

Thank you, Mr President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

ASD represents a wide range of European defence and security companies and has been honoured to be present throughout the ATT negotiations and subsequent Conferences of States Parties.

We were very grateful for your support to our side event on Tuesday morning where we wanted, in particular, to focus on the role of industry in the ATT process. In your opening remarks, you underlined that, since the start of the process, industry has been very engaged in the development of the ATT.

The voluntary and active role of industry, alongside colleagues from civil society, is recognised 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.

We have noted with appreciation the recognition of the role we can play in the important outreach and assistance work being sponsored by the European Union's ATT Outreach Project. The next phase of this will involve relevant national and regional stakeholders, such as national parliaments, competent regional organisations, industry and civil society representatives.

In all these efforts, we can assist in dispelling fears and uncertainty about the ATT. Companies are often able to reach across borders due to their multinational structures or commercial relationships. We can provide advice on establishing internal compliance programmes that compliment, indeed reinforce, export control laws and regulations. Such internal compliance programmes also enable companies to identify and prevent possible diversion of conventional arms. We have heard that, in some cases, countries are reluctant to engage in discussion regarding the ATT because of concerns within their industry, particularly where there is also a close relationship with defence ministries.

Effective implementation of a national export control system demands a partnership between government and industry.

In conclusion, we stand ready to provide, upon request, support and assistance where it is relevant and helpful to efforts related to implementing and encouraging wider participation.
