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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the statements by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Luís Queiró and Cristiana Muscardini

on behalf of the UEN Group

on implementation of the United Nations programme to combat the illegal trade in light weapons

European Parliament resolution on implementation of the United Nations programme to combat the illegal trade in light weapons

The European Parliament,

- A. concerned that the illicit trafficking in, and misuse of, small arms and light weapons undermines respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and sustainable development,
- B. recalling its view, therefore, that transfers which entail a clear risk of contributing to serious violations of human rights or of international humanitarian law should be legally prohibited,
- C. affirming the urgent need to control tightly the legal trade in small arms and light weapons in accordance with States' obligations under international law to prevent their diversion into illicit trade flows and to undesirable end-users,
- D. taking into account the United Nations Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and, in particular, its Programme of Action,
- E. whereas in July 2003 State Parties will meet in New York for the UN Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) to review the implementation of this Programme of Action,
- F. noting with satisfaction the EU's support for this conference,
 - 1. Calls on the Council and the governments of the EU Member States to use the BMS to reaffirm their commitment to international instruments on marking/tracing and brokering and to declare their support for such instruments being legally binding;
 - 2. Encourages the Council and EU governments to declare publicly their support for a legally binding international instrument to control conventional arms transfers according to clear normative standards based on international law and existing best practice;
 - 3. Calls on EU governments to implement speedily the EU Common Position on Arms Brokering;
 - 4. Calls on EU Member States to strengthen their commitment to assisting in the development of legislative frameworks and to building up institutional capacities in EU Accession and Association Countries to implement and enforce arms export controls, including arms brokering and marking/tracing;
 - 5. Requests the Council to draw up a progress report on the outcome of the July 2003 UN BMS and to report back in full to Parliament immediately after the end of the BMS;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the UN and the OSCE.