



EU Key Messages

Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 20-21 February 2024

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, Albania¹, Republic of Moldova and Georgia as well as the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

Sub-working Group on Articles 6&7

We welcome draft elements of Chapter 3 of a Voluntary Guide, and appreciate all work of the facilitators so far.

The list of considerations is both relevant and exhaustive. At the same time, we would like to put emphasis on certain elements which would benefit from early discussion and prioritization in multi-year workplan of the Sub-working group, such as:

- confidence building in relationship between exporting and importing States;
- information sharing among States and relevant stakeholders;
- toolbox of mitigating measures and methods of overseeing their impact.

There are a number of reasons for such approach:

- The EU can see, also through our internal experience, that trust and confidence between States is a crucial factor to simplify risk assessment and reduce administrative burden.
- Information and knowledge sharing is key to implement the Treaty. This can be supported by establishing shared databases - regionally, or in any effective configuration of States, in the spirit of Article 15.
- Ability to consult internally and internationally States and relevant stakeholders is crucial in establishing efficient base for risk assessment, including diversion. Access to multiple

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

sources of information can also facilitate verification and build confidence vis-à-vis trusted sources.

The topic of composition of national systems may be taken later in the process. The EU supports “no-size-fits-all” approach and flexibility. Effectiveness is an important consideration for arms transfers control, and this could be achieved using various models, dependent on State administration structure and size of arms industry and exports. In the EU, Member States employ national structures, using common criteria for assessment.

The EU is looking forward to a fruitful discussion.