On the forthcoming entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty

“We welcome the fact that 53 States have now ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, thereby enabling its entry into force in 90 days. The threshold for entry into force has been passed with a significant contribution from EU Member States.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was adopted in April 2013 by the UN General Assembly further to a longstanding and committed EU support. The Treaty’s principles of greater responsibility and transparency in arms trade have always been actively promoted by the EU.

We encourage all UN Member States to sign and ratify the ATT. The EU is convinced that, when effectively and widely implemented, the Arms Trade Treaty will make trade in conventional arms more responsible and transparent, thus reducing human suffering and tangibly contributing to international peace, security and stability. This is why, further to its entry into force, it is very important to ensure that the Treaty is effectively implemented, as well as universally ratified.

In this spirit, the EU adopted in December 2013 under Council Decision 2013/768/CFSP an ambitious and tangible programme to support the Treaty’s implementation by third countries. This programme will assist States, upon their request, in strengthening their arms transfer systems in line with the requirements of the Treaty. It will also enable a consistent effort to reach out to countries not yet party to the Treaty.”

___________________

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox_Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 – Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu
Follow us on Twitter @eu_e eas
www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService
www.eeas.europa.eu