



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 759 Vienna, 2 July 2014 EU Statement on Small Arms and Light Weapons

The European Union (EU) would like to warmly welcome today's speakers Mr. Brian Montebello from Malta and Mr. Thomas Göbel from Germany and thank them for their presentations on the topical issues of strengthening export control of Small Arms and Light Weapons transported by sea as well as the outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action on SALW.

We appreciate this opportunity to further discuss the challenges stemming from the illicit maritime trafficking of SALW as well as to welcome once again the good practice established in this regard by the former Maltese FSC Chairmanship.

Combatting illicit maritime trafficking, including through strengthened export control of SALW, is an important but also demanding task for the international community since requiring highly coordinated efforts and cooperation at both national and multilateral level. In particular, scrupulously complying with international obligations and commitments and making full use of their relevant export control provisions is of key importance. We would like therefore to commend the government of Malta for the impressive work it has realised in this respect.

In general, Europe's maritime security is a crucial domain in which all European States face significant risks and threats such as illegal migration, drug trafficking, smuggling of goods, including conventional arms and their ammunition, terrorism, maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea. Thus, individual States and the international community in general are due to redouble efforts in order to tackle these challenges and to ensure the security in the maritime domain.

To be a credible and effective partner, the European Union has also undertaken systematic efforts to put in place a comprehensive, coherent, functional and cost-effective approach to maritime security which has been laid down in the EU Maritime Security Strategy adopted on 24 June 2014.

Furthermore, we are of the opinion that the discussions, initiated by the Maltese FSC Chairmanship, on maritime illicit trafficking of SALW should be continued in order to better understand how these important aspects could be reflected into the OSCE comprehensive approach to security.

Mr. Chairman,

We concur with the positive assessment of the outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-5) on the UN Programme of Action on SALW as expressed by Mr. Thomas Göbel. We welcome its adoption and are pleased that it reflects a number of issues which have been high on the EU agenda as presented, inter alia, at the FSC meeting on 28 May 2014. At the same time, we regret that other priority topics for the EU, such as ammunition, reference to UNSCR 2117, integrating stockpile management in wider SSR programmes, as well as synergies and complementarities between the UN PoA and the ATT, could not be reflected in the final text. Nevertheless, the European Union looks forward to discussing these issues at the next Biennial Meeting on the UN PoA.

We also welcome the impressive achievements of the OSCE in the implementation of the UN PoA, as outlined in the statement by the FSC Chairmanship at the BMS-5, and remain ready to actively contribute to addressing the challenges still lying ahead of us, in particular with a view to further improving the implementation of our SALW commitments and their harmonisation with relevant UN developments.

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, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and MONACO 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.