

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Glenys Kinnock, Michael Gahler, Johan Van Hecke, Nelly Maes and
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on strengthening EU arms export controls and working towards an
international Arms Trade Treaty

Expiry date: 6 May 2004

17/2004

Written declaration on strengthening EU arms export controls and working towards an international Arms Trade Treaty

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas irresponsible transfers of weapons, particularly of small arms and light weapons, exacerbate armed conflict and contribute to tremendous human suffering,
- B. whereas progress has been made in strengthening the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, but the Code still contains significant weaknesses (including its non-binding nature and the lack of end-use controls and monitoring),
- C. whereas there is an urgent need to complement a strengthened EU Code with a global Arms Trade Treaty that would create a clear legal framework for arms transfers based on international human rights standards and humanitarian law,
 1. Calls on Member States to express their support for negotiations within the United Nations on an Arms Trade Treaty that would clarify existing state responsibilities under international law and provide for high common standards on arms transfers;
 2. Calls on Member States to ensure the forthcoming review of the EU Code remedies the remaining weaknesses of the Code and ensures that Member States will not export defence equipment which would be used in breaches of human rights or international humanitarian law, exacerbate regional instability or undermine sustainable development;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the United Nations.