



BELGIUM

Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

(Geneva, 30 August – 3 September 2021)

Agenda Item 6. Treaty Implementation

First and foremost, Belgium wants to commend the WGETI Chair and the Article 11 sub-group facilitator on preparing a comprehensive draft paper on the diversion risk assessment process. As we indicated in our written submission during the remote consultations, we are generally satisfied with the structure of the document and the pertinent, to-the-point elements that are included. Furthermore, we are pleased to see that most of the comments and suggestions that we submitted are reflected in the present document. As the current Chair of the ATT Diversion Information Exchange Forum, we also appreciate the reference to the DIEF, and to the potential use of the information shared in the Forum as a source for States' own diversion risk assessments. It is important that sharing operational information about diversion in the DIEF and using that information in line with the Terms of Reference becomes part of States Parties' and Signatories' standard procedures.

Even though in April we indicated that the Conference should rather "welcome" the draft paper than formally adopt it, as was done with the other guidance documents at CSP4 ("Possible Measures to Prevent and Address Diversion" and "List of Possible Reference Documents to be Considered by States Parties to Prevent and Address Diversion"), we are ready now to accept its endorsement as a living document of a voluntary nature if other States Parties agree with this. More generally, nonetheless, we need to be attentive that we create a coherent body of guidance documents and that we streamline our approach to such documents.

One final comment on the draft paper concerns a small typing error. In the last sentence of the introduction there is a superfluous "s" at the end of "a living documents".