
Chairmanship: Sweden**893rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 26 September 2018

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 3.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: COUNTERING ILLICIT
TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT
WEAPONS

- *Presentation by Ms. P. Stenkula, Police Commissioner and Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department for Police Region South, Swedish Police Authority*
- *Presentation by Mr. O. Lindvall, Customs Prosecutor and Head of the Department of Customs Prosecutors, Southern Region, Swedish Customs*

Chairperson, Ms. P. Stenkula (FSC.DEL/161/18 OSCE+), Mr. O. Lindvall (FSC.DEL/162/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/169/18), United Kingdom, Slovakia (Annex 1), Serbia (Annex 2), Turkey, Germany, United States of America, Switzerland, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/167/18 OSCE+), Armenia, Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/168/18 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/168/18/Add.1 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/170/18), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Informal briefing on progress in the implementation of two ongoing project initiatives, to be held on 3 October 2018 (FSC.INF/35/18 Restr.):* Chairperson (on behalf of the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary))
- (b) *Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, to be held on 2 and 3 October 2018:* Chairperson
- (c) *Chairmanship conference on “Women in the Security Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for the OSCE Area and Beyond”, to be held on 1 October 2018:* Chairperson
- (d) *Completion of a project on capacity-building for the management of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition and ensuring their safe storage; and a proposal for a follow-up project on strengthening the security of stockpiles and reducing surplus through the monitoring and destruction of SALW (FSC.DEL/163/18/Add.1 OSCE+):* Belarus (FSC.DEL/163/18 OSCE+)
- (e) *Completion of a project on destroying rocket fuel components:* Belarus (FSC.DEL/163/18 OSCE+)
- (f) *Briefing on the military exercise “Trident Juncture 18”, to be conducted from 25 October to 7 November 2018:* Norway

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 10 October 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



893rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 899, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVAKIA

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for making countering illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons the topic of this FSC Security Dialogue. We consider the subject relevant not only to the Forum but also to the general task of ensuring stability and security in the OSCE area.

We noted that Slovakia was mentioned a number of times in the presentation today. On top of the information provided, we can confirm that after the change in the national legislation in 2015 we registered a nearly complete drop in demand for arms precursors in Slovakia. Furthermore, the National Crime Agency of the police of the Slovak Republic co-operated with EUROPOL and INTERPOL and individual European Union Member States on improving the collection, analysis and exchange of information on illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW). As a result, offenders were identified and arrested and large stocks of illicit commodities were seized in all EU States. In this regard, we would like to commend the Swedish police and customs office for the outstanding co-operation we enjoyed with them.

Slovakia was among the first EU Member States to establish within its National Crime Agency a so-called firearms focal point, which acts as a national point of contact on matters related to illicit SALW. This specialized focal point serves as a database for information on this type of criminal offence, communicates directly both with its counterparts in other EU Member States and also with international organizations (UN, EUROPOL, INTERPOL), and gives direct support for the relevant investigations.

It is important to add that the criminal market and the demand for illicit arms will always find sources from which to acquire illicit SALW, whether in connection with the illicit trafficking of arms originating from zones of armed conflict into individual OSCE participating States, the use of arms precursors, the theft and the misuse of legal arms and their components, or the domestic production of SALW. If one of these sources is eliminated, the market will automatically turn to other sources. For this reason, it is necessary to build up and consolidate law enforcement agencies and strengthen their operative capacity, and to bolster international co-operation and minimize differences between national legislations.

Thank you for your attention.



893rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 899, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Serbia has aligned itself with the EU statement under this agenda item. However, kindly allow me to take this opportunity to add a couple of points in my national capacity.

I would like to join other delegations in warmly welcoming the distinguished speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and in thanking them for their interesting and thought-provoking presentations on countering illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Let me also thank the Swedish FSC Chairmanship for selecting this important topic.

Madam Chairperson,

Regardless of isolated criminal cases of individuals, Serbia continues to provide its maximum possible contribution to countering illicit trafficking of SALW. I would like to recall that during its FSC Chairmanship last year Serbia initiated discussions on this issue by choosing “Regional efforts in combating the illicit trade of SALW in Southeast Europe” as the Security Dialogue topic for the 862nd plenary meeting of the FSC on 20 September 2017. During its Chairmanship, Serbia was also amongst the countries that proposed Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. Among other issues, this decision also addresses illicit trafficking of SALW.

In the Security Dialogue at the above-mentioned FSC meeting, certain circumstances were described that represent a burden for the region and for Serbia itself. It was concluded that most trafficked weapons are remnants from the conflict in former Yugoslavia, that is, stolen or missing firearms that used to be legally owned. Trafficking mostly occurs in small-scale shipments, with the exclusive motive of the perpetrators being material gain, based on the differences in the prices obtainable for such weapons between the countries of the region, including Serbia, and the countries of western and northern Europe. The perpetrators usually originate from the territory of former Yugoslavia and currently reside in western or northern European countries.

Recognizing the need for more integrated and co-ordinated action in tackling SALW issues in the Western Balkans region, Serbia has, from the very beginning, supported the joint donor co-ordination initiative on illicit firearms trafficking and comprehensive SALW control launched by France and Germany. This initiative has led to the preparation, in co-operation with France, Germany and the EU, of the regional “road map” with specific and measurable targets for the reduction of illicit trafficking of SALW by 2024.

This document forms the basis for strengthening co-operation between the donor community and authorities in the Western Balkans. In support of this endeavour and in accordance with the regional road map, the suppression of illicit trafficking of SALW already forms part of the first draft of the National Strategy on Countering the Threat of Organized and Serious Crime presently being developed by Serbia in accordance with Europol methodology. A new Strategy for Controlling SALW in Serbia for the period from 2019 to 2024 is also under way, as is the Action Plan for its implementation. These undertakings clearly show that Serbia has made combating illegal trafficking and smuggling of firearms, ammunition and mine-explosive devices a top priority, for the safety of its citizens and for the security of the region in general.

It should be noted that in February 2015 Serbia amended its Law on Weapons and Ammunition in line with the EU *acquis* so that it now strictly regulates the possession and carrying of weapons and ammunition. This law has considerably tightened the regulations on who can handle weapons and how they can handle them, with even more precisely defined types and categories of weapons. According to the law, all legally possessed weapons have to be re-registered. This measure will finally eliminate possible unknown variables in the number and types of weapons that are in legal possession of citizens and preclude inaccurate estimates.

As for the role of the Serbian Ministry of Defence, the military police, in accordance with the Law on the Serbian Armed Forces, applies police measures and actions to members of the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces, and in some cases to civilians. The military police is authorized to act in cases involving Serbian property owned or being used by the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. In accordance with the Law on Exports and Imports of Weapons and Military Equipment, the Ministry of Defence is responsible for granting requests for the issuance of licenses for foreign trade in weapons and military equipment.

Dear colleagues,

The co-ordinated approach of the Serbian Ministry of Interior in this area has resulted in the seizure of more than 1,880 pieces of illegal SALW, as well as more than 47,700 pieces of ammunition of various calibres. This trend has continued in 2018, with more than 800 pieces of SALW and more than 33,900 pieces of ammunition of various calibres being seized.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the international police co-operation with western and northern European countries based on real-time exchange of data and information regarding synchronized police action in combating illicit trafficking of SALW. As an example, data on seized weapons produced by the company Zastava Arms of

Kragujevac, Serbia, often indicate that the weapons originated in one of the other former Yugoslav republics.

Madam Chairperson,

Serbian police officers are currently actively engaged in international co-operation with their Swedish colleagues regarding operational conduct in relation to a group of Serbian and Swedish citizens active in weapons-smuggling in Sweden. Co-operation with the Swedish police is at a very high level, with communication currently taking place on an almost daily basis; furthermore, operational data is being exchanged in relation to joint actions and certain other cases.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.