



## **European Union**

### **Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty Geneva, 11-15 September 2017 Statement on Transparency and Reporting**

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\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU would like to thank Ambassador Paul Beijer of Sweden and Mr. Guillaume Michel of Mexico for their competent steering of our discussions in the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting over the past year.

The EU supports the principles of greater responsibility and transparency in the arms trade enshrined in the Arms Trade Treaty. Transparency is a key element to build confidence in compliance with the provisions of the Treaty and ensure its full and effective implementation. It is therefore in our shared interest to ensure regular and timely reporting of the measures that have been taken to implement the Treaty and to strive for quality and completeness of the information provided.

We would like to thank the ATT Secretariat for its regular updates on the number of Initial and Annual Reports on imports and exports which were received from States Parties. We would like to take this opportunity to call on all States Parties to fulfil their reporting obligations in a timely and effective manner.

The EU welcomes initiatives that can assist States Parties in strengthening reporting capabilities and fulfilling their reporting requirements in a practical and efficient way, such as the paper prepared by Belgium with frequently asked questions and answers. Following the Swedish initiative we encourage States Parties to further explore possible synergies with the reporting requirements stemming from other relevant international arrangements, such as the UN Register for Conventional Arms, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the International Tracing Instrument. We recognise the Secretariat's efforts to develop a new web-based format for ATT reporting as well as other online tools to facilitate information exchange and coordination of technical assistance.

Within the EU, there is a well-established set of common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment. EU Member States have a regular exchange of

information on their conventional arms exports and denials. The EU's annual reports on arms exports are a significant tool in enhancing the transparency in the arms trade. The latest Annual Report on exports of military technology and equipment was published on 16 May 2017 and is available online. This publicly available report displays, for all destination countries, the number and value of export licences by EU Member State and by control list category. It also displays licence denials by destination country and the criteria that were invoked as the reason for the denial.

Thank you, Mr. President

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