arms Trade Treaty

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers, Dr. Gro Nystuen, Senior Partner, International Law and Policy Institute, Ms. Elli Kytömäki, Project Manager SaferGlobe and Dr. Paul Holtom, Deputy Director, Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies, to the FSC and thank them for their interesting presentations.

We commend transparency efforts on conventional arms transfers at UN and OSCE levels. This is in line with our longstanding support to the principles of transparency and responsibility in the arms trade.

Illicit arms flows fuel conflicts and instability and result in a terrible human toll. The Arms Trade Treaty is an important instrument that can curb illicit arms trafficking with the robust controls that it mandates over arms transfers. We would therefore like to thank the Norwegian FSC Chairmanship for putting the discussion on the Arms Trade Treaty on the FSC agenda. We see it as pertinent and timely, following the successful first Conference of States parties to the Treaty that took place in August in Cancun, Mexico.

We welcome the positive and substantive outcome of the Conference and remain committed to actively supporting efforts towards universalisation and effective implementation of the Treaty. As a concrete step in this regard, the European Union has adopted in December 2013 a substantial implementation assistance programme in the amount of 6.4 million euros (Council Decision 2013/768/CFSP). The programme is currently active in 9 countries and supports States upon their request in strengthening their national control systems in line with the requirements of the ATT.

The EU and its Member States are attached to the principles of transparency and responsibility in arms trade, as evidenced by longstanding EU common rules, last encapsulated in Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008. Enhancement of these principles is at the core of the ATT. The obligation put on ATT States Parties to assess arms exports against a number of criteria laid down in the ATT further enhances responsibility. At the same time, the obligation of State Parties to report to one

another annually on exports and imports of arms covered by the Treaty will lead to increased transparency, which is the prerequisite for accountability.

In our view, the OSCE can play an important role in this context in the promotion and implementation of the Treaty in the OSCE region, based on its comprehensive track record in Conventional Arms Control issues. Possible areas worth further exploring encompass activities related to providing assistance to pS, upon their request, in implementing the Treaty as well as bringing in line relevant ATT and OSCE norms in the field of arms transfers and export controls. In 2016, the first annual reports under the ATT will be due. The FSC should follow closely the way this reporting is organised in order to avoid duplication with our current OSCE reporting. In this context, we would be grateful if the distinguished speakers could further elaborate where they see concrete implications of the entry into force of the ATT for OSCE's work.

Mr. Chairman, All EU Member States have signed the Treaty and so far 26 have ratified. We encourage the OSCE participating States that have not done so yet to ratify or accede to the Treaty as soon as possible.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN, 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 and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.