Mr. Chairman, I am speaking for Finland for the first time and I will be extremely brief.

The Presidency of the European Union has delivered a statement to which I fully subscribe.

First, allow me to congratulate you on your election to chair the First Committee and assure you of the full and active support of this delegation.

Second, I will address three issues only, the 2008 biennial meeting of states on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the report of the GGE on Brokering so ably introduced by its Chairman Daniel Prins of the Netherlands and future work on the Arms Trade Treaty.

Third, Finland considers it of upmost importance that the 2008 BMS on Small Arms succeeds in forwarding the practical implementation of the Programme of Action and in rebuilding the consensual nature of the Small Arms process. Practical implementation builds consensus, consensus forwards practical implementation. Both maintain momentum for the SALW process. The BMS rightly should be prepared with an overall view on assistance, co-operation and capacity-building, but also with specific time allocated for marking and tracing, brokering, stockpile management and transfer-issues. The BMS could also look at or even experiment new work-methods, such as peer-reviews on POA implementation. The BMS should also devote time to further developing the reporting of POA implementation and assistance needs, and on the follow-up of the SALW process.

Fourth, the report of the GGE on Brokering of SALW shies on a specific recomendation on work for an international legal instrument on illicit SALW brokering. This said the report, it’s definition SALW brokering and associated activities and the very broad descriptions of legislative and other measures taken by UN Member States and international organisations, serves as an excellent benchmark for UN Member States willing to develop their legislation in this important field of implementing the POA commitments. The GGE’s report will also be for the near future a usefull and composite basis for reporting on brokering related activities on MS to the UN. Finland was proud to have contributed as member to the GGE.

Fifth, Finland strongly supports further work and steps towards a negotiation mandate at the UN on an Arms Trade Treaty. The ATT is in our opinion one of the core issues at the nexus of development, human rights and security. We assess the ATT both as desirable, and as doable and look forward to the GGE on the ATT to report to the 63. UNGA in 2008 accordingly.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.