



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on Firearms Trafficking

The European Union (EU) would like to welcome Ms Simonetta Grassi, Head of the UNODC Global Programme on Firearms, to the Forum for Security Cooperation and thanks her for the presentation on the recent UNODC study on firearms trafficking, which we found both informative and relevant to the work of the OSCE in the area of combatting illicit SALW trafficking.

Indeed, illicit trafficking in firearms represents a lucrative business for organised criminal groups and subsequently a growing threat to the security of citizens. Efforts to curb illicit firearms trafficking in order to prevent their misuse need to be intensified, in particular by improved international cooperation and coordination.

The EU is positively considering, in line with MC.DEC/8/13, the exchange of information between the OSCE and UNODC on activities, programmes and regulation of SALW-related issues in view of achieving better coherence and complementarity. In this respect, we underscore the importance of the OSCE Secretariat-UNODC Joint Action Plan providing for synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts.

The EU has signed the UN Firearms Protocol in order to strengthen international cooperation. The wide and effective implementation of the Protocol can make legal international firearms transfers more responsible and transparent as well as help combat the illegal trade in conventional arms.

The EU supports the Global Programme on Firearms aims of raising awareness, promoting adherence to and supporting the implementation of the UN Firearms Protocol by providing technical and legislative assistance to the Firearms Protocol Member States.

In this framework, the Implementation Support Section of the Organised Crime and Trafficking Branch is currently delivering a project on

"Countering Transnational Illicit Arms Trafficking through the Implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Firearms Protocol"; this started in 2011 and is funded by the European Commission.

Finally, we take this opportunity to state once again our commitment to support swift entry into force and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We encourage all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. This month the Council of the EU adopted an enabling decision for EU Member States to ratify the ATT, which is an important step in coming closer to the 50 ratifications threshold for entry into force.

We would like to once again thank, Ms Grassi for her valuable contribution to the FSC Security Dialogue and to wish her every success in her professional endeavours.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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

** Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.