



## **EU Key Messages**

### **Working Group on Transparency and Reporting Arms Trade Treaty**

**Geneva, 23 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, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>1</sup> as well as the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the ATT Secretariat for its presentation on the status of reporting.

In terms of addressing transparency and reporting challenges, we would like to give full support for the ATT Secretariat initiative to promote peer-to-peer assistance, especially among neighbours, and support a regional approach. Partners understand each other's sensitivities and are more likely to agree to viable solutions. It can also build transborder trust and directly translates into promoting transparency of transborder traffic of arms. We encourage States to seek neighbourhood partnerships within a regional context.

We encourage all relevant States to openly express, at the ATT forum or bilaterally, their opinions about real challenges, so that other States and stakeholders could adjust their assistance to better help each State deliver on its legal obligations under ATT. The EU is keen to listen about the specific needs of States facing reporting challenges to consider them in future outreach planning.

If administrative burden is considered an obstacle in reporting, we support discussions on ways to reduce it. Synergies with other reporting obligations, such as UNROCA, should be actively promoted.

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<sup>1</sup> North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.