



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

**Eighth Conference of States Parties  
to the Arms Trade Treaty**

**Thematic discussion on Post Shipment Controls**

*Geneva, 22 August 2022*

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on the assumption of your responsibility. I would like to express the sincere appreciation of our Delegation to you, your team and the Secretariat for the commitment in steering out intersessional work and preparations for this Conference. You can count on our full support.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

We uphold this year's thematic focus, with the view to consider other monitoring options in order to strengthening prevention of diversion, which remains one of the key priorities of the ATT. We commend you for the working paper on the post-shipment controls and coordination, and for this thematic discussion. Thanks to the panellists for this morning presentation.

Our National system already includes four of the five measures to ensure that arms which have been supplied have not been diverted in an unauthorised way, that you list in para IV (Post-shipment controls and post-delivery coordination) of the working paper. But at this stage we do not have any normative prevision covering post-shipment controls on-site yet, nor we carried out any experimentation. However, we collaborate with Conflict Armament Research, facilitating the search for documents that have authorized export of weapons from Italy, found in anomalous places and presumably subject to diversion.

As regards reporting requirements concerning the actual export, we do apply elevated standards. In fact, the reception of each shipment of armament material from Italy must be proven by the local companies through the presentation of documentation, to be certified according to the prescriptions of our National Authority, within 180 days after shipment (renewable). An administrative sanction is contemplated in case of non-fulfilment of the aforementioned legal requirements.

Such a system has the advantage to raise awareness in the companies authorized to handle military goods, so that they verify the correct reception of the materials by the authorized recipients, without exposing them to more drastic measures provided for by the law, such as revocation or suspension of authorizations already granted.

Based on our experience, companies need to place additional attention to the phase when material is actually handled. For example, the choice of the shipping company, the ship-owner, or even the crew of the ship (or other vehicle chosen), can lead to problems of ensuring that material arrives at its destination.

To conclude, we appreciate the logic presented in your paper and we support the approach you have proposed, based on measures to prevent diversion while preserving the cooperative and coordinative approach of the ATT, being post-shipment controls complementary to existing control measures. It could be interesting to carry out inspection activities towards those countries where companies encounter general difficulties in producing the documentation of arrival at destination, many times due to delays and excessively complex procedures of the competent authorities of these countries.

We believe this issue deserves reflection on our part and further work could be useful to promote understanding and awareness, and to consider developing common standards for post-shipment controls.

Thank you, Mr. President.