



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on SALW

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Ms. Elli Kytömäki, CPC Consultant for the Mapping Study of OSCE SALW Commitments and Mr. Mark Bromley from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), to the FSC and thanks them for their presentations.

The "Comprehensive study of SALW-related commitments of the OSCE against international SALW agreements" is in our view a landmark document that will significantly contribute to our work in the FSC. We would like to express our thanks to the Informal Group of Friends of SALW, to its Chairman and the FSC Support Section for initiating the study.

The study provides both an overview of the current situation and some very concrete proposals for the future deliberations of participating States. This balanced study identifies not only the areas where the OSCE is still a forerunner but it also highlights where the OSCE regulatory framework has some relative weaknesses. The study sets the OSCE commitments on SALW within the wider context of international commitments and we especially find its comparison of the ATT topical and useful.

We agree with the general view that, to maintain the OSCE's relevance in this field, participating States have to assess SALW control measures to ensure they are comprehensive, effective and add value. The study's insightful suggestions add clarity and focus to determine where priority action should be taken.

Among its many interesting operative proposals we fully support the need to review the OSCE Document on SALW. In this regard we welcome the Food for Thought Paper on Regular and Periodic Implementation and Review Procedure of SALW/SCA and CAT which provides a good basis for discussions.

We also find the chapter on cross-cutting themes, such as gender and age, border control and law enforcement, capacity building etc, especially useful given the wider consequences of SALW proliferation for the OSCE as a whole.

The presentation on compiling national reports on SALW exports from / import to other participating States is enlightening. The analysis highlights very well the discrepancies between participating States' submissions and gives us clearer understanding of the complexity of the issue. We find the recommendations very useful and worthy of careful study, since some of them affect national data collection processes.

In our view, it is important to minimise the reporting burden and the variety of reporting formats, consistent with the maintenance of transparency. We should review the existing comprehensive information exchanges to ensure their utility and efficiency. There is also merit in further harmonisation of the UN and OSCE reporting templates on SALW. We consider the development of elements for best practices building on reporting as potentially contributing to its improvement.

To sum up, both presentations contribute to the future activities of the FSC and open the way for comprehensive progress on SALW commitments. We look forward to working with participating States to update and strengthen the FSC SALW related instruments.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

^{*} The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

^{**} Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.