



BELGIUM

Transparency and reporting

Arms Trade Treaty Fourth Conference of States Parties (Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018)

Co-chairs,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement made by the EU.

We want to commend the members of the working group and its co-chairs for their tireless efforts to facilitate compliance of States Parties with their reporting duties and to promote greater transparency in general. Belgium endorses the recommendations of the working group in all respects, but we would like to emphasize two important elements.

First, the road towards the level of transparency that the Treaty requires is a difficult one. The number of States Parties that do not comply with their reporting obligations in full is alarmingly high. We learned from the Secretariat in its presentation that on average one-third of States Parties do not file their annual report, although that is one of the cornerstone obligations of the Treaty. We therefore support your call on all States Parties that have not done so to submit their annual report about imports and exports to the Secretariat.

To improve the reporting rate and achieve our goal of full compliance, we think that the transparency and reporting working group is taking the right initiatives to support States Parties. Belgium already took the lead in drafting the group's Q&A document on the annual reporting obligation and we stand ready to do more. In that respect we are willing to respond to your requests and offer basic practical support to other States Parties on reporting, as well as participate in any informative event on the matter and engage with States Parties on the importance of timely reporting. For the latter we believe that the role of the President, the members of the Bureau, the Secretariat and you, co-chairs, will be crucial. If all proposed measures are effectively applied, we are convinced that we will be able to welcome a higher reporting rate at CSP5.

Second, as we discussed yesterday during the debate on diversion, it is clear that the sharing of information among ATT States parties can help build a better knowledge of the patterns of diversion and provide the basis for better prevention strategies. We believe that the recommendation of the working group concerning a three-tier approach to exchanging information on diversion, both on the policy level and the operational level, has the potential to make a real difference in the day-to-day work of licensing and enforcement officers worldwide.

In order to support these two points, Belgium contributes to the side event today on transparency and reporting, in room Hibiki. Tomorrow, we will host a side event on research concerning both of dynamics of diversion and responses by States Parties. Recent studies will be presented that were carried out by the Flemish Peace Institute and

by Conflict Armament Research regarding firearms acquisition by terrorists, end use control in Europe and the recent diversion of weapons into the hands of Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

I thank you co-chairs.