



EU Statement
Treaty Implementation
Arms Trade Treaty
Eighth Conference of State Parties
Geneva, 22-26 August 2022

Mr. President,

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

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania* and Republic of Moldova, the potential candidate country Georgia and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

The EU reiterates its strong conviction that the Arms Trade Treaty must be implemented in its entirety to achieve its objectives, namely to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms and to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and ammunition and prevent their diversion. The EU underlines the essential contribution that a responsible arms trade policy makes to the maintenance of international peace and security and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

Since the adoption of the EU Common Position (2008/944) on arms exports, EU Member States are legally bound to assess license applications for the export of conventional arms against eight criteria. These criteria are in line with the ATT. Among other cases, EU Member States deny licenses whenever there is a clear risk that the export of military technology and equipment might be used for internal repression, contribute to regional instability, or might be

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

used in the commission of serious violations of international human rights or humanitarian law. The ATT is the first arms-regulation treaty to recognise the link between conventional arms transfers and gender-based violence, mandating that gender based violence be considered in the course of export risk assessments. Its effective implementation can contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 5.2.

Following the review of the EU Common Position on arms exports in 2019, the EU and its Member States are finalising the implementation of several concrete follow-up initiatives as announced in the Council Conclusions of 16 September 2019. Earlier this year, the EEAS has launched a database only accessible to licensing officers from Member States. This database contains relevant information on destination countries which can be of help in the licensing decision making process.

The EU Common Military List, based on the Control List of the Wassenaar Arrangement and lastly updated on 21 February 2022, is an important tool to clarify and decide whether a license obligation exists for a specific equipment or technology. The EU Common Military List can be considered a specification of the scope of the Treaty as defined in Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the ATT. In that sense, it can serve as a relevant practical reference tool for States outside the EU as well.

Implementation is a national responsibility, therefore, any assistance that can be provided to States in this regard is both valuable and useful. In this context, the EU will continue its ambitious implementation project on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls, implemented by BAFA and Expertise France. This project has been instrumental in advancing the implementation of the ATT outside the EU, in particular in the establishment of national control systems and national control lists, drafting and reviewing of the legislative and regulatory framework, prevention of diversion, and in the reinforcement of customs and law enforcement. Currently, this project also focuses on assisting States not Parties and signatories to prepare for accession to the Treaty.

The ATT Secretariat also plays an important role in facilitating the implementation of the Treaty. Therefore, the EU is supporting three projects of the ATT Secretariat with a contribution of EUR 1.37 million. The aim is to help States Parties to the treaty to strengthen their national arms export control systems. Export control systems are key instruments for

preventing the diversion of, and illicit trade in arms, and contribute to more responsible trade in military equipment and technology.

More specifically, the EU's support enables the following actions:

- training local and regional ATT experts to deliver implementation assistance and reduce reliance on external consultants;
- creating a database to match treaty implementation needs and resources; and
- building IT and communications mechanisms to enable more effective cooperation between states parties' points of contact and the ATT Secretariat.

The project also strengthens the ATT Secretariat's institutional capacity to provide sustainable support to the states parties. It fits within the recently adopted strategy to strengthen the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism, by promoting global peace and security. In this regard, we would like to invite you to a side-event on 23 August at 13.15 to learn more about this specific project.

Thank you, Mr. President.