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## **EU statement in view of the first UN Preparatory Committee meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty**

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Mr Chairperson

The European Union firmly supports the negotiation of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a legally binding international instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons. Such an international instrument will certainly contribute to reinforce international peace and security.

The EU welcomed the adoption by the UN General Assembly, with the support of all EU Member States, of resolution 64/48 on the Arms Trade Treaty. The resolution mandates five meetings of a Preparatory Committee leading to a UN negotiating conference in 2012 on the Arms Trade Treaty.

During the last Open Ended Working Group on ATT in July 2009, UN Member States agreed that the problems relating to the unregulated trade in conventional weapons need to be addressed. The first Preparatory Committee meeting on ATT from 12-23 July gives the international community the opportunity to take a major step towards securing a treaty that will address these challenges.

The EU calls on all participating States in the OSCE to engage fully and positively with this process in New York. Only a truly inclusive and participatory negotiating process can ensure that the views of all UN Member States are taken into account in a future Arms Trade Treaty.

In the view of the EU, a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty should prevent all conventional weapons, including SALW, from being used to threaten security, destabilise regions and states, violate human rights or international humanitarian law, undermine economic and social development or exacerbate conflict. An ATT should also prevent the diversion of conventional weapons to the illicit market.

The EU will work towards reaching agreement in the Preparatory Committee on concrete and comprehensive recommendations on the content of a future Treaty to be submitted for consideration by the 2012 UN Conference.

Mr Chairperson,

I should be grateful if this statement was attached to the Journal of the Meeting.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area

LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.