

**Paul B. van Son, Director
Office of Export Control Cooperation
U.S. Department of State
Fifth International Conference on Export Controls
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Good Morning. It is an honor for me to be here. On behalf of the U.S. Department of State and my colleagues from the Departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, and Energy, I would like to welcome you all to the Fifth International Conference on Export Controls. I am Paul van Son, Director of the Office of Export Control Cooperation within the Bureau of Nonproliferation of the United States Department of State. My office manages the Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance (EXBS) programs for the United States. While I have been in this position less than one month, I am not new to the world of export controls, having worked nonproliferation issues for the past four years at both the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and at the U.S. Mission to the UN in Vienna. In fact, I have already seen many familiar faces, both from Vienna and from previous export control conferences.

It is worth taking a minute to recognize the significance of the location of this year's conference in Budapest. Hungary has worked hard for more than ten years

to put in place a modern effective export control system. Hungary's willingness and ability to co-host this conference and move beyond developing its own export control system to assisting others demonstrates Hungary's dedication and success in the field of export controls and nonproliferation. I would like to thank our Hungarian hosts for their support in making this event a reality.

We also would like to thank each of you for your full participation over the next three days. As practitioners in the field of export controls and enforcement from approximately forty countries, we have gathered here for several reasons: 1) to support each other in our efforts to take concrete steps to improve the effectiveness of our export control systems; 2) to share information and provide updates on changes in our national export control policies and procedures; and 3) to promote a network of like-minded countries that can cooperate with each other in taking export control enforcement action and impeding the proliferation of strategic items and technology to illegitimate end-users.

This year's conference is organized around a series of themes. Today we will be discussing enhancing export controls to meet the new demands of terrorist threats. This includes enhanced controls over items such as Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS.) We have seen

indications of how lethal these shoulder-fired missiles can be in the wrong hands. Every time we travel on an airplane, it is brought to our attention from a very personal perspective how important it is that MANPADS are under positive control by legitimate, official government end-users at all times.

In the remaining two days, our themes will include best practices in export controls, trends in enforcement, information sharing and regional cooperation, and approaches to controlling conventional arms. We will also have time to break out into small groups on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for more interactive discussions as we have done in past years. However, this year the groups will be smaller and I encourage all of you to actively share your experiences and personal views as licensing officers, policy officials or enforcement officers.

We are here to share our experiences, and learn something new from others. My Hungarian colleagues and my office have tried to arrange for some provocative and stimulating speakers and panels. If you don't agree with something they say, we would like to hear your views. The conference has a "not for attribution" policy so you won't be quoted in the Hungarian or U.S. press tomorrow! So please take advantage of this opportunity to engage

actively with your colleagues from other countries. No government, and I include my own, has all the answers or the best way of doing things that works in all circumstances. But we do know that positive results in export control and enforcement come from the active exchange of ideas, information, and cooperation.

I also want to encourage everyone to relax and have some fun. I once had a boss whose motto was, "If you are not having fun, then you are not doing it right!" Since he was an Admiral, he must have done something right even while he was having fun. Let me conclude on a personal note by saying that I look forward to renewing old friendships and to meeting many of you whom I have not known before over the next few days. Thank you.