



374th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 380, Agenda item 5

DECISION No. 15/02
**EXPERT ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION V OF THE
OSCE DOCUMENT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Noting the request of the Permanent Council to provide its expert advice on the implementation of Section V “Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation” of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons in advance of the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council (PC.DEC/489),

Reaffirming the commitments agreed to by the participating States contained in the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00),

Mindful of the potential of enhancing the implementation of Section V of the SALW document in the context of the Bucharest Ministerial Council Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (Annex to MC(9).DEC/1) as reflected in the FSC Road Map adopted in March 2002 for the implementation of the relevant tasks under the Bucharest Plan (FSC.DEC/5/02) and as underlined in the Workshop on Implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (4 and 5 February 2002) and in the Expert Meeting on Combating Terrorism within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE (14 and 15 May 2002),

Recalling the Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 on Fostering the Role of the OSCE as a Forum for Political Dialogue (MC(9).DEC/3),

Decides:

To provide the Permanent Council with the attached expert advice on the implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

To recommend that the Permanent Council address this expert advice in its preparations for the Ministerial Council in Porto, so that the Ministerial Council will take note of the work undertaken concerning enhanced implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, based on the following outlined plan, once provided to the PC for approval and implementation.

EXPERT ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION V OF THE SALW DOCUMENT

A. Introduction

1. The security risks posed by the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) are of continuing concern to participating States. The implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on SALW, which deals with small arms measures as part of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, could help overcome these risks through co-ordinated action by the PC and the FSC. It could also contribute to OSCE efforts to counter terrorism by enabling the organization to address one of the sources of supply to terrorist networks.

B. Plan for making Section V operational

1. Section V of the OSCE document on SALW creates a framework for integrating small arms measures into other OSCE activities. Such measures, according to the Document, could include:

- Assistance on the security and management of stockpiles of small arms;
- Assistance with, and possible monitoring of the reduction and disposal of small arms;
- Advice or mutual assistance to implement and reinforce border controls to reduce illicit trafficking in small arms;
- Assistance with small arms collection and control programmes.

2. It is for each participating State to identify and raise within the Forum for Security Co-operation or the Permanent Council concerns about destabilizing accumulations and uncontrolled spreads of SALW linked to its security situation. The OSCE can only take action in response to a specific request for assistance from one or more participating States to resolve SALW problems on their respective territories. Such actions would naturally be carried out only with the consent of and in close co-operation with the requesting government. In such cases, SALW expert teams, and OSCE field missions, if present, may have a role to play, both in assessing the situation and by participating in any subsequent actions. Any involvement of OSCE field missions in SALW issues should be in accordance with their mandates. These mandates might be expanded if needed, as outlined in the OSCE document on SALW. Consultation and co-ordination with other international organizations and actors should also be taken into account. OSCE action should be in accordance with the steps described below and summarized in the attached diagram.

- (i) **Step One.** On receipt of a request for assistance from a participating State the CiO, after consultation with PC and FSC, should arrange the conduct of an initial expert assessment of the situation. This assessment would be carried out by SALW expert teams in close co-operation with the requesting government and, if present, the OSCE field mission, and should be based on the procedures set out in the SALW Document, Section V paragraph (C) 1. The report of the initial assessment, which will be conveyed to PC and FSC, will include recommendations for action to be taken.
- (ii) **Step Two.** After this assessment the CiO, with the support of the CPC, should start preparations for a PC decision on specific SALW projects. If SALW actions could be undertaken in accordance with the existing mandate of an OSCE field mission, a PC decision is not needed. FSC expertise could be requested when necessary.
- (iii) **Step Three.** On the basis of a PC decision or the assessment, a detailed analysis of the SALW problems to be tackled should be prepared. This analysis could be carried out through the deployment of a SALW expert team and/or by an existing OSCE field mission. The purpose would be to produce, in consultation with the requesting government, a detailed project plan. The project plan would form the basis either for a supplementary budget request or a request for voluntary contributions.
- (iv) **Step Four.** A project team should be established to implement the project plan. Such a team would report to the CiO/CPC and the OSCE field mission, if involved. In all cases the requesting government should be kept closely informed. If necessary, local experts will be trained. Briefings should be provided on a regular basis to the PC/FSC, voluntary fund donors and government on whose territory the project team is operating.
- (v) **Step Five.** On completion of project, a report of the results will be provided to the PC, the FSC and the government on whose territory the project team is operating, with a view to determining lessons learnt and follow-up action.

C. Elements for further consideration

1. The FSC advises the PC to consider mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the Section V plan through additional financial and personnel resources as well as through training. Such mechanisms could include:
 - The creation of a voluntary fund;
 - The use of mobile teams of SALW experts and of REACT.
2. The FSC proposes to the CiO to write a letter to all participating States introducing the outlined plan and encouraging them to make use of the mechanism.
3. The CPC is requested to stand ready to provide and co-ordinate expert assistance on SALW issues to the participating States directly and/or through the missions when requested. The CPC is tasked to establish and maintain a roster of available SALW experts. The CPC is

further urged to raise awareness of the OSCE Document on SALW within OSCE structures, including through the facilitation of training.

4. Once approved, the FSC recommends that other relevant international actors are informed about the Section V plan in order to enhance international co-ordination and co-operation in the SALW field.

A PLAN FOR MAKING SECTION V OF THE SALW DOCUMENT OPERATIONAL

1. Initial assessment of the SALW situation in the participating State that has requested assistance

- Requesting participating State (request for action on its territory)/CiO/SALW expert team/Mission
- PC/FSC will be consulted

2. Agreement of the need to use SALW measures provided in Section V of the document

- Start preparations for a PC Decision on specific SALW projects, if required
- CiO/CPC/SALW expert teams/Mission/requesting participating State
- FSC expertise when necessary

3. Production of the Project Plans

- Based on the assessment of the SALW problem
 - Need for SALW collection programme
 - Need for reduction programme
 - Need for awareness programme
 - Need to increase stockpile security
 - Need to improve border control
 - Need for assistance (development of legislation, arms registers, training of key personnel)
- Financing
- Personnel

4. Implementation of the Project plan

- The PC, FSC and the requesting government will be informed
- CiO/CPC/Mission supervision
- Work of the project teams
- Training of the local experts

5. Final Assessment and possible further measures

- PC/FSC considerations of possible follow-up actions