



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on "Fighting Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons"

The European Union (EU) welcomes Mr. Sho Morimoto from the US State Department and Mr. Ivan Zverzhanovski, SEESAC Coordinator, and thanks them for sharing with us their rich professional expertise and information on fighting illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

Only one week ago, we had the excellent opportunity to reiterate, in the broader context of disarmament, our conviction that the last OSCE MC decision dedicated to SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), adopted in December 2013 in Kyiv, represents a very good basis for taking forward both the full implementation and the improvement of the OSCE commitments and norms.

In particular, we would like to stress our continued support for strengthened implementation of the existing OSCE commitments in the areas of SALW, SCA and conventional weapons, ensuring their coherence and complementarity with the UN framework, and exploring enhanced ways for their assessment and update. We welcome the ongoing FSC work and look forward to the timely adoption of decisions upholding the respective provisions of MC decision 8/13. To that end, full advantage of valuable tools such as the SALW Informal Group of Friends and the 2013 Comparative study on SALW should be taken in order to allow the OSCE to effectively assume its security tasks and maintain its role at the forefront of the international efforts in combatting illicit SALW trafficking.

We furthermore welcome and support the development of voluntary OSCE guidelines for Compiling National Reports on SALW exports to/imports from other participating

States which we find a useful tool in helping OSCE participating States live up to their SALW commitments, in particular those under the OSCE Document on SALW.

The OSCE has a long and productive record of practical activities, involving both the Secretariat and the field missions, such as the implementation of assistance projects on SALW and SCA, which goes hand in hand with the improvement of its normative basis.

In this context, we highly appreciate the sustained efforts of the US government and the countries of the South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC) and their determination to actively contribute to curbing the illicit trafficking and destabilising accumulation of SALW and SCA at both national and regional level.

The European Union, for its part, is allocating substantial resources, within its Strategy on SALW, to support concrete activities in the field of SALW control in the OSCE area and in particular in the region of South Eastern Europe where we welcome and promote international cooperation with the UN, the OSCE and other main actors. In practical terms, the EU is supporting SEESAC activities through dedicated Council Decisions, the last one having been adopted on 9 December 2013. Equally, these activities are strongly supported, including through the provision of financial means, by the EU Member States.

Mr Chairman, let me reiterate the particular importance we pay to the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (PoA) and the OSCE Document on SALW and other relevant commitments. In this respect, we encourage the FSC to take an active role in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (BMS5).

The European Union and its Members States are currently coordinating their efforts aimed at contributing to the success of the BMS5 to take place on 16-20 June 2014 in New York. To that end, the European Union has submitted working paper which highlights, inter alia, the following priorities: development of best practises and provision of assistance on stockpile security to prevent the diversion of legal SALW and their ammunition to illicit markets; improving the tracing of illicit SALW in conflict and post-conflict contexts in order to stem the inflow of illicit weapons into conflict zones; opportunities and challenges arising from new technologies for the effective

marking, record-keeping, tracing and securing of SALW; continued international cooperation and assistance for the successful implementation of the UN PoA; and, taking into account the relationship of UN PoA commitments with the ATT.

In conclusion, we would like to thank once again the speakers for their valuable contributions as well as the FSC Chairmanship for having included this topical issue in the FSC Security Dialogue agenda.

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 UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and MONACO 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.