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ACRONYM COARM COPOL COACD
SUBJECT COARM COPOL COACD - - Revised draft EU Statement in support of
Cyprus' membership in the Wassenaar Arrangement
TEXT

Subject: COARM COPOL COACD – Revised draft EU Statement in support of Cyprus' membership in the Wassenaar Arrangement

Following the breaking of the silence procedure by one Member State to the initial draft statement circulated via Coreu EAS/1718/12, a revised draft EU statement in support of Cyprus' application to the Wassenaar Arrangement is hereby circulated as it has been agreed ad referendum in the COARM working party on 7 December 2012. This revised version of statement is subject to a silence procedure expiring on Monday, 10 December at 19h00 CET.

QUOTE

Draft EU Statement in support of
Cyprus' membership in the Wassenaar Arrangement

Vienna, XX December 2012

Mr Chairman,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States (*alignment formula*).

I would like to reiterate the full support of the EU and its Member States for Cyprus' ongoing application to participate in the Wassenaar Arrangement.

As a Member State of the European Union, Cyprus already applies common high standard controls for conventional arms and dual use items and technology exports set by the European Union as mandatory for all its Member States.

The Initial Elements establish four criteria to participate in the Wassenaar Arrangement that guide Participating States in measuring the ability of candidate countries to contribute to the purposes of the Arrangement:

- 1.- Whether the candidate country is a producer or exporter of arms and industrial equipment;
- 2.- Whether it has taken the Wassenaar Arrangement control lists as a reference in its national export controls;
- 3.- Its non-proliferation policies and appropriate national policies;
- 4.- Its adherence to fully effective export controls.

Cyprus meets all of these criteria.

We are firmly convinced that Members of the Wassenaar Arrangement should remain focussed on those four criteria - and those criteria only - when evaluating membership applications in order to be consistent with the goals of the Arrangement. The EU has repeatedly pointed out that Cyprus' application should not be opposed with arguments that are not relevant to the area of arms and dual-use export controls. Doing otherwise weakens the Arrangement and undermines our non proliferation efforts and our promotion of stringent and responsible arms and dual-use export controls.

Mr. Chairman,

Wassenaar Arrangement exchange of information enables Participating States to apply stringent export control standards. This information is not available to States who do not participate in the Arrangement. Within the EU internal market, most dual-use items circulate freely and circulation of military items has been significantly eased following the entry into force of the Directive on Intra-EU transfers. Cyprus is consequently an exporter of controlled items regardless of its indigenous production capacities. The EU believes that the effectiveness of controls required by the Wassenaar Arrangement would be better ensured at EU level if all EU Member States participated in the information exchange process of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

We therefore strongly urge all States participating in the Wassenaar Arrangement to support Cyprus' admission during this Plenary Meeting.

Thank you.

UNQUOTE

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