



Council of the
European Union

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LIMITE

CORLX 191
CFSP/PESC 273
COARM 36

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on Union outreach activities in support of the
implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2025/...

of ...

on Union outreach activities in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 28(1) and Article 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 April 2013 and entered into force on 24 December 2014. All Member States of the Union are States Parties to the ATT ('States Parties').
- (2) The ATT aims to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating legal trade in conventional arms and to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion. Key challenges are its effective implementation by States Parties and its universalisation, bearing in mind that regulating the international arms trade is a global endeavour. To contribute to addressing those challenges, the Council adopted Decision 2013/768/CFSP¹, thereby enlarging the export-control-related assistance portfolio of the Union with activities specific to the ATT. That Decision was followed by Council Decisions (CFSP) 2017/915² and (CFSP) 2021/2309³ on Union outreach activities in support of the implementation of the ATT.

¹ Council Decision 2013/768/CFSP of 16 December 2013 on EU activities in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, in the framework of the European Security Strategy (OJ L 341, 18.12.2013, p. 56, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2013/768/oj>).

² Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/915 of 29 May 2017 on Union outreach activities in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (OJ L 139, 30.5.2017, p. 38, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2017/915/oj>).

³ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/2309 of 22 December 2021 on Union outreach activities in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (OJ L 461, 27.12.2021, p. 78, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/2309/oj>).

- (3) Activities carried out under Decisions 2013/768/CFSP, (CFSP) 2017/915 and (CFSP) 2021/2309 have helped partner countries to cover a wide range of areas relevant to the establishment and development of a national arms transfer control system as required by the ATT. Cooperation has been developed with a number of beneficiary countries that had not previously been addressed under other Union export-control-related assistance activities, thereby reflecting the global nature of the ATT. Follow-up with those beneficiary countries is necessary to ensure that progress is sustained and to encourage regional outreach by those countries.
- (4) In addition to the continuation of activities with current partner countries, it is advisable to extend partnership, on an exceptional basis, to other countries that have identified needs with regard to ATT accession or implementation in sub-regions in which the implementing agencies already have existing partnerships, at the request of such countries, in recognition of the value of a regional approach to the implementation and universalisation of the ATT.

- (5) It is necessary to ensure complementarity and synergy between the outreach and assistance activities provided for in this Decision and other similar activities, including those provided for in Council Decisions (CFSP) 2023/2296¹ and (CFSP) 2025/208² and those Union activities that are relevant to export control assistance for dual-use goods. Therefore, it is important that regular exchanges of information take place among the implementing agencies for Union outreach activities in the field of arms export control, as well as between those implementing agencies and the European External Action Service. Such exchanges will encourage the participation of experts from other Member States, where relevant.
- (6) The German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle – BAFA) and Expertise France have previously been entrusted by the Council with the technical implementation of projects in support of the ATT,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/2296 of 23 October 2023 on Union support for activities of the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (OJ L, 2023/2296, 24.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/2296/oj>).

² Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/208 of 30 January 2025 in support a project on the promotion of effective arms export controls (OJ L, 2025/208, 31.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/208/oj>).

Article 1

1. For the purpose of supporting the effective implementation and universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Union shall undertake project activities with the following objectives:
 - (a) the reinforcement or development of arms transfer control capacities and expertise for ATT implementation in beneficiary countries;
 - (b) outreach to other countries, including non-States Parties to the ATT, with a view to supporting the universalisation of the ATT at national, regional and multilateral level.

2. In order to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 1, the Union shall undertake the following project activities:
 - (a) national workshops;
 - (b) ad hoc assistance;
 - (c) train-the-trainer activities;
 - (d) regional and multilateral activities, such as conferences, workshops and study visits;
 - (e) side events.

A detailed description of the project activities is set out in the Annex.

3. The project activities referred to in this Decision shall be implemented in complementarity and synergy with Union assistance projects in the field of export control for conventional arms and dual-use goods, and, where appropriate, with other donors' assistance projects in the field of arms trade control.

Article 2

1. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (the 'High Representative') shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
2. The technical implementation of the project activities referred to in Article 1(2) shall be carried out by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle – BAFA) and Expertise France.
3. BAFA and Expertise France shall perform their tasks under the responsibility of the High Representative. For that purpose, the High Representative shall enter into the necessary arrangements with BAFA and Expertise France.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the project activities referred to in Article 1(2) shall be EUR 3 100 000,00.

2. The expenditure financed by the reference amount set out in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the Union budget.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the financial reference amount referred to in paragraph 1. For that purpose, it shall conclude the necessary agreements with BAFA and Expertise France. The agreements shall stipulate that BAFA and Expertise France are to ensure the visibility of the Union's contribution, appropriate to its size.
4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the agreements referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Decision. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of those agreements.

Article 4

1. The High Representative shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision on the basis of annual reports prepared by BAFA and Expertise France.
2. The Commission shall provide information on the financial aspects of the implementation of the project activities referred to in Article 1(2).

Article 5

1. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.
2. This Decision shall expire 36 months after the date of conclusion of the agreements referred to in Article 3(3) or six months after the date of its entry into force if those agreements have not been concluded within that period.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President

ANNEX

[...]

