



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on SALW and New Technology

The European Union would like to thank today's speakers for their enlightening presentations and the FSC Chairmanship for having brought to our attention the topical issue of the impact of new technologies on SALW and SCA control.

Ever since the adoption of the OSCE Document on SALW in 2000 and the UN Programme of Action on SALW in 2001, the European Union has been actively promoting the effective and full implementation of these documents by political and financial means, notably by the EU Strategy on SALW adopted in 2005, the implementation of which is regularly reviewed.

In this context, we share the opinion that the implications of new developments in weapons manufacturing and design technology – such as 3D printing or additive manufacturing, polymer frames and modularity – pose increasing challenges for SALW and deserve our collective attention.

The recently released UN Secretary General's report on the matter, which was discussed at the 5th Biennial Meeting of States last June, provides useful initial guidance in this respect. Among others, the report points to the risk of 3D printing technology becoming available for criminal and terrorist activities. The challenges that the development of modular weapon systems may pose for effective marking of SALW is another case in point.

At the same time, new technologies may also offer new opportunities for SALW control. These are for instance related to laser control for marking weapons, automatic identification and data collection technology applications for record-keeping, and use of GPS in weapon shipments tracking.

This is why we look forward to taking this issue further at the 2015 UN open-ended Meeting on Governmental Experts, which will focus on the implications of recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing.

In conclusion, we would like to once again express our appreciation for today's opportunity to discuss the possibilities and the limitations of new technology with a view to considering a harmonised approach to this important matter.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA 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, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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