



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°855  
Vienna, 31 May 2017**

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**EU Statement on Impact of Scientific and Technological  
Progress on Security and Arms Control**

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The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their interesting and comprehensive presentations. We commend the FSC Chairmanship for putting the topic on the FSC agenda.

Developments in science and technology have an enormous impact on our societies. Technological developments and scientific progress create challenges, but also offer solutions to many problems our societies are confronted with. Only two weeks ago, we had the opportunity to exchange views and share experience on measures to prevent the uncontrolled spread of SALW. In this context, we would like to underline that technology can and should contribute to mitigating the risk of diversion, illicit trafficking and the unauthorised use of small arms and light weapons. Technology is one aspect in a broad set of measures that needs to be taken up in the upcoming Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in SALW. In March this year the EU funded a seminar on Developments in SALW Technology and Design and their implications for countering diversion. The outcome of this seminar will feed into the revision of the EU's 2005 anti-SALW trafficking Strategy.

On April 3 the Council of the European Union adopted a Decision in support of the UN Programme of Action on SALW<sup>1</sup>. This decision will support UNODA in organising, among other activities, a global thematic symposium on recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design and resulting challenges and

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<sup>1</sup> [Council Decision 2017/633](#)

opportunities for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. This event will involve the SALW-industry and other relevant stakeholders.

The EU promotes responsibility and transparency in arms export control as well as adherence to the highest regional and international standards, including the EU Common Position on arms export control, as well as the Arms Trade Treaty, which we again encourage all our OSCE partners to join. The EU has also included the Wassenaar Arrangement control lists in its legislation and practices and the Wassenaar Arrangement Elements for Objective Analysis concerning Potentially Destabilising Accumulations of Conventional Weapons are consistent with the EU User's Guide on the implementation of the Common Position on the control of exports of military technology and equipment.

Furthermore, the EU controls the export, transit and brokering of dual-use items as a key instrument contributing to international peace and security. Export controls also need to adjust to rapid technological and scientific developments and transformations in global economic relations. In this context, following a wide-ranging export control policy review initiated in 2013, the European Commission adopted last year (28 September) a proposal for a modernisation of the EU export control system of dual-use items, which is currently under discussion in the Council and the European Parliament. The aim of this reform is to continue to make sure that exports are not misused to threaten international security or undermine human rights.

We appreciate the opportunity for continued dialogue with the Wassenaar Arrangement which plays an important role in promoting transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual use goods, thus helping prevent destabilising accumulations.

Mr. Chairman, both the Wassenaar Arrangement and the OSCE work towards the same goal of contributing to regional and international security and stability, by promoting transparency and greater responsibility of its participating States while using their respective, specific tools. We underline in this context the need to fully implement and further develop our existing OSCE politico-military commitments, including those related to CAC/CSBMs and SALW/SCA.

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, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA 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.