



## **European Union**

### **Arms Trade Treaty**

#### **Fourth Conference of States Parties**

**Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018**

#### **EU Statement**

#### **International Assistance**

Mr. President

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU has a long track record in capacity-building activities aimed at the overall strengthening of export controls worldwide. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our assistance and cooperation projects relevant for the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and share our experiences in this regard.

The latest EU Outreach Programme on the ATT, adopted in May 2017, with funding of more than 7 million euros for a three-year period, builds on our earlier activities in support of Treaty implementation and universalisation. Its technical implementation has been entrusted to the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) and Expertise France (EF) who provide concrete tailor-made assistance to 18 roadmap partners and 14 ad-hoc partners. The programme aims to establish and strengthen arms export control policies and institutions and also allows the sharing of experiences at the regional level. The main areas for cooperation include developing national control lists; reviewing and where appropriate drafting, updating and implementing national legislation and administrative measures; exploring and establishing inter-agency cooperation; and raising awareness of the ATT at the political

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

level. Furthermore, various study visits, particularly for enforcement officials of third countries, provide unique insights into the work of their peers in EU Member States and contribute to the capacity building of our partners. The beneficiary countries of roadmap assistance to date are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zambia.

Since 2008, the EU has also funded outreach activities in 16 countries in our Eastern and Southern neighbourhood to promote effective arms export controls, in accordance with the EU Common Position on arms exports. These activities focus on regulatory assistance, training of relevant officials, exchange of best practices, and conduct of case studies. The latest EU Council Decision in this regard was adopted in January 2018, with the budget of 1.3 million euros. The beneficiaries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo<sup>†</sup> in South East Europe; North African Mediterranean countries Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus; Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan in Central Asia; Southern Neighbourhood countries Jordan and Lebanon, as well as Turkey.

The Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) remains a key international instrument to promote universal adherence to the ATT and enhance its national implementation. We welcome the recent generous contributions to the VTF, including by several EU Member States and Japan, and encourage all donors to consider further contributions. We support the recommended changes to the VTF Terms of Reference and the Guidance for the Selection Process. We invite all stakeholders to make best use of this funding tool and build on the lessons learnt gained during the first two project cycles.

Mr. President,

The EU notes the proposal of the UN Secretary-General to establish a dedicated funding facility on small arms and light weapons (SALW) control. We look forward to additional details regarding its implementation and its relationship with the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

I would like to mention the following EU SALW-control projects which are relevant for ATT implementation, as they aim at preventing the illicit trade in SALW and their ammunition, and improving controls throughout the lifecycle of a weapon. Many of these EU funded projects have a regional scope

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<sup>†</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

and are implemented in cooperation with relevant organisations. In Africa, the EU works together with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC) and the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA). In Europe, the EU cooperates with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control on SALW (SEESAC) that is part of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). In Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU has worked with the Central American SALW Control Programme (CASAC) and the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development (UNLIREC). We are currently preparing to cooperate with the Organization of American States (OAS).

Since 2013, the EU has been supporting iTrace, a global reporting mechanism on illicit SALW and other illicit conventional weapons and ammunition in conflict affected areas, implemented by Conflict Armament Research. The patterns of trafficking and diversion that are exposed by iTrace serve to increase the effectiveness of arms control measures such as export control and stockpile management.

The EU is planning an impact assessment of its SALW-control cooperation and assistance activities and encourages all donors to embark on similar exercises. In order to increase the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the activities, full ownership of the partner countries remains essential. Countries should have the necessary interagency structures and human resources in place to be able to implement their commitments and benefit from international assistance and cooperation. Improved coordination is required between donor countries, international and regional organisations, and implementing agencies, whose efforts must be steered by the national action plans and strategies of the partner countries.

In this context, the EU would like to thank Ambassador Takamizawa and Head of the ATT Secretariat, Dumisani Dladla for coming to Brussels to present the work of the VTF to the EU Council Working Party COARM. This kind of information exchange and coordination is important to encourage synergy and to avoid overlap. We appreciate the existing tools, such as the SIPRI on-line database to map ATT-relevant assistance projects, and would welcome the establishment of a global repository on SALW control projects. Informal coordination meetings could also be envisaged in the margins of the ATT meetings to facilitate information sharing on international cooperation and assistance activities.

Mr. President,

The EU reiterates its commitment to international cooperation and assistance to achieve the objectives of the ATT, maximising synergies with other relevant instruments such as the UN Programme of Action on SALW and bearing in mind the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Target 16.4 on reducing illicit arms flows and Target 5.2. on eliminating gender-based violence. The EU looks forward to further cooperation with interested countries, donors, international and regional organisations, civil society and industry in order to promote universal adherence to the ATT and advance its effective implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President