Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to the Japanese Presidency and you personally, Ambassador Takamizawa, for the important work that you have carried out to promote the Arms Trade Treaty, most notably in Asia and Africa. I would also like to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Korhonen of Finland, as well as other current and past Bureau Members for their outreach activities.

Significant progress has been made with the universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty over the past few years and several more States are in the process of completing their respective ratification processes. Despite this achievement, however, a number of major arms exporters and importers have chosen to remain outside the ATT.

The EU continues to call on all States and especially the major arms exporters, importers and transit States to join the ATT without delay. We remain convinced that universal adherence to

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
the ATT would positively contribute to global peace, security and stability, and create better conditions for sustainable development. We welcome the latest ratifications, most recently by Brazil, and encourage all Signatory States to advance their ratification processes.

The EU and its Member States continue to play an active role in ATT universalisation efforts through diplomatic demarches and various outreach and assistance activities. In this context, I would like to highlight in particular the ATT Outreach Programme II which contributes to the drafting and review of the legislative and regulatory framework of the partner countries, capacity building of national authorities in charge of the implementation of new legislation, and awareness-raising activities among those countries who have not yet signed or ratified. National experts from EU Member States also participate in these capacity building activities.

Further coordinated international efforts are necessary to bring the number of States Parties to over 100 before the CSP5. We must mobilise all stakeholders – governments and parliaments, international, regional and non-governmental organisations, as well as industry and civil society – to raise awareness of, and counter misinformation on the ATT and its objectives. In this context, the EU would like to express its support for the Presidency's Work Plan and recommendations for the period between CSP4 and CSP5.

Thank you, Mr. President