



393rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 399, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 5/03
BEST PRACTICE GUIDES ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), (FSC.DOC/1/00), in which participating States agreed to consider the development of best practice guides on certain aspects related to the control of small arms and light weapons,

Recalling FSC Decision No. 11/02 of 10 July 2002, in which it was decided that in order to assist participating States in implementing the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons the FSC would develop best practice guides on the following aspects: national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacture; national export and import policy; national control of brokering activities; national procedures for stockpile-management and security; definitions for indicators of a surplus; techniques and procedures for destruction; and small arms measures as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration,

Noting the possibility that a Handbook gathering these Best Practice Guides may serve as a guide for national policy-making by participating States and encourage higher common standards of practice among all participating States,

Recalling preambular paragraph five of the OSCE Document on SALW, in which participating States noted the opportunity for the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to provide a substantial contribution to the process in the United Nations on combating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects,

Acknowledging that such a Handbook gathering these Best Practice Guides could also be useful to other United Nations Member States in their efforts to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, as well as other international commitments on SALW,

Recognizing the work done by participating States to complete this task,

Decides to:

- Welcome the development of the Best Practice Guides and endorse the compilation of those that are currently available into a Handbook in all six OSCE languages;
- Ensure that the remaining Guides are included in the Handbook when finalized and reviewed;
- Encourage participating States to make this Handbook available to all relevant national authorities for its implementation as appropriate;
- Task the Conflict Prevention Centre to ensure the widest possible distribution of this Handbook after its completion;
- Request that this Handbook be presented at the First OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, to be held in Vienna on 25 and 26 June 2003, and at the First Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action, to be held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003;
- Take account of this Handbook, including the possibility of its further development during the regular review of the OSCE Document on SALW, in accordance with Section VI of the Document;
- Request that this decision be appended to the Handbook and distributed with it.