



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 727 Vienna, 18 September 2013

EU Statement on the Arms Trade Treaty

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Mr. Roy Isbister and Dr. Loïc Simonet to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and its implications for the OSCE deserve very careful consideration and we hope that today's Security Dialogue and subsequent discussions will lead to a concrete outcome. We would also like to thank the Luxembourg FSC Chairmanship for taking up the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in their programme.

Taking into account that not all OSCE participating States have signed the ATT, the OSCE's existing commitments, namely the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, remain the baseline of our activities and decisions and deserve our continued attention, including giving consideration to their updating.

It is equally important to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of our OSCE commitments, including the OSCE Document on SALW, in the light of the ATT, as well as to review the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW.

In that regard the EU remains committed to the implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW and attaches great importance to the operationalisation of its provisions in a flexible and effective manner.

We would like to encourage all participating States to continually review the relevant OSCE commitments on SALW and actively implement them in order to tackle illicit proliferation of SALW and prevent destabilising accumulations.

We are convinced that there is a compelling need for an enhanced multilateral approach on SALW in order to develop synergy, coherence and

complementarity between the OSCE and the UN normative frameworks, which the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty brings into sharper focus.

In line with its early commitment to the UN-led ATT process, the EU intends to continue to actively support the early entry into force and effective implementation of the ATT and we encourage all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

As a regional security organisation with a proven track record in SALW issues, the OSCE can play an important complementary role to the promotion of the ATT by the production, for instance, of a best practice guide regarding the implementation of the Treaty. This could allow its early ratification and implementation among OSCE participating States. Also, given the time it will take to enter into force, there may be measures within the ATT that the OSCE would wish to adopt in advance, especially surrounding Articles 6 and 7. We could consider as well whether any perceived shortfalls in this global instrument could be strengthened for our region.

Regrettably, the 2012 Ministerial Council was unable to adopt a decision on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA). We therefore call for renewed FSC efforts towards agreeing upon a decision on SALW at the upcoming ministerial meeting that would add focus and direction in the years to come, including on updating and strengthening the existing OSCE commitments. We would also welcome continued discussions on the potential contribution of SALW in the Helsinki+40 process.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country ALBANIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA 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.