

# Ministry of Public Security

Lot 6 Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana



**EU P2P**  
export control programme  
for arms

February 13, 2020.

**For Immediate Release**

## **EUROPEAN UNION'S ARMS TRADE TREATY OUTREACH PROJECT**

### **(EU ATT-OP II) AD HOC WORKSHOP**

**Georgetown Guyana-** The European Union's Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project (EU ATT- OP II) in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security has commenced a two-day ad-hoc assistance workshop for national stakeholders in the control of arms from 12-13 February 2020. The workshop is being held under the theme: *“reinforcement of the national capacities in the management and enforcement of international arms transfers”*, and is aimed at supporting Guyana in strengthening its technical capacities towards the full implementation of the ATT which was signed on to in 2013 and ratified in 2014.



**From Right front, Mr. Federico Suarez of the European Union, Minister of Public Security Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, and Workshop participants**

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is the only global, legally-binding treaty governing arms transfers. It regulates the transfer (import, export, transit, trans-shipment and brokering) of most conventional arms, the ammunition / munitions they fire, their parts and components and prevents their diversion to unauthorized end user.

Minister of Public Security Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan in his remarks at the opening of the workshop, noted that one of the main goals of the ATT is to ‘promote cooperation, transparency and responsible actions by States Parties’. He added that Guyana occupies a geo-political space in (Latin- America and the Caribbean), that records the highest gun violence rate in the world, but with more work done in regards to the trade of arms and preventing unauthorised end-users, this high rate can be reduced.

Mr. Federico Suárez of the European Union in his remarks, expressed sincere thanks to Minister Ramjattan for collaborating with the EU ATT-OP II. He noted that the EU and member states attached considerable importance to ATT and is please that Guyana has signed the treaty.

During the workshop, both National Stakeholders and European Partners will be expected to, report and confront views on possible amendments to the national legal framework implementing the ATT, present and exchange experiences in elaborating conventional weapons' transfer control lists, compare National and European practices of designing and elaborating IT tools supporting the arms transfer control authorities, and discuss customs enforcement practices, notably through a table-top exercise.

Twenty (20) participants from the following agencies are participating in the workshop.

1. The Ministry of Public Security:
  - (a) Guyana Police Force - Office of the Commissioner of Police;
  - (b) The Tactical Service Unit
  - (c) The Firearms Department (control list and storage of arms)
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Legal Department
3. The Ministry of Business - Approvals for importation of arms
4. Guyana Defense Force -Border Security
5. Guyana Revenue Authority - Customs and Trade Department
6. Ministry of Legal Affairs - Drafting Department
7. Director of Public Prosecution
8. Guyana National Rifle Association

**The End**