



**Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition  
Third Substantive Session  
14 February 2023**

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished members of the Open-ended working group and distinguished representatives of regional, international organizations and civil society,

My name is Mauro Silvis, I am the Secretary-General of AFEMS – The Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Ammunition.

AFEMS is a non-profit organization based in Brussels, which was established in 1951. With 60 members and affiliates from over 30 European countries, it represents a network of manufacturers and distributors of sports ammunition (whose members cover more than 90% of the military production of small arms ammunition in the European Union), components, and machinery, each boasting vast experience and a long history in the industry.

Thanks to its Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, AFEMS had the pleasure to attend and follow the work of the OEWG on Conventional Ammunition since its first session, and to participate to the technical discussions in a proactive way, offering a series of contributions aimed at providing the OEWG on Conventional Ammunition with a clear picture about the topic of ammunition tracing, from both a legislative and a technical perspective.

In the two working papers submitted by AFEMS in the previous sessions, the following aspects have been addressed:

- An overview of legislation on civilian ammunition already in place in the EU;
- The technical, economic and administrative challenges posed by some marking techniques, and their limits;
- The difference between the civilian vs. military ammunition production processes, clients and distribution
- The most common requirements already in use at both CIP - Commission internationale permanente pour l'épreuve des armes à feu portatives ("Permanent International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms" - civilian) and NATO (military) levels that are useful for security purposes.

During the previous sessions, AFEMS also had the chance to informally exchange views with many of the delegates who wanted to better understand from us the pieces of legislation and best practices already in place in Europe and why, from the European industry's point of view, some solutions were considered more feasible than others.

To conclude, we would reiterate that the European ammunition industry represented by AFEMS, stands ready to continue to contribute to the efforts of the OEWG on Conventional Ammunition throughout the technical expertise and experience provided by its members companies, whenever it is needed.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.