



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 642 Vienna, 6 April 2011

#### **EU statement on the request for OSCE assistance by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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The EU welcomes initiatives aimed at creating a safer environment, in particular those that promote the secure storage and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition.

The EU has been at the forefront of international efforts in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina's endeavours to improve her arms export control practices and to address problems relating to the excessive accumulation of SALW and ammunition and their poor management.

The EU is working with Bosnia and Herzegovina on a number of different projects. In March 2010 the Council of the EU adopted Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP on activities in the Western Balkans. As part of the Council Decision to be implemented by the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the control of SALW (SEESAC), the EU supports the organization of regional training modules on SALW stockpile management. This training will be offered to inspection teams and officers. The aim of the training modules is to introduce relevant national personnel to international best practices in stockpile management.

Within the framework of the 2010 Council Decision, the EU has been providing financial support for improving security at SALW and ammunition storage sites. The project activities will assist also Bosnia and Herzegovina, among other states, in procuring and installing the necessary equipment for securing weapons and ammunition stockpiles. In addition, through the Instrument for Stability, the EU has been contributing to a UNDP programme, which includes activities to

assist with the improvement of stockpile management and the destruction of surpluses of conventional ammunition.

In the area of conventional arms export control, the EU continues to engage with countries in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe to promote the criteria of its Common Position on the control of exports of military technology and equipment. A series of regional outreach seminars, study visits and staff exchange have been organized over the past three years, with the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU encourages all participating States to consider the possibility of providing further assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of conventional arms export control and in the field of SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile management.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and SERBIA, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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

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