

CSP3 Treaty Implementation: UK Statement

Mr President

1. I would like to support the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States and offer a few comments in a national capacity.
2. I commend Ambassador Elayne Whyte of Costa Rica and Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior of Switzerland for the work they have undertaken in chairing the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation. The UK recognises both the importance of implementation and the fact that many countries face very real practical challenges in implementing the ATT. It was for this reason that the UK put forward a proposal for a working group on implementation at CSP2. Our suggestion was that such a working group would be an opportunity for states to discuss and learn from others' experiences and we are pleased to note from the Working Group's report that this is an opportunity which has been taken.
3. The Working Group has also highlighted that there is no 'one size fits all' route to implementation. Each country will face its own challenges – whether they are having to amend existing export controls, or starting from scratch in building a control system. Each country will need their own solutions. They must establish processes and practices that are manageable within their resources and compatible with their existing legal systems. Therefore we need to consider how we can offer support without appearing to be shaping their systems to look like our own. In this context it is important that the working group has recognised the importance of co-ordinating its work with that of the Voluntary Trust Fund.
4. We have to be clear among ourselves what we mean when we discuss implementation. It needs to cover exports, imports, brokering, transit and transshipment. Information sharing is essential, as is having a body of legislation backed up by well trained people and effective systems (which do not need to be large or costly).
5. However it is important to get the basics right first – in order to provide clarity to implementing states. A good starting point for discussions would be Article 5 which sets out the basis for General Implementation.
6. We look forward to a fruitful discussion in this session which will establish clear objectives on Treaty Implementation for CSP4 and beyond.