



EU Key Messages

Working Group on Treaty Universalisation Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 10 May 2023

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina¹, the potential candidate country Georgia and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

We reiterate our support for the draft paper submitted by Germany on Treaty universalization. The proposals contained therein should be endorsed by the CSP9. In particular, the EU supports the idea of identification of voluntary regional champion countries to be considered as soon as possible, as it does not require any additional financial burdens and will rely on voluntary participation of States.

Countries which are not yet States Parties and which play a leading role in arms trade, whether importers, exporters or transit countries, should be considered a priority for universalisation, and the EU calls on these to ratify the ATT as soon as possible. In this context, the suggestion made during the previous session to increase cooperation with non-ATT States Parties that work towards responsible arms trade may serve to persuade them to join the Treaty. The EU has been continuously, since 2008, working towards such goals through its outreach programme financed by Council decisions on the promotion of effective arms export controls, currently its 5th iteration, to cover Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, North Africa, Mediterranean and Southern Neighbourhood of the EU. In its respective bilateral dialogues with concerned third countries, the EU also continuously raises the need to accede to ATT.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

¹ North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.