



Council of the
European Union

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Subject:	Council Conclusions on the amendment of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) article in agreements between the EU and third countries

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on the amendment of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) article in agreement between the EU and third countries, as adopted by the Council on 15 December 2014.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) ARTICLE IN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EU AND
THIRD COUNTRIES**

The Council:

1. Recalls its 2008 Conclusions on the inclusion of a small arms and light weapons (SALW) article in agreements between the EU and third parties, which have since then been included in numerous agreements;
2. considers that, following the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and its forthcoming entry into force in December 2014, there is a need to complement the standard reference text for the SALW article with provisions relating to the regulation of legal arms trade;
3. considers that the provisions relating to the regulation of arms trade should contain, in addition to a generic part, a part referring specifically to the ATT, to be included in agreements with third countries that have ratified/acceded to the ATT, or expressed their intention to do so;
4. considers that the revised clause will have a more comprehensive nature, as it will cover both legal and illicit trade aspects;
5. considers that the following text will be used as a reference in future negotiations:

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND OTHER CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

- I. The Parties recognise that the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, and their excessive accumulation, poor management, inadequately secured stockpiles and uncontrolled spread continue to pose a serious threat to peace and international security.
- II. The Parties agree to observe and fully implement their respective obligations to deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, under existing international agreements and UN Security Council resolutions, as well as their commitments within the framework of other international instruments applicable in this area, such as the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.
- III. The Parties recognise the importance of domestic control systems for the transfer of conventional arms in line with existing international standards. The Parties recognise the importance of applying such controls in a responsible manner, as a contribution to international and regional peace, security and stability, and to the reduction of human suffering, as well as to the prevention of diversion of conventional weapons.

Part III bis to be added when negotiating with a country that has ratified/acceded to the ATT or expressed its intention to do so: The Parties undertake in this regard to fully implement the Arms Trade Treaty and to cooperate with each other within the framework of the Treaty, including in promoting the universalisation and full implementation of the Treaty by all UN Member States.

IV. The Parties therefore undertake to cooperate and to ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in their efforts to regulate or improve the regulation of international trade in conventional arms and to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in arms. They agree to establish regular political dialogue that will accompany and consolidate this undertaking.
