



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the SALW and CA project in Kyrgyzstan

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and Col. Zamir Suerkulov, First Deputy Minister of Defence of Kyrgyzstan, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thanks them for their presentations on the project to strengthen Kyrgyzstan's Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Conventional Ammunition (CA) stockpiles management capacity.

Since the adoption of the OSCE Document on SALW in 2000 the EU has been actively promoting its effective and full implementation, notably by the EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition adopted in 2005.

In this framework, the EU has lent its support for the OSCE SALW and CA project in Kyrgyzstan by adopting Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP. We are therefore pleased to hear that the project entered its operational phase in August 2013 and its implementation is well on track.

We underscore the comprehensive nature of the project which aims to substantially enhance the security of the region by reducing the risks for and by the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of SALW and CA and also contributes to ensuring the safety of the civilian population. The coordinating work carried out by the OSCE, including the excellent cooperation with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence, is an important prerequisite for the success of this ambitious yet realistic goal.

As such the EU welcomes the OSCE's prominent role in providing assistance to participating States in the destruction of SALW and CA and improving stockpile management and security practices. These activities have been strongly supported, including through the provision of financial means, by the EU and its MS, some of which are among the donors to the project in Kyrgyzstan.

We consider that the full, cost-efficient and timely implementation of all 5 tasks envisaged within the project will constitute an important step forward in combating the illicit spread of SALW and the destabilising accumulation of CA, as well as being demonstrative of the cooperation between the OSCE and EU in this field.

We therefore look forward to seeing further progress with the SALW and CA project in Kyrgyzstan.

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 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.