



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 Current and Emerging Implementation Issues

The EU thanks Panama for assuming the role of a facilitator of this newly created sub-working group and is looking forward to having in-depth discussions within this group.

The role of industry

While only States are legally bound by Treaty provisions, recognising the role and responsibilities of industry and private sector in the arms trade is important to pursue discussion within the Treaty and assure its effective implementation. The EU considers it important to follow up on the decisions taken at CSP9 and their ongoing implementation. In the implementation of ATT obligations, States need to recognize the role of industry and the private sector and consider their responsibilities as well as measures to ensure that transfers are made responsibly.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and human rights due diligence offer a good basis to enhance out Treaty implementation efforts. We welcome an exchange of views on national efforts, best practices awareness raising programmes and other forms of providing guidance.

Gender-based violence

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

Protecting women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV) has long been a vital priority for the EU in all disarmament fora. Sharing national practices in GBV risk assessment will facilitate knowledge exchange and spark initiative for other States to engage in similar practices. The EU looks forward to exploring these issues in depth, furthering discussions within this Sub-working group.