

Arms Trade Treaty, 12th Conference of State Parties, Geneva 24-28 August 2026

Thank you for giving me the floor, Ms President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

The AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) represents a wide range of European defense and security companies and has been honored to be present throughout the negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and earlier Conferences of States Parties.

The voluntary and active role of industry, alongside colleagues from civil society, is recognized in the preamble of the treaty; in the context of raising awareness of the object and purpose of the ATT and in supporting its implementation.

ASD welcomes and supports the proposal to create a practical strategy that offers strategic direction over five years, enabling States Parties to measure progress on the implementation and impact of the Treaty, against agreed objectives and priorities.

A strategy for the future of ATT should restate the importance of the object and purpose of the treaty, namely, establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating or improving the regulation of international trade in conventional arms in order to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.

The strategy should be aimed towards actionable and practical objectives, prioritizing the collection and sharing of data and studies on diversion and illegal transfers, and stimulating the sharing of best practices. To make the Treaty more effective, states should involve agencies that handle export controls directly, such as licensing authorities.

Over the next five years, the ATT should prioritize objectives that directly improve control systems and processes. These include:

- Enhancing the scope and effectiveness of national control systems and control lists
- Strengthening regulations on import, brokering, and transit/trans-shipment activities
- Prevention and management of diversion

- Improving record-keeping practices
- Sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

Recognising that the ATT establishes obligations for States Parties, industry stresses that any approaches and future initiatives should preserve alignment with national licensing authorities, so as to ensure consistency with governments' regulatory and strategic responsibilities.

Our Industry is committed to advancing the objectives of the ATT and has contributed its due diligence best practices in its presentations to the WGETI.

Multinational companies can operate internationally thanks to their structures and partnerships. They have the expertise to share experience and advise on internal compliance programmes that support export control laws, helping to prevent diversion of conventional arms. Successful national export controls inherently require collaboration between government and industry.

Effective implementation of a national export control system demands a true partnership between government and industry. Industry stands ready to provide, upon request, support and assistance where it is relevant and helpful to efforts related to implementing and encouraging wider participation. We look forward to continued collaboration in ways that reinforce and build upon existing work.

I thank you, Ms President.

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Approved and signed by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Camille Grand', written over a horizontal line.

Camille Grand
Secretary General, ASD