



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 745 Vienna, 12 February 2014

EU Statement on Fighting Illicit Maritime SALW Trafficking

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Mr Simon Delfau from the French Vessel Owners Corporation to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thanks him for his insightful presentation. We would also like to thank the FSC Chairmanship Malta for having brought to its agenda the topical issue of fighting against the illicit maritime trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

Today the international community, including the European Union, is increasingly involved in combatting trafficking of illicit SALW, especially in the Mediterranean region, where new security threats are emerging and supply as well as demand for illicit SALW is growing. This goes hand in hand with criminal trafficking of people, drugs and other illicit commodities.

We agree with the assessment of the French Vessel Owners Corporation that better control over the application of the existing safety and security norms is needed in order to tackle the risks related to illicit trafficking of conventional arms, their parts, components, and ammunition. In this respect, we need to strengthen operational links at national level between export control, customs, security authorities and intelligence agencies. We also need at regional and international level to improve information sharing, standardisations of norms and control procedures and better cooperation between different government authorities. This aspect could be considered by the FSC for future work.

In this context, strengthened dialogue between shipping industry representatives, national authorities and relevant international organisations on addressing illicit transfers and sharing of information is of primary importance.

This is why the European Union welcomes the Code of Conduct of the French Vessel Owners Corporation, whose adoption had been encouraged and supported by the French Ministry of Defence, and hope that the shipping industry and international carriers will follow your lead. It is a good example how private sector can contribute to strengthening international procedures, monitoring and prevention of illegal transport of conventional arms.

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 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.