



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on Conventional Arms Transfers

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes to the Forum for Security Cooperation H.E. Angela Kane, the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and thanks her for the interesting and thought provoking presentation on synergies between the UN and the OSCE commitments in the field of Conventional Arms Transfers (CAT).

Ever since the adoption of its Principles Governing CAT in 1993 the OSCE has been playing a leading role in the efforts of the international community to prevent the illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversion to illicit markets and crisis-ridden countries and regions. The arms export control norms embedded in the 1993 Principles Governing CAT have been further enhanced by the adoption of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in 2000 as well as other relevant OSCE decisions.

The European Union and its Member States commend transparency efforts on conventional arms transfers at UN and OSCE levels. This is in line with our longstanding support to the principles of transparency and responsibility in arms trade. Moreover, we strongly support the OSCE commitments and activities in the field of SALW and conventional weapons and their full implementation with a view to addressing the challenges emanating from the quickly evolving security environment.

For instance, the crisis in and around Ukraine clearly demonstrates the consequences of the uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional weapons. Their illegal supply to the separatist groups in eastern Ukraine by the Russian Federation is in violation of the norms and commitments contained in the 1993 Principles Governing CAT and the 2000 OSCE Document on SALW, and have a tragic impact on the safety and the security of the civilian population.

This is why we believe that there is a compelling need for strengthening the OSCE conventional arms control commitments through their full implementation and respect by all participating States, on the one hand, and increased coherence and complementarity with the UN framework, on the other.

In relation to the latter, we reiterate that the OSCE can play an important role, based on its comprehensive track record in Conventional Arms Control issues in the

promotion and the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in the OSCE area. Possible venues to be further examined in this respect encompass activities related to both providing assistance to participating States, upon their request, in implementing the Treaty and bringing in line relevant ATT and OSCE norms in the field of arms transfers and export controls.

Achieving a legally binding and robust ATT has been among the top foreign policy priorities for the European Union over the past years. With the ATT now in force, the main challenges ahead are its effective implementation by States parties and its universalisation. The European Union is therefore bringing a tangible and active contribution through the dedicated implementation support programme it adopted in December 2013.

In this context, we encourage the OSCE participating States that have not done so yet to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

Last but not least, we welcome the recent adoption by the UNSC of Resolution 2220 on SALW which encourages, inter alia, regional cooperation on addressing the illicit transfer, destabilising accumulation and misuse of SALW.

In concluding, we would like to thank once again our distinguished key-note speaker as well as the Montenegrin FSC Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity to contribute to this Security Dialogue.

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

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