

**59th JOINT MEETING OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1. Date: Wednesday, 1 July 2015

Opened: 4.05 p.m.
Closed: 5.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador S. Milačić (FSC) (Montenegro)
Ambassador V. Žugić (PC) (Serbia)

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson (PC), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Monaco, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC-PC.DEL/2/15), the Holy See, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Belarus, Canada, the United States of America, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly expressed condolences to Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation) and France in connection with the recent terrorist attacks in those countries.

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: REGIONAL DYNAMICS OF ARMS TRAFFICKING
THROUGH THE PRISM OF BORDER SECURITY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Presentations by Mr. E. Sánchez Merchán, Ministry of the Interior of Spain, and by Ms. Q. Hanlon, President and Executive Director of the Strategic Capacity Group: Chairperson (FSC), Mr. E. Sánchez Merchán, Ms. Q. Hanlon, Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association

1 Includes a correction to the list of countries aligned with the statement by Luxembourg-European Union in agenda item 1.

Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC-PC.DEL/1/15/Rev.1), Switzerland (Annex 1), Turkey, Italy (Annex 2), Russian Federation, United States of America, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Spain)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Monday, 13 July 2015, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/46/Corr.1
1 July 2015
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

59th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 46, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Chairpersons,
Distinguished guest speakers,
Excellencies and dear colleagues,

Switzerland welcomes Mr. Esteban Sánchez Merchán from the Ministry of the Interior of Spain and Dr. Querine Hanlon, President and Executive Director of the Strategic Capacity Group, to today's Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council (PC).

The two thought-provoking presentations delivered by the distinguished guest speakers are timely and very welcome, as they build on several Security Dialogues addressing the same topic. These dialogues were organized by former FSC Chairmanships, by a Joint Session of the FSC and the PC that was organized by the Monaco FSC Chairmanship and the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship in late 2014, by the Inaugural Conference on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the OSCE Region, which was held in 2013 by the OSCE together with INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), as well as by regional follow-up seminars to that conference, which have been held regularly since last year.

The OSCE has proven tools for addressing challenges in connection with small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). The assistance mechanisms on SALW and SCA are practical and effective procedures for enhancing stability and security.

As a neutral non-aligned State, Switzerland has a vital interest in ensuring that compliance with international law takes precedence over military might in international relations. Therefore Switzerland's arms control and disarmament policy is a central pillar of its security policy. Our country's priorities in this field include combating illicit arms trafficking. In the field of small arms and light weapons, the Swiss policy is two-fold: on the one hand we are committed to combating the illegal trade in small arms, and on the other hand, we support all measures aimed at preventing small arms and light weapons from finding their way into the hands of certain groups in regions where there is tension and unrest.

Switzerland is concerned about the increased risks in the Mediterranean region stemming from illicit trafficking in arms and related ammunition due to recent developments in the Maghreb and Middle East regions. Uncontrolled proliferation of arms is a serious threat to human security and intensifies and prolongs armed conflicts, mainly those with an intra-State character. It obstructs the provision of first aid to those who need it most and facilitates organized crime and terrorist movements.

Switzerland therefore welcomes the United States' initiative to enable the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation using procedures outlined in the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. We hope that we will reach the necessary consensus in the FSC in due course.

Switzerland stands ready to support and assist field projects that address threats stemming from SALW and SCA in the Mediterranean region.

For the greatest effectiveness in combating arms trafficking, synergies have to be found between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations, and the different tools must be applied in a harmonized and complementary way to avoid duplication. Switzerland was among the first signatory States to the Arms Trade Treaty and has ratified this agreement at the national level.

Thank you for your attention.

We kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/46/Corr.1
1 July 2015
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

59th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 46, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished keynote speakers,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like, at the outset, to express Italy's sincere appreciation to the Montenegrin and Serbian Chairmanships for convening this Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council (PC) to discuss arms trafficking in the Mediterranean region. In this regard, I would like to mention the landmark 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Fight against Terrorism in the Mediterranean Region, which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

First of all, I would like to reiterate Italy's enduring commitment to actively participating in multilateral efforts aimed at curbing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW), with particular reference to this Organization, the United Nations and the G7. United Nations Security Council resolution 2220, adopted just one month ago, is the latest of many resolutions dealing with SALW. It clearly highlights the threat posed to peace and international security by the destabilizing flow of such weapons.

Italy believes that the OSCE participating States have progressively developed a core of common understandings and best practices that might be of great use in shaping a consensus at the global level. Hence the pivotal role played, as stressed by the same resolution, by regional and subregional organizations.

Furthermore, Italy welcomes the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2195 concerning the fight against transnational threats including terrorism, organized crime and the trafficking of weapons.

Madam Chairperson,

The Mediterranean region, especially on its southern shore, continues to be affected by armed violence fuelled by the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Italy lies at the intersection of many trafficking routes criss-crossing the region, most of them also used by transnational organized crime organizations for drug and human smuggling. We have witnessed with great concern the proliferation of conventional arms stemming from the former Libyan regime's arsenals. It has largely contributed to the destabilization of Mali and

is threatening security in many adjacent countries in North Africa, in the Sahel and in the Middle East.

One of the biggest accumulations in recent times of small arms and light weapons, including man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and of conventional ammunition stocks is now occurring in Libya. It is estimated to be the largest in the world for a non-producing country. Arms and ammunition originating from this country have been identified in Tunisia, Algeria, Mali, Nigeria, Chad, Egypt and Syria. The illicit flow of weapons, drugs and migrants has indeed clustered around certain hubs in Libya, and is producing socio-economic effects as well as security ones.

The smuggling of arms, drug and migrants are closely interconnected and the proliferation of illicit arms has transformed all other criminal activities. A long-standing arms embargo has not prevented the growth of trafficking of Libyan arms. Arms trafficking out of the country is having a negative impact on regional and international peace and security as weapons are being smuggled out to arm a range of insurgent movements across the Middle East and Africa.

Given the current situation in the Sahel and North Africa and the cross-border nature of the accumulation of such weapons and ammunition, the only way forward for the international community is to secure arms, provide capacity-building to border guards and the police, and to increase regional co-operation.

Under the leadership of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the international community is already considering the establishment of a technical framework to assist the Libyan Government in addressing the control of arms and ammunition in Libya.

We stand ready to assist Libya, as well as other States, in implementing their border security and weapons control capacity.

Madam Chairperson,

In this context, the OSCE cross-dimensional approach and its well-developed toolbox of OSCE documents and field experience in issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), namely the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA and their respective handbooks of best practice guides, can be extremely effective in curbing the illicit proliferation of weapons in the Mediterranean area and in securing arms and ammunition stockpiles.

As recent events have unfortunately proved, terrorism is still the greatest threat to security and stability in the 21st century. Over the years, this Organization has placed a special emphasis on closing loopholes allowing terrorists to acquire SALW, and MANPADS. Among others, I wish to recall, in particular, three major documents: “The OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS”, “The OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons” and the “Standard Elements of End-User Certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW Exports”.

All these documents represent an outstanding OSCE contribution to the ongoing international effort aimed at curbing the proliferation of lethal weapons as well as at

hindering their transfer to terrorist and criminal organizations. The record of implementation of these documents by the participating States and by the field missions is outstanding.

Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14, approved at the Basel Ministerial Council last December, encourages the participating States to explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and SCA.

Promoting security and stability in the Mediterranean is crucial to the overall security of the OSCE region and terrorism knows no borders. The security of participating States does not stop at the shores of Sicily. Let us be prepared to join our partners in the fight against this heinous threat.

I kindly ask you, Madam Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.