

**363rd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 369, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 11/02  
PREPARATION OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDES ON  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00), in which participating States agreed to consider the development of best practice guides on certain aspects related to the control of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the contribution that the elaboration of best practices in the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) could make to the OSCE's efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, and recalling in this respect paragraph 8 of the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism adopted at the Ministerial Council (Annex to MC(9).DEC/1) on 4 December 2001,

Recalling that the Report of the Chairperson of the Workshop on the Implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DEL/99/02), held on 4 and 5 February 2002, reiterated the clear need for the development of best practice guides in certain key areas related to the control of SALW,

Taking into consideration the Proposal for the Structure of a Best Practice Handbook (FSC.DEL/301/02),

Noting the value of best practice guides on SALW as model practices which could serve as a guide for national policy-making by participating States, and as a means to encourage higher common standards of practice among all participating States,

Decides to:

- Develop best practice guides on certain aspects related to the control of SALW, reflecting the structure of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and, where appropriate, drawing on the information exchanged by participating States;

- Take into account existing work on best practice regarding SALW conducted by other international organizations and, if appropriate, relevant non-governmental organizations, and avoid any unnecessary duplication with such initiatives;
- Encourage interested participating States to undertake the preparation of a best practice guide on each of the following aspects: national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacture; national export and import policy; national control of brokering activities; national procedures for stockpile-management and security; definitions for indicators of a surplus; techniques and procedures for destruction; and small arms measures as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;
- Task the Conflict Prevention Centre to provide technical assistance to participating States for the preparation of best practice guides and ensure the overall co-ordination of the related work, including final editing if necessary;
- Review these best practice guides in Working Group B and consider subsequently their compilation in a single document;
- Complete this task as early as possible and preferably by the end of March 2003;
- Task the FSC Chair to report on the progress of the implementation of this decision to the next meeting of the Ministerial Council in December 2002.