



545th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 551, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 4/08
POINTS OF CONTACT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Reaffirming the commitments undertaken by the participating States in the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00) and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03),

Recalling Section VI of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), in which participating States agreed to the establishment of a list of small arms contact points in delegations to the OSCE and in capitals,

Recalling Section VII of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), which allowed for the voluntary provision of Points of Contact on conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, in delegations to the OSCE and in capitals,

Noting paragraph 33 of the OSCE Document on SCA, which charges the OSCE with a clearing-house function, including that of bringing together, ensuring liaison between, and exchanging information with requesting States, potential assisting/donor States and other (international) actors in this field,

Recognizing that matters relating to control over small arms and light weapons and SCA pertain to the national sovereignty and responsibility of the respective States,

Recognizing the need for updated and ready information on national and OSCE Points of Contact on SALW and on SCA,

Decides to establish a directory of national and OSCE Points of Contact on SALW and SCA, in accordance with the provisions annexed to this decision;

Decides to include an update on Points of Contact on SALW and SCA in the existing annual information exchange on SALW conducted in accordance with FSC.DOC/1/00 adopted on 24 November 2000.

DIRECTORY OF POINTS OF CONTACT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

In the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the participating States agreed to establish a “list of small arms contact points in delegations to the OSCE and in capitals, to be held and maintained by the CPC.” The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) also sets out the possibility of sharing the names of points of contact on conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, in delegations to the OSCE and in capitals, on a voluntary basis.

The OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA specify that the CPC is to be the main point of contact on issues relating to SALW and SCA between the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions. The OSCE Directory of Points of Contact (“the POC directory”) on SALW and SCA is an additional tool for co-operation and co-ordination among participating States on projects relating to SALW and SCA.

The POC directory on SALW and SCA will comprise of:

- POCs in the participating States and in the delegations in Vienna;
- POC(s) in the FSC Support Section of the OSCE CPC in Vienna;
- POCs in OSCE field operations, as appropriate.

The primary purpose of the directory is to facilitate information-sharing between participating States on issues related to SALW and SCA projects.

As a prerequisite for efficient international co-operation in this field, participating States should arrange for their POCs to co-operate with all relevant national agencies dealing with SALW and SCA issues. The responsibilities of the POC will be defined by participating States according to their national procedures and practice. Participating States will be responsible for providing the OSCE Secretariat with updated POC information (names, contact details, addresses, etc.) using the annual information exchange on SALW or an interim update, should any changes occur.

Responsibilities for National POCs might include:

- To be available for contact by other POCs and to ensure that communications from the OSCE and other POCs reach the appropriate government agencies dealing with specific SALW and SCA project issues (e.g., destruction of SALW and conventional ammunition, SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile security and management, training programmes etc.);

- To co-ordinate the collection of information from the appropriate governmental agencies dealing with specific SALW and SCA issues, as outlined in the assistance mechanisms on SALW and SCA set out in FSC Decision No. 15/02 and the OSCE Document on SCA, and to communicate this information to the CPC and relevant POCs, as appropriate;

Administrative responsibilities of the CPC:

- To maintain the POC directory on SALW and SCA and electronically distribute up-to-date information on POCs;
- To process incoming information and requests from the participating States on SALW and SCA within the mandate of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA and FSC Decision No. 15/02;
- To keep POCs informed about relevant SALW and SCA activities in the OSCE area.