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DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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Statement on behalf of the European Union

by

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at the

**Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the
Arms Trade Treaty**

**COMMENTS ON
THE REVISED CHAIR'S DRAFT PAPER**

New York

4 March 2011

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

**EU statement on the revised version of
the Chair's Draft Paper on ATT
4 March 2011**

Mr Chairman,

1. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union.
2. Mr Chairman, the European Union would like to reiterate the deepest appreciation for your exemplary chairmanship and for your sincere efforts to continue to reflect in a faithful manner the views of all delegations in the papers you propose to this Preparatory Committee.
3. The European Union would like today to express some general comments on the revised Chair's draft paper received yesterday. This does not prejudge the possibility for the EU to offer further comments during the next PrepCom sessions and in the framework of informal consultations you might want to have with delegations.
4. The EU continues to support what we consider an incremental improvement of your draft paper, which is the result of both the gradual addition of substantial building blocks and the refinement of its overall structure.

Mr Chairman,

5. The European Union believes that the revised section on the elements of the Treaty represents a significant improvement in terms of coherence and structure. While there are some elements that might need to be further revisited, we feel confident we are on a good track to defining a robust and logical skeleton for the Treaty.
6. The latest version of the principles section provides a good basis for further work. The principles, which need to be there, are there. However, there might be some redundancy. We should also make sure that principles and rights are expressed in a language, which is fully consistent with the UN Charter.

7. As for the objectives of the Treaty, we consider that your proposed text offers a comprehensive view of what the goals of the Treaty should be. Later in the process, we might wish to refine further what objectives an ATT should pursue, and what goals an ATT could contribute to achieve.
8. With regard to the scope of an Arms Trade Treaty, we would like to commend the rationalization proposed in the new version of your paper. We welcome the fact that your draft paper is already close to the objective of ensuring a wide scope for the Treaty. A deeper analysis of the nomenclature proposed might be needed to make sure that an ATT will capture all relevant military items and there is full clarity about what the scope of an ATT will cover. For the sake of coherence and rationalization, let me recall here what the EU already flagged on Monday: we regard the category of transfers as an overarching category that covers exports, imports, transit and transshipment, and other types of transfers. We understand this is the approach you suggest in the revised annex and we would recommend that such an approach is also reflected in the scope section of your paper. We also consider technology transfer and manufacture under foreign license as an important issue. But in our opinion they are already covered by the reference to "technology and equipment" that you propose in the list of items of the scope section of your paper.
9. In our opinion, your revised section on the parameters of an ATT has certainly gained much in terms of consistency and clarity. As it is the case for your entire paper, we will need more time to look at the detail of your proposed language. When we meet again in July for the next session of the PrepCom devoted to the implementation mechanism of the Treaty, we should also discuss which kind of provisions should apply to different types of transfers.
10. The EU would like to commend the amendments introduced in the part of the paper devoted to international cooperation and assistance. We consider that your revised text offers a better understanding of what the provisions of the Treaty could be in terms of international cooperation and assistance. Once again, I wish to stress the readiness of the EU to engage in cooperation with other countries to facilitate the implementation of the Treaty.

11. Let me also seize this opportunity to recall our position on victim assistance. In the view of the EU, an Arms Trade Treaty is not meant to be an international disarmament instrument comparable to those that ban entire categories of weapons and include provisions on victim assistance. Whilst the EU agrees that an ATT should have a positive impact in reducing human suffering and armed violence, we do not consider appropriate to envisage specific provisions on victim assistance in the articles of the Treaty.

Mr Chairman,

12. Let me conclude by expressing the EU's utmost appreciation for the skilful way you have conducted, once again, this session of the PrepCom. The European Union would also like to voice its appreciation for the high level of participation and engagement shown by all delegations. We look forward to continuing to work in this spirit when we meet again in July.

I thank you Mr Chairman.