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To all Members of the European Parliament signatories of the letter on autonomous weapons and civil society

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2018 on the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). Like you, I am convinced that Artificial Intelligence brings tremendous opportunities but also risks and challenges. We need common principles regarding the military use of artificial intelligence, and define the boundaries of its applications, so that within those limits, scientists are free to explore the immense positive potential of Artificial Intelligence. Humans should always make the decisions on the use of force and always exert control over weapons systems.

I have taken good note of the Resolution voted by the Parliament following our debate on 11 September 2018, in which the Parliament recommends the start of international negotiations on a legally binding instrument prohibiting LAWS. As I noted at the time, international agreement on a legal framing of LAWS remains elusive, in particular because of the lack of definitions of autonomy and human control. The discussions in the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), in which the EU participates actively, have made important steps towards a shared approach. Civil society also contributes to the discussions of the Group in a very substantive way. The CCW remains, as the EU has pointed out on several occasions, the right place to discuss LAWS. The EU is therefore in favour of giving the GGE another year to work. Progress on content may ultimately pave the way to a better understanding on form.

I mentioned the work of the Global Tech Panel during our debate on LAWS on 11 September 2018. I stressed the need to listen to the experts' advice on this very technical and delicate issue. As we deepen our conversation between tech and legal experts in the law of armed conflict, we will continue to build on the contributions from, *inter alia*, the "Campaign to Stop Killer Robots" and iPRAW. As you may be aware, the competent Council Working Group on non-proliferation (CONOP) has hitherto held two sessions, in particular with iPRAW as the latter continues to develop its series of working papers. My services are actively keeping track of the various contributions from Civil Society in order to inform our collective thinking and discussions.

I would finish by expressing my hope that together we can continue to keep the issue of LAWS on the international agenda and contribute to a solution that is both prudent and innovative. This is a collective responsibility, and I am glad that the European Parliament is helping to lead the way and drive the conversation

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini