STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Thank you Mr. Chairman!

On behalf of the Polish delegation I would like to congratulate you for being appointed as the Chair of this Meeting and thank you for documents you have circulated.

Let me share with you the latest developments concerning the marking and record keeping issues in Poland.

Poland considers marking of weapons as an important element of controlling the arms trade, which prevents the acquisition of arms by criminal groups. On January 5, 2011 new regulations has been adopted by changing the law of June 22, 2001 on economic activity in the sphere of manufacturing and trade in explosives, arms, ammunition and technology of military or police use the law. They obligate manufacturers to mark weapons and their key parts. This also applies to imported firearms, which have to be marked with individual serial numbers and data permitting identification of the state of origin and the importer. It is also worth to mention that under the Polish Penal Code, it is a felony to remove, forge or distort identification markings on elements of SALW which could permit identification of the serial number, year of manufacture and producer of the weapons.

New regulations also require to mark the basic packages of ammunition.

Concerning record keeping and necessity stated in the EU Directive 91/477/EEC that Member States shall, by 31 December 2014, ensure the establishment and maintenance of a computerised data-filing system, Poland is going to create such a system in the first semester of 2012. It will guarantee authorities to authorise access to the data-filing systems in which each firearm - subject to the above mentioned Directive - shall be recorded. This filing system will record and maintain for not less than 20 years each firearm’s type, make, model, caliber and serial number, as well as the names and addresses of the supplier and the person acquiring or possessing the firearm.