



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2013/0225(NLE)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on the draft Council decision authorising Member States to ratify, in the interests of the European Union, the Arms Trade Treaty (12178/2013 – C7-0233/2013 – 2013/0225(NLE))

Rapporteur: Krzysztof Lisek

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The EP welcomes the UN Resolution A/67/L.58 adopting by overwhelming majority the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), after long negotiations culminating in a legally binding instrument of the highest standards to regulate and improve the international trade in conventional arms.

The ATT is establishing the first global regulation of legal trade of arms, it will prevent illegal trade of weapons, international terrorism and organized crime and limit serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The EU exports are under the 2008 Common Position which sets up rules and standards to be followed, as one of the major actors in this field therefore, the EU is directly concerned with the success of the ATT: as it not only establishes a level playing field for this trade but, more important, regulates a commerce of the kind of weapons most used in local wars, terrorist attacks or civil and other uprisings.

The main strong point of the ATT is that State Parties are obliged to establish a national control system for these transfers and to evaluate, before authorising any transfer, the risk that these arms could impair the peace and security or could be used to commit serious violations to international humanitarian law or human rights or to commit acts of terrorism. It is also important that not only trade of arms, but other acts such as rental, licensing, grants, transfers of relevant technology also fall under the prohibition.

One of the stumbling blocks could be the narrow scope of some provisions of the ATT.

However, the treaty itself provides for its potential for improvement due to its revision clause.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.