



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Fight against Terrorism in the Mediterranean Region



Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27 - 28 October 2014

Consolidated Summary

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1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held on 27 and 28 October 2014, at Hotel Sunce, in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

1.2.1 22 OSCE participating States, including Italy/EU, took part in the Conference.

1.2.2 The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation were represented by Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Morocco.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat participated in the Conference, as did the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.2.4 The following international organizations were represented: UNDP, UNHCR and UNODC.

1.2.5 At the invitation of the host country, representatives of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, the Palestinian National Authority, the Office of the High Representative, and Saudi Arabia took part in the Conference.

1.2.6 Representatives of non-governmental organizations were able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

1.3.1 The Conference began at 9.00 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 27 October 2014 and ended at 1 p.m. on 28 October 2014.

1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in four sessions. The third session had two parts.

1.3.3 Each session had a chairperson and a rapporteur.

1.3.4 The working language was English. At the request of several participating States, interpretation was provided from and into French.

1.3.5 Arrangements were made for press coverage.

1.3.6 The rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

^{*)} See chapter 4, list of participants.

1.4 Press release

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PRESS RELEASE

OSCE's dedication to security dialogue in Mediterranean remains strong – says Secretary General Zannier

VIENNA, 28 October 2014 – “Challenges facing us are too big for any single country or region to tackle them alone. Co-operation and common action are an absolute necessity”, said OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier at the 20th Annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference, taking place on 27/28 October in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The conference on “Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Fight against Terrorism in the Mediterranean Region” gathered representatives of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia), OSCE participating States, international organizations and NGOs.

“OSCE's dedication to security dialogue in the Mediterranean remains strong”, said Zannier. “Complex and often interrelated challenges confronts our regions, including the Syrian refugee crisis; terrorism and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters; trafficking in arms, drugs, and people across our regions; as well as alarming levels of migration throughout the Mediterranean, with direct impact on a number of participating States.”

Participants discussed challenges associated with arms trafficking; illicit trading routes in the OSCE region and other affected areas and identified possible measures and tools to fight these threats.

Secretary General Zannier also highlighted that the tragedies and challenges of the Ukrainian crisis that have tested but also proved the relevance of the OSCE's role in European security, while not detracting from the Organization's efforts to promote a broader dialogue on Euro-Mediterranean stability. “Our response to the events in and around Ukraine has highlighted the important role the OSCE plays in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security”.

The speakers at the opening were: Deputy Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ana Trišić Babić, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council Ambassador Thomas Greminger of Switzerland, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Chairperson of the Mediterranean Group of Contact Ambassador Vuk Žugić and Dijana Vukomanović Head of Serbian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

More information on the Conference can be found at <http://www.osce.org/networks/121728>.

For PDF attachments or links to sources of further information, please visit:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/126091>

2 Agenda

Introduction

Following the discussion in the framework of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in 2012, the OSCE Mediterranean Conference focused primarily on one of the three dimensions of security, on a rotational basis. Since the 2013 OSCE Mediterranean Conference was focused on enhancing the role of women in public, political and economic life (third dimension), the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference focused on the first dimension of security (politico-military). It provided opportunities for the sharing of views and experiences among the OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners in view of identifying avenues for concrete co-operation and providing for exchange of best practices. The Conference pursued a participatory approach, with limited time devoted to presentations of keynote speakers, and substantive inputs and exchanges from the floor. All participants were encouraged to actively contribute to the discussions.

Monday, 27 October 2014

8.30–9.00 Registration of participants

9.00–9:45 **Opening session**

- H.E. Ms. **Ana Trišić-Babić**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Ambassador **Thomas Greminger**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Switzerland
- H.E. Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Chairperson of the Mediterranean Group of Contact, Serbia
- Ms. **Dijana Vukomanović**, Head of the Serbian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, on behalf of the OSCE PA
- H.E. Ambassador **Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General of the OSCE

9:45–10.15 Coffee Break

10.15–12.30 **Session I The Issue at Stake – Current and Emerging Threats In Small Arms and Light Weapons Illicit Trafficking**

Proliferation of illicit SALW fuels conflicts, prevents long lasting peace and inhibits socio-economic development and rehabilitation of conflict inflicted regions. The existence of porous borders, inadequate stockpile management and security and other factors contribute to smuggling and trafficking of such weapons across borders. This session explored challenges associated with arms trafficking, as well as discussed

possibilities for enhancing co-operation between the OSCE and Mediterranean Partners in this regard.

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador **Claude Giordan**, Monaco, Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation

Rapporteur: Dr. **Emiliano Alessandri**, Program Officer, Track II-OSCE Mediterranean Dialogue, Office of the Secretary General

Speakers:

- *“Measures taken by Algeria to prevent, combat and eliminate the uncontrolled circulation of SALW”*, by General **Mohamed Metalaoui**, Chargé de Mission au Ministère de la Défense nationale, en charge de la lutte contre le commerce illicite des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre.
- *“Trafficking of SALW in the OSCE region”*, by Mr. **Nicholas Marsh**, Research Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
- *“Fighting against Illicit Trafficking of SALW in the Mediterranean Region”*, by Lt. **Esteban Sanchez Merchan**, Ministry of Interior, Spain
- *“OSCE work on SALW and possibilities for closer engagement with OSCE Partners for Cooperation”*, by LtC. **Mark Barlow** (USA), FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA
- *“Improving SALW OSCE Commitments in the Mediterranean Region”*, by Maj. **Magin Alvarez** (Spain), Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW

12.30–14.15 **Side event on “Protection at sea”**, chaired by Mr. **Frank Remus**, Head of UNHCR Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN Agencies

Lunch Break

14.15-15.30 **Session II SALW Illicit Trafficking: Routes and Modalities**

Security situation and arms trafficking have a reciprocal direct effect on each other. Therefore, studying and analysing both have a crucial importance. Following from the previous session, this session looked into trafficking routes and modalities in the OSCE region and other affected areas with a view to identifying possible measures and tools to fight it.

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador **Khaled Shamaa**, Egypt

Rapporteur: Ms. **Nevena Jovanovic**, Permanent Mission of Serbia to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Ms. **Dana Benvenisti-Gabay**, Director of Regional Security and Anti-Terrorism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel
- Mr. **James Bevan**, Conflict Armament Research (CAR), Director -- "*IS weapons and ammunition in Iraq and Syria*",
- Mr. **Diman Dimov**, Project Coordinator, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) -- "*UNODC Global Study on Firearms Trafficking*"

15.30–16.00

Coffee Break

16.00–17.45

Session III Counter-Terrorism: Shared Experience and enhancing Co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners

Chairperson: H. E. Ambassador **Keith Azzopardi**, Malta

Rapporteur: Mr. **Yachar Nafissi-Azar**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Part A)

The OSCE has recently conducted one Mediterranean Regional Counter-Terrorism Expert Workshop in Malaga (2013) and one in Malta (2014). Participants discussed regional challenges regarding legal and operational issues, and shared their expertise and good practices. OSCE Mediterranean Partners, drawing from the discussions held in those workshops, presented their views on the current and potential avenues of co-operation with the OSCE. Presentations focused on the implementation of the international legal framework, particularly UNSCR 1373 that called States, *inter alia*, to intensify the exchange of information, especially regarding actions or movements of terrorist persons, forged or falsified travel documents, and traffic in arms, explosives or sensitive materials. In this regard, the OSCE has at its disposal relevant programmes to Support the Implementation of the Universal Anti-terrorism Legal Framework and the Use of its Tools for Co-operation in Criminal Matters as well as on Travel Document Security.

Speakers:

- Algeria: H.E. Ambassador **Mohamed Benhocine**
 - Egypt: H.E. Ambassador **Khaled Shamaa**
 - Israel: Ms. **Dana Benvenisti-Gabay**, Director of Regional Security and Anti-Terrorism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Jordan: H.E. Ambassador **Hussam Al Hussein**
 - Morocco: Mr. **Mohammed Slaoui**, Deputy Head of Mission
- Discussion

Part B)

Presentation on “*Foreign Fighters*”, by Dr. **Lorenzo Vidino**, Senior Fellow at the Center for Security Studies of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

19.30 Buffet dinner hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

9.30–11.30 **Session IV Enhancing the Role of Women in Public, Political and Economic Life (follow-up to the Mediterranean Conference 2013)**

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador **Mohamed Benhocine**, Algeria

Rapporteur: Ms. **Aisling Schorderet**, Attachee, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Ms. **Beatriz Balbin**, First Deputy Director of ODIHR
- Ms. **Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić**, Director of the Agency on Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ms. **Dijana Vukomanović**, Head of the Serbian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

11.30–12.00 Coffee Break

12.00–13.00 **Closing session**

- H.E. Ambassador **Thomas Greminger**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Head of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the International Organizations
- H.E. Ambassador **Gunnajav Batjargal**, Helsinki + 40 Co-ordinator on “*Increase interaction with the Partners for Co-operation and with international and regional organisations working in similar fields*”, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the OSCE
- H.E. Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Chairperson of the Mediterranean Contact Group, Head of the Permanent Mission of Serbia to the OSCE
- H.E. Ambassador **Tomislav Leko**, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE

13.30–15.00 Buffet lunch hosted by the OSCE Secretariat

3 Summary of the opening ceremony

Report by Dr. Loïc Simonet, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The Conference was opened by Ms. **Ana Trišić-Babić**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. Trišić-Babić welcomed the participants in Neum and expressed her gratitude to the organizers of the Conference, underlining the support provided by the OSCE mission in Sarajevo.

Underlining the need to put together available resources in strengthening international co-operation and improving coordination among stakeholders, the Deputy Minister called for establishing mechanisms for information sharing to effectively monitor the trade in small arms and light weapons, to combat illicit transactions and to take appropriate measures against individuals and groups engaged in illegal SALW trafficking. She summarized the efforts made with that regard by Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is an active participant in initiatives associated with the South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC), and has ratified a month ago the Arms Trade Treaty.

Ms. Trišić-Babić also called for international solidarity to tackle the causes that provide violent extremist groups the opportunity to take roots. It is necessary to create a comprehensive strategy to stem the flow of terrorists and terrorist groups, in particular of foreign terrorist fighters, she said, mentioning recent UNSC Res. 2178.

It is a necessity that all States of the region accept and implement the international standards regarding SALW illicit trafficking and fight against terrorism, the Deputy Minister concluded.

Ambassador **Thomas Greminger**, Chairman of the Permanent Council, then introduced the agenda of the Conference.

Ambassador Greminger took stock of the regional seminars on counter-terrorism held in Malaga in 2013 and in Malta in 2014, and recalled the perception paper on women empowerment in political and economic life, issued by the Swiss Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2013.

The Chairman of the PC made a comprehensive assessment of the Organization's involvement in Ukraine. Six weeks before the OSCE Ministerial Council, he also mentioned the draft Ministerial Declaration on the Mediterranean Partnership due to be adopted in Basel. He summarized the decisions and other declarations to be adopted at the MC: on kidnapping for ransom, in the framework of UNSC Res. 2133 (2014), on foreign terrorist fighters, on the addendum on violence against women to the related OSCE Plan of Action.

Finally, Ambassador Greminger welcomed Ambassador Batjargal of Mongolia, in his capacity as Helsinki + 40 Co-ordinator on "*Increase interaction with the Partners for Co-operation and*

with international and regional organisations working in similar fields”, and expressed the wish that the discussion at the Conference could allow him to feed his cluster.

Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Permanent Representative of Serbia, welcomed the participants in his capacity as Chairperson of the Mediterranean Group of Contact. He recalled the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015, and the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Budapest Summit, where the Contact Group for co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners was created. He also put the 2014 Mediterranean Conference in the framework of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, which has underlined the importance of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue on important security issues.

Ambassador Žugić also expressed Serbia’s commitment to pursuing and strengthening co-operation with its Mediterranean neighbours on security matters, including through the OSCE, whenever the Organization can be of assistance. He particularly insisted on the continuing need to find ways to uphold and update the OSCE SALW commitments in the light of, *inter alia*, relevant UN documents. On counter-terrorism, he stressed the importance of implementing the existing international framework of legal instruments. He used this opportunity to condemn in strongest terms the ISIL/Da’esh, which extreme brutality negates Islamic values and poses a deadly threat to the broader Middle East, the OSCE region and the world as a whole.

Finally, the Chairman of the Mediterranean Group of Contact reassured once again the Partners that their views and positions would be taken into due consideration, to the greatest extent possible, during the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship next year.

Ms. **Dijana Vukomanovic**, Head of the Serbian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, underlined the role of the OSCE PA by further prioritizing closer co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners, including by welcoming Libya’s application to the Partnership. In particular, she recalled PA’s last Mediterranean Forum held in Geneva earlier this month, on *“Facing current challenges to security in the Mediterranean region: the OSCE model”*. She encouraged the Partners to use the framework and mechanisms of the OSCE, including those devoted to conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation.

However, Ms. Vukomanovic assessed that two preconditions should be met for a successful and well-coordinated effort by the OSCE to build confidence and ensure stability in the Euro-Mediterranean region:

- First, the OSCE model of co-operative security can be proposed to – but not imposed upon – the Mediterranean region;
- Second, no progress can be achieved without the active contribution of the OSCE Partners themselves.

The discussion was opened by **Secretary General Lamberto Zannier**.

The SG thanked Germany, Serbia, Spain and Switzerland for their generous financial support. He underlined that the OSCE response to the events in and around Ukraine has again highlighted the effectiveness of OSCE as a platform for dialogue, while underscoring the OSCE’s

operational flexibility and the relevance of the entire OSCE toolbox. He also insisted on the complex and often interrelated challenges confronting the Mediterranean region, which make co-operation and common action an absolute necessity. In this spirit, he welcomed the offer made by Malta to host a possible OSCE Centre of Excellence for capacity-building and interaction in addressing common security challenges in the Mediterranean region, and foresaw possibilities for further co-operation with the League of Arab States and the Union for the Mediterranean.

SG Zannier also recalled recent and forthcoming OSCE events of interest for the Mediterranean Partners, such as the regional Mediterranean expert workshop on “*Terrorist Kidnapping and Hostage Taking*” in Malta, the needs assessment visit in Tunisia on closer co-operation on small arms and light weapons and counter-terrorism, or the seminar for judges on trafficking in human beings as well as the conference on criminal justice responses to terrorism, both organised in partnership with UNODC and hosted by Israel. In December, a workshop in Vienna dedicated to the second dimension will focus on the management of transboundary water resources – an issue of growing importance both inside and outside the OSCE region.

The SG acknowledged ODIHR’s role in promoting practical co-operation in the framework of the project on “Promoting democratic structures among OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation” in Tunisia. He recalled his intention to organize a Security Day next year, devoted to tolerance and interfaith dialogue, in close co-operation with ODIHR and in partnership with a group of partner organizations, such as the League of Arab States, the Organization for Islamic Co-operation, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, perhaps also the King Abdullah International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID).

SG Zannier commented further on the OSCE Track II initiative, in the follow-up of the conference held in Rome to discuss the future of OSCE-Mediterranean cooperation. He mentioned the bilateral meeting he had with Ambassador Fathallah Sijilmassi, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, in the margins of this event.

Finally, the SG brought the participants’ attention to the comprehensive brochure about the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, that his Secretariat is currently elaborating.

4 Reports by session rapporteurs

4.1 Session I The Issue at Stake – Current and Emerging Threats in Small Arms and Light Weapons Illicit Trafficking

Report by Dr. Emiliano Alessandri, Programme Officer, Track II-OSCE Mediterranean Dialogue, Office of the OSCE Secretary General

In his opening remarks, **Ambassador Claude Giordan** of Monaco, underlined the importance that SALW have in discussions taking place in the Forum for Security Co-operation, which Monaco currently chairs. The goal, he underlined, is to fully involve Mediterranean Partners in action-oriented dialogue on these issues on a voluntary basis. This is especially important as the Mediterranean region, to which Monaco attaches great importance, provides the route for much of the illicit trafficking of SALW.

The first presentation was delivered by **General Mohamed Metallaoui**, Chargé of Mission at the Ministry of National Defense of Algeria. In his comprehensive assessment of the issue, Gen. Matallaoui drew attention to the links between SALW, terrorist activities, organized crime, and ongoing large-scale military conflicts in the MENA region and Africa. He underlined that illicit trafficking of SALW not only poses a threat to state security, but may also have a detrimental impact on socio-economic conditions of the affected countries. He stressed Algeria's resolute efforts in countering the phenomenon, according to an approach that is both integrated and global. Three principles guide Algeria's strategy: a strong legal action to further delimit and regulate the fabrication, possession, exportation, importation, and transit of SALW; an effective and adjusted operational component, which has focused particular attention on Algeria's southern and south-eastern borders; a complementary strategy targeting socio-economic development and good governance as countervailing forces to stem the phenomenon of trafficking, including of SALW.

As the issue of SALW is clearly trans-national, Algeria has been at the forefront of regional and international initiatives aimed at fostering the exchange of information and cooperation. Gen. Metallaoui stressed that the deterioration of Libyan security has exacerbated the issue of trafficking of SALW in North Africa and beyond. In addition to memoranda of cooperation with several of its neighbouring countries, including in the Sahel, Algeria has taken advantage of available Euro-Mediterranean fora, such as the so-called "5+5" dialogue to limit the negative spillovers resulting from this situation. Algeria believes that the resolution of ongoing regional conflicts, starting with the Israeli-Palestinian one, can contribute to a more stable environment in which illicit trafficking of weapons can be more effectively repressed. Algeria has worked also at the global level, such as by sponsoring relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Algeria stands ready to cooperate closely with OSCE partners.

The second presentation was delivered by **Mr Nicholas Marsh**, Research Fellow at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo. Mr Marsh pointed out that, at the macro level, the OSCE region is the theatre of only a relatively low level of organized violence, especially if compared to other parts of the world such as Latin America and Africa. This is the case despite the fact that the OSCE region provides the largest share of global manufacturing of SALW. With some notable

exceptions, illicit trafficking of SALW in the OSCE space is of a small scale and is effectively countered by law enforcement agencies. There is a general lack of dedicated fire arms traffickers in OSCE countries. Illicit weapons are usually trafficked by criminals to facilitate other crimes, such as drug trade. Even in areas of the OSCE space where illicit trafficking of SALW is more pronounced, there is limited evidence of fabrication of weapons for the irregular market. Larger quantities and more sophisticated arms have been detected in areas in which regular military conflict has taken place, such as the Caucasus and, most recently, Ukraine.

In contrast to the OSCE space, neighbouring regions are more pervasively affected by SALW. In addition to the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean regions, Afghanistan poses a particular challenge. Flows from the OSCE space to these regions are not entirely negligible, although uneven. A larger problem, however, deals with the licensing and authorization of arms in Europe which are later introduced into the illicit market in neighbouring regions, often after regular international purchase. Mr Marsh underlined that while the OSCE space has achieved satisfactory levels of SALW control, attention should be paid to proliferation of arms in neighbouring regions, especially as concerns weapons that lie in between the category of SALW and more sophisticated, heavier equipment. Peace processes should continue to pay great attention to securing and destroying illegally possessed weapons. New technologies, among which 3D printing, may in the future heighten the risk of illegal production of SALW.

The third presentation was delivered by **Lt. Estaban Sanchez Merchan**, from the Ministry of Interior of Spain. Lt Merchan shared the experience of the Spanish Guardia Civil and emphasized that firearms trafficking is a “cut-crossing” offense and that is often associated with the phenomenon of “multi-criminals”. Gauging the phenomenon in quantitative terms already poses a difficult challenge but scales and volumes are such to put the illicit trafficking of SALW among major insecurity trends affecting Spain and other countries of the EU/OSCE zone. There are probably around 80 million loose weapons in the world.

Lt Merchan’s presentation drew particular attention to the issue of re-activation of deactivated or retired weapons, which may take place illegally or by exploiting loopholes in legislation. This risk imposes the adoption of more rigorous rules at the domestic level and the harmonization of national legislations. The presentation also emphasized the need to develop a more systematic form of cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries, a goal which Spain has fully embraced and is implementing. Databases such as the ones developed by iArms, eTrace, or the Schengen Information System could be explored at the Euro-Mediterranean level. At the operational level, the activities of Interpol and Europol could be facilitated by closer coordination with law enforcement agencies in Southern Mediterranean countries. Lt Merchan also mentioned EMPACT as a praise-worthy international initiative. The “deep web”, 3D printing, and “virtual currencies” were identified as aggravating factors, providing new tools and venues for illicit SALW production and trade.

The fourth presentation was delivered by **LtC. Mark Barlow**, FSC Co-ordinator for projects on SALW and SCA. LtC. Barlow underscored the relevance of OSCE documents concerning SALW and the effectiveness of OSCE support and assistance mechanisms. The current procedure for participating States for requesting assistance is straightforward and fairly simple to use. A questionnaire requires to first identify the problem and specify the role that the OSCE can

play together with the national country. After extensive consultations, if accepted the request is followed by an assessment visit conducted by the OSCE. The ensuing report outlines the rationale, content, and scope of possible projects and activities. The OSCE can provide a financial, technical, as well as expert support in the planned activities. A plurality of participating States have been involved in SALW-related OSCE activities and projects are routinely conducted across the OSCE space.

LtC. Barlow drew attention to the Joint Draft Decision that some participating States have tabled that would allow for Mediterranean Partner countries to submit a voluntary request for assistance, to be then evaluated and approved by the OSCE. LtC. Barlow underlined that if adopted, this decision would introduce a formal mechanism for practical cooperation between the OSCE and Mediterranean countries, modelled after the existing mechanism for participating States. As part of the new framework, Mediterranean Partners would be invited to voluntarily comply with the norms and standards contained in relevant OSCE documents. LtC. Barlow stressed that this evolution would not divert resources from projects and initiatives which are available to participating States. The presentation also stressed the OSCE's track record in effectively coordinating with other international institutions and agencies such as UNODC and UNODA.

The closing presentation was delivered by **Maj. Magin Alvarez**, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW. Maj Alvarez reiterated the opinion of other speakers that SALW is an area in which cooperation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners is both desirable and feasible. The presentation drew attention on the continuing relevance of OSCE norms on the subject since a comprehensive framework was adopted fourteen years ago. It was noted that the OSCE framework covers all phases of the life cycle of SALW and addresses all the relevant questions about their control, among which who is responsible for the process, how to implement verification and enforcement, and why this is a critical area for international coordination. Attention was also drawn to the best practices guide that the OSCE has produced to help participating States more effectively implementing existing commitments.

The presentation underlined the cross-dimensional nature of the problem of SALW trafficking and defined a pragmatic approach to its resolution, including through tailor-made approaches to local contexts. In this regard, Maj. Alvarez identified closer coordination with Mediterranean Partners as one of the possibly missing elements in the original OSCE documents on the subject. The spread of transnational terrorism, the advancement of technology, the growing porosity of borders, and the spreading of violence in some Southern Mediterranean countries after the so-called Arab Spring were provided as further reasons for the OSCE to actively engage Mediterranean Partners with a view to finding a common action-oriented approach. In this context, Maj. Alvarez made particular reference to the proactive efforts made by Spain, France, and Malta which have produced a food for thought paper on how to strengthen North-South cooperation on the fight against trafficking of SALW. As 80% of international trade is carried out on the sea, a coordinated Euro-Mediterranean approach should necessarily focus on maritime security as a central component of an anti-trafficking strategy. In order to attain the hoped for results, Public-Private partnerships, starting with the involvement of transport sector agencies in anti-trafficking initiatives, should also become part of the equation.

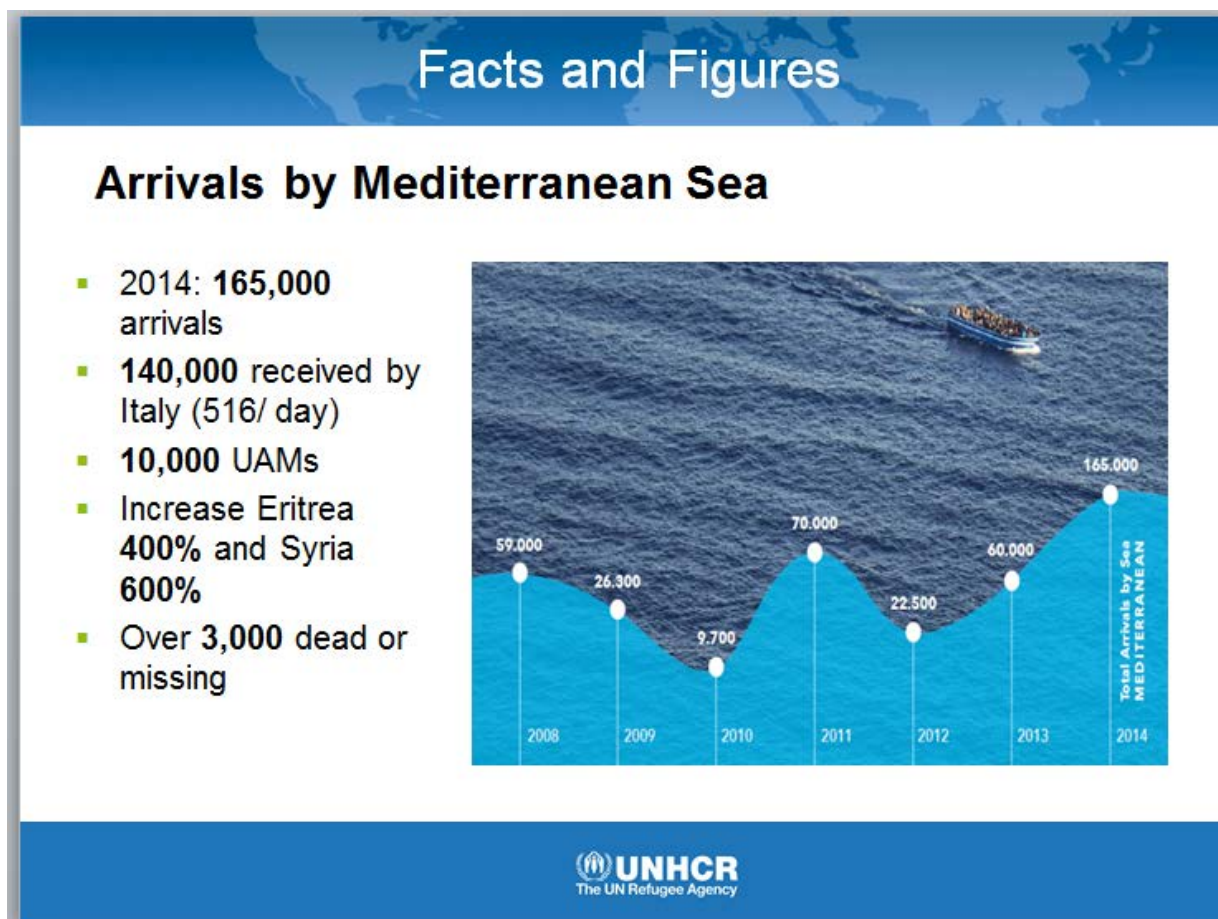
During the discussion, participants agreed about the growing relevance of the illicit trafficking of SALW to Euro-Mediterranean insecurity. Negative spillover effects originating from the lack of functioning state institutions in Libya was identified by many as the most pressing security challenge in the current context. Flows of weapons between the Sahel and the North African regions were also discussed. The dangerous link between SALW and terrorist activities was noted by a plurality of attendants. Participants agreed that the trafficking of SALW has negative cascade effects, for instance by prolonging the duration and increasing the degree of violence of regional and domestic conflicts. The detrimental impact of trafficking on socio-economic development was noted by some of the Mediterranean Partners.

Some participating States testified to the added value that OSCE projects in the field of SALW have brought to their countries. The assistance mechanism available through the OSCE was widely praised. Participating States that recently received assistance from the OSCE offered to share their experiences and lessons learnt with Mediterranean Partners. Tunisia's already expressed interest in such form of assistance was noted.

Participants agreed that the threat SALW trafficking requires a global response and that the OSCE is an important component in a solution that comprises the critical work done by authorities at the national level and schemes of cooperation available through other multilateral, regional, and sub-regional institutions. Several participating States underlined the importance of the UN Arms Trade Treaty, which was signed by the vast majority of the international community but is still awaiting ratification by many of the signatories. One representative of a Mediterranean Partner country noted that the Joint Draft Decision presented by Mr Barlow should focus on the offer of assistance to Mediterranean Partners in the area of SALW rather than also expecting Mediterranean Partners to comply with OSCE norms about SALW. Other participants noted that UN Program of Action on SALW, which a Mediterranean Partner country had made reference to as a comprehensive enough normative framework, is too broad a political document to contain the level of detail and the rigorousness of the OSCE acquis on the subject. During the discussion, it was underlined that any future initiative in the area of SALW with the Mediterranean Partners will be carried out on a strictly voluntary basis.

4.2 Side event on “Protection at sea”, chaired by Mr. Frank Remus, Head of UNHCR Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN Agencies

Mr. **Remus** provided the following main facts and figures about arrival by Mediterranean Sea.



He noted a global increase in forced displacement, the lack of other legal alternatives the increase in barriers on other migration routes, the limited integration opportunities for self-reliance and education in first asylum countries, the deterioration of security and of the prospects for integration in some countries, and finally the challenges in accessing effective asylum procedures.

He presented UNHCR Initiatives (Global Initiative on Protection at Sea, Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative - CMSI, High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges to be held in Geneva on 10-11 December).

About the CMSI, Mr. Remus developed a three-tracks approach based on proposed actions in the first country of origin (respect for human rights; support, relief and development program, and; reintegration programs for returnees), in the countries of first asylum (capacity building – creating/improving protection space, and durable solutions on access to livelihood, self-

reliance, education, on enhanced resettlement (to Europe and other countries) and on voluntary repatriation), and in Europe (Advocacy for adequate rescue capacities (SAR system); ensure quick disembarkation of migrants/refugees rescued by commercial vessels; enhanced, more flexible (“open”) use of the Dublin rules; providing swift access to asylum procedures; creation/extension of other regular avenues to Europe (resettlement, family reunification, protected entry schemes, humanitarian visas, private sponsorship programmes); more intra-EU solidarity; stepping up proactive return policy for persons not in need of protection).

Finally, Mr. Remus made an outlook on potential UNHCR-OSCE Co-operation. The OSCE should find ways to continue the discussion on the topic, since the challenges of mixed migration are enormous and directly affect OSCE participating States and its Partners for Cooperation. UNHCR stands ready to assist participating States and its Partners for Cooperation, in particular the States of disembarkation, in building their capacity to improve the reception and protection of rescued people. UNHCR could also provide assistance and counseling to participating States and its Partners for Cooperation on protection-sensitive entry systems in order to ensure better coping with increasing mixed migratory flows via the Mediterranean Sea.

4.3 Session II SALW Illicit Trafficking: Routes and Modalities

Report by Ms. Nevena Jovanovic, Permanent Mission of Serbia to the OSCE

Working session II focused on routes and modalities of trafficking in the OSCE region and other affected areas, with a view to identifying possible measures and tools to fight it. The session was chaired by **H. E. Ambassador Khaled Shamaa** (Egypt). This session provided opportunities for sharing ideas and examples of good practices between OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners, with a view to strengthening co-operation among them. The presentations of the speakers brought a number of issues to the attention of the participants.

To open the session, H. E. Ambassador Khaled Shamaa introduced the speakers and pointed out that the security situation and arms trafficking had a reciprocal direct effect on each other.

Ms. Dana Benvenisti-Gabay, Director of Regional Security and Anti-Terrorism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, said that the illicit trafficking of SALW in the Mediterranean region was growing and represented a threat to the security of the region. She also pointed out that that negative trend not only destabilized the Middle East region, but also had a negative impact on global security. In that context, she shared some of Israel's experiences with regard to that very important issue. She underlined the importance of strengthening international co-operation in the fight against illicit trafficking of SALW and stressed that there was room for improvement in tackling that issue of mutual concern.

Mr. James Bevan, Director of Conflict Armament Research (CAR) Ltd., gave a presentation on "Islamic State Weapons and Ammunition", based on findings from the EU-funded iTrace field investigations in Iraq and Syria. He also presented some statistics on Islamic State weapons and ammunition captured in those countries. He stressed that there was a need for quantified global data on illicit transfers of conventional weapons. In that context, he explained that iTrace was an EU-funded global reporting system, designed to plot data on illicit transfers of conventional weapons, ammunition and related material geospatially. He also pointed out that the system aggregated data on individual transfers to generate global metadata on unauthorized transfers and trafficking.

Mr. Diman Dimov, Project Coordinator, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, outlined some main findings of the Global Study on Firearms Trafficking published by UNODC. He explained that the Global Study aimed to impart a better understanding of global trafficking patterns as well to identify the main flows and routes of trafficking. He also presented the key findings on trafficking methods in the following regions: Latin America, East and South-East Europe, Western Europe and West Africa. In that context, he pointed out that firearms trafficking was strongly associated with drug trafficking in several countries of the Latin American and European regions. He explained that trafficking routes varied from simple and direct to more complex trafficking patterns and stressed that there was no evidence of systematic firearms tracing by States. He also emphasized that there was a need for more co-operation between the countries of the same regions in that regard. In conclusion, he pointed out that there was a need to further develop relevant regulations, as well as to raise awareness among the public about control measures.

Ten interventions were delivered after the presentations given by the speakers. All the delegations expressed their concerns regarding the upward trend of illicit trafficking of SALW in the Mediterranean region and beyond. Some of the delegations focused in particular on the way the current political situation in the region affected the prospect of successfully fighting against illicit trafficking of SALW. It was stated that there were some improvements in that regard, but there was still much to be done. All the delegations agreed that there was a need to enhance the co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Partner countries in those areas. The discussion also confirmed the necessity for enhanced SALW control at the national, regional and multilateral levels, as well as the need for strengthened implementation of relevant OSCE commitments. It was concluded that there was an opportunity to reinforce co-operation through a cross-dimensional approach within the framework of the OSCE and the dialogue between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

4.4 Session III Counter-Terrorism: Shared Experience and enhancing Co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners

Report by Mr. Yachar Nafissi-Azar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

The session was chaired by **H. E. Ambassador Keith Azzopardi** of Malta.

Part A

The first speaker, **H.E. Mohamed Benhocine**, Ambassador of Algeria, referred to the necessity of working on three main pillars when dealing with counter-terrorism: prevention, the fight against illicit trafficking and the financing of terrorism. He stressed the need for the discussions in the OSCE on SALW and kidnapping for ransom to be translated into projects.

The second speaker, **H.E. Khaled Shamaa**, Ambassador of Egypt, underlined the need to fight against terrorism in a co-ordinated and global manner. The inclusion of Libya in the discussions was therefore of paramount importance.

The third speaker, **H.E. Hussam Al Hussein**, Ambassador of Jordan, recalled that the first victims of terrorism were Muslims. He added that an effective fight against terrorism had to take into account its root causes, be they religious, social or economic. He also said that the role of the OSCE should focus on raising public awareness regarding cultural and interfaith dialogue.

The fourth speaker, **Ms. Dana Benvenisti-Gabay**, Director of Regional Security and Anti-Terrorism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, stressed the need to adopt a global and co-ordinated approach in the framework of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). She confirmed her country's readiness to share best practices in that matter and pointed to concrete examples in that regard.

The fifth speaker, **Mr. Mohamed Slaoui**, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Morocco in Austria, encouraged going beyond the security approach to counter-terrorism. At the national level, legal, social and religious reforms or measures must be adopted. At the international level, regional, sectorial and global co-operation must be enhanced. He called for an OSCE strategy for dealing with transnational threats, but also encompassing economic and environmental aspects, and interacting with the OSCE Working Group on Migration.

During the subsequent discussion, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was condemned and the resolve to combat it was reiterated, as it constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

A representative of a participating State expressed his wish to see more exchanges of best practices on counter-terrorism between participating States and Partners for Co-operation. He also recalled that a comprehensive approach, which should include non-discrimination and tolerance, was key in this field.

Another representative of a participating State agreed with the recommendations outlined by the panel, stressing the need to address education and socioeconomic factors when dealing with the prevention pillar.

The participants also discussed the threat posed by the so-called ISIS/ISIL, condemning in the strongest terms the crimes and atrocities perpetrated by the terrorists and called for joint action in countering the current serious threat.

A representative of a participating State emphasized the importance of UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and urged that the highest priority be assigned to all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, to bring such fighters to justice, and to ensure that no funds, assets or resources were made available to fund terrorist activities.

Part B

Presentation on “*Foreign Terrorist Fighters*” (FTFs), by **Dr. Lorenzo Vidino**, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Security Studies of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

Dr. Vidino assessed the phenomenon and underlined its new dynamics and unprecedented figures due to the Syrian conflict.

He underlined the increase in migration to conflict zones. He warned that foreign terrorist fighters joined ranks not only with the so-called ISIS/ISIL/Da’esh, but also with Shia, Kurdish and Christian groups, though in less problematic proportions. FTFs posed a security backlash challenge to their host country. Between one out of eight and one out of nine FTFs committed terrorist attacks upon their return.

It has become clear that repression has limits, due to limited intelligence, scarcity of personnel and limits of legal tools. Policies should take into account measures related to prevention, before people left for conflict zones, as well as legal reforms to facilitate investigation, because of the fact that battlefield intelligence was lacking. He also stressed the need for a holistic approach encompassing rehabilitation of FTFs, and for international co-operation.

De-radicalisation and rehabilitation represent also a challenge, with very different ways to proceed (he autoed practice in Belgium, UK, Denmark).

Lastly, he encouraged the OSCE to play an important role as a platform for regional initiatives in that domain and for: launching region-specific initiatives that complement the global objectives outlined in UNSC Resolution 2178; for organising exercises in cooperation with the UN, Interpol, and the EU, to assess existing measures at national and international level to identify and prevent the movement of Foreign Fighters; giving legislative advice to partner States seeking to bring their national legislation in line with UNSC Resolution 2178, while ensuring it complies with all obligations under international human rights law, in cooperation with the Council of Europe (in the area of travel document security, criminalization of offenses related to FTF, co-operation on evidence-related issues).

During the subsequent discussion, a representative of a participating State stressed that any role for the OSCE in regard to FTFs should emanate from United Nations Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and serve its implementation.

A representative of a participating State recalled the linkage between migration and terrorism and called for a co-ordinated and global approach.

A representative of a Partner for Co-operation pointed out that not all foreign terrorist fighters originally came from the Western world; some also came from other parts of the world.

A representative of a participating State underlined the difficulties that national jurisdictions encountered in investigating and prosecuting FTFs upon their return to their home countries. They lacked the means to verify illicit acts committed abroad and did not have the appropriate legal basis to do so.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Vidino stressed the need to differentiate between national root causes. The national dynamics were not the same everywhere. In some countries, the lure of profit was the main driver of a person migrating to fight in conflict zones, whereas in other contexts, the driver could be ideology.

4.5 Session IV Enhancing the Role of Women in Public, Political and Economic Life (follow-up to the Mediterranean Conference 2013)

Report by Ms. Aisling Schorderet, Attachee, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

The Chairperson of the session, **H.E. Mohamed Benhocine, Ambassador of Algeria**, opened the session with an overview of the 2013 Conference in Monaco, which had discussed how to increase the participation of the Partners for Co-operation in OSCE activities and ways of enhancing the role of women in public, political and economic life. In order to be as coherent and action-oriented as possible, he stressed the importance of taking stock of the progress that had been made since the meeting in Monaco and identifying concrete projects addressing the needs of Partners. He proposed that that issue should be placed on the agenda biannually in order to assess progress made, particularly in Partner countries.

Ms. Beatriz Balbín Chamorro, First Deputy Director of the ODIHR, described how the Office had been active in providing support to Partner States, as mandated by the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Ministerial Council Decision 5/11. Recalling MC Decision 7/09 on women's participation in political and public life and the importance of women's representation in those spheres, she pointed out that women continued to be under-represented in decision-making positions in all three branches of government in the OSCE region and in the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, with women accounting for only 18% of parliamentarians in the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation countries. The ODIHR's engagement with Partner countries in that regard had focused on providing expertise and knowledge and facilitating the exchange of good practices for advancing women's role in public and political life.

She went on to say that, to date, the ODIHR had implemented 52 projects with Partners, but that the activities conducted were the same as those that had already been underway since 2012 and 2013. Given the focus on Ukraine, less political and financial support for assistance to Partners had been forthcoming in 2014, and no new projects had been initiated. The majority of those underway had been initiated with Tunisia, but discussions were ongoing with other Partners. The ODIHR stood ready to continue to provide expertise to Partners in the field of gender equality and political party regulation, including through the review of draft legislation, and she drew attention to the fact that her office had provided seven legal opinions to Tunisia since 2012.

Women's participation in parliaments should be promoted by ensuring that parliamentary procedures, priorities and budgets were gender-sensitive. The ODIHR had worked to support women parliamentarians in building consensus across party lines and was working with them to strengthen their role and influence in parliaments and policy-making. Further assistance included the elaboration of the *Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region*, which analysed different structures for women parliamentarians and outlined strategies for making women's parliamentary caucuses more effective, the *Handbook on Women's Participation in Political Parties* and the *Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*.

In conclusion, Ms. Balbín advocated a strategic and comprehensive approach to ensure greater representation of women in key decision-making positions. Quoting the Beijing Platform for Action, she stressed that “without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women’s perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.” The ODIHR was looking forward to further supporting the exchange of good practices and lessons learned between OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, and to receiving requests for assistance and jointly exploring ways to address current and evolving needs in all countries.

Ms. Samra Filipovic Hadziabdic, Director of the Agency on Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, outlined measures that had been taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance the role of women in public, political and economic life, describing her country as a leader in the area of gender equality. In 2003, Bosnia and Herzegovina had adopted a gender equality law (the first in the region), and had since established a network of institutional mechanisms and adopted a Gender Action Plan embodying an annual strategy for the inclusion of gender equality in all spheres of public and private life. Regional co-operation had been established through the 2005 Declaration on Co-operation with Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. In 2013, an extension of the regional declaration had established further co-operation with Mediterranean Partners, including Egypt, Morocco, Libya, Algeria and Tunisia, which aimed to facilitate greater information exchange and the sharing of good practices between signatories on issues of gender equality and the advancement of women. The declaration defined specific objectives and strategic priorities of common interest to all parties, including co-operation between institutional gender mechanisms and the promotion of gender equality in respective development strategies, education, policy- and decision-making, peace and security, culture and the media, health campaigns and gender-sensitive budgeting. The three priority areas for action were gender and security, the economic empowerment of women and the combating of violence against women. She called attention to the added value of regional and international co-operation in enhancing women’s role in public, political and economic life and welcomed the incorporation of a regional component within national strategies and action plans.

Ms. Djana Vukomanovic, Head of the Serbian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in her capacity as a member of the Serbian parliament, Ms. Vukomanovic provided an overview of gender representation within the OSCE. At 34 %, Serbia ranked twelfth in the OSCE area for female representation, making Serbia one of the few countries meeting the 30% target set by the UN Millennium Development Goals. The OSCE’s 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality was a response to tackling the issue of under-representation of women, building on decades of work in international forums. The OSCE PA had continued to prioritize gender equality, with every declaration since 1992 including gender-specific language. In addition, Dr Hedy Fry, the OSCE PA Special Representative for Gender Equality, regularly reported on the gender situation in the OSCE region. Since 2001, the OSCE PA had also produced a Gender Balance Report, which cast a critical eye on the OSCE’s progress in that area. Based on its findings, gender parity was stagnating within the OSCE. Although women accounted for 46% of the OSCE staff, the number of women in management positions amounted to 30% and women remained largely confined to general staff and lower-tier positions. However, encouraging signs could be seen in the rise in the number of women filling P-level positions in the ODIHR and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and in the recent appointment of Astrid Thors as High Commissioner for National Minorities.

Although still a meagre 32%, the representation of women within the OSCE PA had increased by 5% since 2011, following the adoption of a resolution on improving women's participation in the OSCE PA. The 2009 sub-clause rule providing that national delegations should represent both genders had also led to an increase in female participation, and 11 out of 21 Bureau Members of the OSCE PA's leadership were women. Looking at the issue more broadly, Ms. Vukomanovic addressed the issue through a Mediterranean lens, referring to the adoption of the OSCE PA's July 2013 resolution on gender aspects of labour migration. She invited Partner States to consider the possibility of ensuring the safe migration of their female citizens by creating legal and institutional mechanisms that would protect and enhance their opportunities at the recruitment stage and prior to migration. She stressed that words needed to be accompanied by political will and sustained support and that that should be borne in mind when continuing to discuss the means by which to tackle those issues.

During the discussions, Croatia, the USA, Albania, Egypt, Algeria, France and Spain elaborated on their own national efforts to promote gender equality and to enhance the role of women in public, political and economic life. Albania noted that the country had a long way to go before true political and economic empowerment of women could be realized and warned that there was a real risk that numerical quotas were not enough if women had no real opportunity to express their opinions freely. Egypt added that there was a need to look at the representation of women across public and private structures and not just at the governmental level. The role of the OSCE, particularly at the field-mission level, was highlighted by France and Spain, which stressed the importance of women's participation across all stages of the conflict cycle, in implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and in the promotion of a gender perspective in field missions.

5 Summary of the closing session

Report by Dr. Loïc Simonet, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Chairman of the Mediterranean Group of Contact, warmly thanked the host country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for its hospitality, as well as the panellists, speakers and chairpersons of the sessions for their valuable inputs.

Ambassador Žugić also summarized these two days' discussions, with special emphasis on session III. Terrorist acts and violent extremist ideology are incompatible with the fundamental values and principles shared by the OSCE participating and Partner States alike, he insisted, also pointing out once again the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014). A number of participants condemned in the strongest terms the crimes and atrocities made by ISIL/Da'esh and requested joint action in countering this current serious threat, he said, also announcing a perception paper on this issue, based on the discussions in Neum and which could serve as a basis for further deliberations in the run-up to the Basel OSCE Ministerial Council.

At the same time, Ambassador Žugić also noted calls to promote political and religious tolerance, economic development, social cohesion and inclusiveness. The last session clearly demonstrated the keen interest of the participating and Partner States for this important cross-dimensional issue: how to improve women's participation in public, economic and political life, as well as how to provide adequate responses for pertinent challenges related to access to education, employment and management positions.

Ambassador **Thomas Greminger**, Chairman of the PC, underlined the quality and diversity of the panellists and the participants. Their ideas and perceptions will be useful on our way to Basel and beyond, he said.

The two sessions devoted to SALW have evidenced the need to work in a joint and co-ordinated manner. Harmonisation of national legislations and reinforced international co-operation are necessary. In this context, Ambassador Greminger also advocated for more sharing of experience between participating and Partner States. The FSC proposal of draft decision on assistance to the Partners on SALW (FSC.DEL/150/14/Rev.2, 23 Oct. 2014) should contribute to it, and deserves to be supported.

The Chairman of the PC noted with satisfaction the numerous calls for a trans-dimensional approach of the issue of the foreign terrorist fighters, which needs to take into account socio-economic elements, local context and the need for rehabilitation of terrorist fighters once back in their country, should focus on non-discrimination and religious tolerance, and finally should be based on legal reforms in order to allow prosecutions. He underlined the need to go to the roots of that phenomenon, to better fight it. It is in that perspective that the Swiss CiO circulated a draft ministerial declaration on *The OSCE role in countering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters in the context of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014)* (MC.DD/8/14/Rev.1, 7 Nov. 2014).

About the session devoted to women, Ambassador Greminger mentioned the Swiss addendum to the OSCE Action Plan (PC.DD/23/14/Rev.1 issued on 23 October 2014).

Finally, he delivered two messages to the participants:

First, on the format of the MC in Basel, he confirmed that the Ministers of the Partner States would be invited to the informal dinner to be held on Wednesday 4 December, and that a whole plenary session would be devoted to the Partners on Friday 6 December, with special focus on counter-terrorism. This platform would allow those who wish to take a firm position against the so-called Islamic State. He encouraged the participating and Partner States to participate in this plenary session on 6 December at the highest level.

Second, Ambassador Greminger called for input from the delegations on the draft ministerial declaration on the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, so a useful and strong text could be adopted in Basel.

Ambassador **Gunaajav Batjargal**, in his capacity as Helsinki + 40 Coordinator of cluster 8 on *How to Increase interaction with the Partners for Cooperation and with international and regional organizations working in similar fields*, made a parallel with the OSCE Asian Partnership, whose actors also promote further their cooperation with OSCE in order to create a safer, more interconnected and fairer world in the face of emerging challenges.

Ambassador Batjargal also mentioned the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Arms Trade Treaty, which will come into force on 24 December 2014, as an important step. But further efforts would be needed to achieve the universalisation of the ATT. The achievement of this goal should give another impetus for uniting the efforts of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation, as well as respective international and regional organizations. We expect that this appeal will be reflected in decisions to be taken at the Basel Ministerial Council Meeting, he said.

He highlighted the role of women in public, political and economic life. The necessity of enhancing this important aspect has been underlined on many occasions within the OSCE region and beyond. In this respect, he recalled that a whole session was devoted to this particular topic at the “2014 OSCE-Japan Conference” last June.

In conclusion, Ambassador Batjargal drew the attention of participants to the “Helsinki + 40” process, and hoped that further progress will be made before and during the Basel Ministerial Council Meeting. The presentations made at this Conference, as well as the subsequent discussions, have been of particular significance in this regard.

Ambassador **Tomislav Leko**, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, officially concluded the Mediterranean Conference 2014.

6 List of Participants

State/ORG	Given name	Family name	Title
OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES			
Albania	Spiro	Koci	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE
Germany	Rüdiger	Lüdeking	Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE
Germany	Matthias	Friese	Politico-Military Adviser
United States of America	Kate Marie	Byrnes	Deputy Chief of Mission
United States of America	Mark	Freedman	Counterterrorism Advisor, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
United States of America	Geary	Cox	Program Manager, PM/WRA
United States of America	Rachel	Ryan	US Delegation to the OSCE
Austria	Anton	Eischer	Senior Military Adviser
Belgium	Bruno	Georges	Ambassador, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ana	Trisic-Babic	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Tomislav	Leko	Ambassador-Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to OSCE
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Goran	Pranjic	Adviser to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Samra	Filipović-Hadžiabdić	Director of the Agency on Gender Equality of BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Momir	Brajić	Head of Department for NATO and PfP, Member of the BH SALW Control Coordination Board
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Aida	Smajic	Minister-Counselor at the Department for OSCE, Council of Europe and Regional Initiatives, MFA BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mirsad	Besic	Head of Diplomatic Protocol MFA BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Darko	Vidovic	Diplomatic Protocol MFA BIH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Valentina	Marincic	Diplomatic Protocol MFA BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Adnan	Vranic	Diplomatic Protocol MFA BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nebojsa	Regoje	Head Public Relations Office MFA BiH

State/ORG	Given name	Family name	Title
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Davor	Ilic	Senior Associate for Anti-Smuggling
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Alma	Tuzlic	Liaison Officer MFA BIH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ivana	Maric-Grujic	Liaison Officer MFA BIH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Darija	Bugarin	Liaison Officer MFA BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dunja	Livaja	Liaison Officer MFA BIH
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Damir	Kurt	Technical Staff/Driver MFA BIH
Bulgaria	Svetolsav	Spasov	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Canada	Dominic	Arpin	Counsellor Pol/Mil
Cyprus	Marios	Ieronymides	Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Croatia	Damir	Zupan	Director, Directorate for UN, Global Issues and International Organisations, MFA
Spain	Jorge	Domecq	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE
Spain	Esteban	Sánchez Merchán	Lieutenant
France	Maxime	Lefebvre	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
France	Eric	Emeraux	Homeland Security Attaché
Greece	Andreas	Papadakis	Ambassador, Head of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE
Ireland	Aisling	Schorderet	Attachée, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE
Italy / EU	Vittorio	Rocco di Torrepadula	Ambassador, Head of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE
Italy / EU	Edoardo	Leo	Officer
<i>European Union</i>	Thierry	Béchet	Ambassador, EU Permanent Representative to the OSCE
<i>European Union</i>	Ramiz	Hremagic	Home Affairs and Public Security Adviser, Office of the EU Special Representative in BiH
Malta	Keith	Azzopardi	Ambassador, Delegation of Malta to the OSCE
Monaco / FSC	Claude	Giordan	Ambassador; FSC Coordinator
Monaco / FSC	Mark	Barlow	Lieutenant Colonel (USA); FSC Coordinator for SALW and SCA Projects
Monaco / FSC	Magin	Alvarez Arribas	Major (Spain); FSC Coordinator
Mongolia	Betjargal	Gunaajav	Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the OSCE

State/ORG	Given name	Family name	Title
Russian Federation	Bagrat	Shinkuba	First Secretary, Russian Embassy in BiH
Serbia	Vuk	Žugić	Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna
Serbia	Miodrag	Pančeski	Deputy Permanent Representative, Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna
Serbia	Nevena	Jovanović	Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna
Switzerland	Thomas	Greminger	Ambassador, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council
Switzerland	Yachar	Nafissi-Azar	Political Advisor
Turkey	Tacan	Ildem	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Turkey	Erdogan	Soyliyen	Narcotics Section Chief, Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime, Turkish Gendarmerie
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER STATES			
Algeria	Mohamed	Benhocine	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria in Vienna
Algeria	Mohammed	Metallaoui	General, Ministry of Defence
Algeria	Nor-Eddine	Benfreha	Deputy Director, Regional Security Matters, MFA
Egypt	Khaled	Shamaa	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt in Vienna
Egypt	Maged	Mosleh	Director, Security and Strategic Organizations, MFA Egypt
Israel	Zvi	Heifetz	Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the UN, OSCE and International Organizations in Vienna
Israel	Dana	Benvenisti-Gabay	Director of the Department of Regional Security and Counter Terrorism – MFA in Jerusalem
Israel	Beth-Eden	Kite	Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, OSCE and International Organizations in Vienna
Jordan	Hussam	Al Hussein	Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Morocco	Mohammed	Slaoui	Deputy Head of Mission, Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy/Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco, Vienna

State/ORG	Given name	Family name	Title
OSCE INSTITUTIONS			
OSCE Secretariat	Lamberto	Zannier	OSCE Secretary General
OSCE Secretariat	Loïc	Simonet	Senior External Co-operation Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Manuel Lorenzo	Marion Mainer	Senior Programme Officer, TNTD/ATU
OSCE Secretariat	Emiliano	Alessandri	Program Officer, External Co-operation
OSCE Secretariat	Aldona	Szymanski	Senior External Co-operation Assistant
OSCE Secretariat	Anita	Alidemaj	Secretary
OSCE ODIHR	Beatriz	Balbin	First Deputy Director
OSCE Mission to BiH	Jonathan	Moore	Ambassador Head of Mission
OSCE Mission to BiH	Nina	Suomalainen	D HOM
OSCE Mission to BiH	Micheal	Coneely	Chief Fund Administration
OSCE Mission to BiH	John	Martin	Director DSC
OSCE Mission to BiH	Fermin	Cordoba	Deputy Director HDD
OSCE Mission to BiH	Vera	Orloff	Policy and Information Officer DSC
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Dijana	Vukomanović	Head of Serbian OSCE PA Delegation
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Ivana	Blagojević	Secretary of Serbian OSCE PA Delegation
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS			
UNHCR	Frank	Remus	Head of the UNHCR Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN Agencies
UNDP, SEESAC	Slobodan	Boskovic	Project Officer/Advisor
UNODC	Diman	Dimov	Project Coordinator, Implementation Support Section
UNODC	Alen	Gagula	National Project Officer

State/ORG	Given name	Family name	Title
GUESTES OF THE HOST COUNTRY			
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States/Turkic Council	Abzal	Saparbekuly	Deputy Secretary General
Palestinian National Authority	Hussein	Thiab	Counsellor, Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Palestinian National Authority	Saleh	El Awad	Employee, Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Office of the High Representative	Predrag	Sofranać	Political Advisor
Saudi Arabia	Ahmed	Al-Ahmadi	First Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Saudi Arabia	Rezk	Al-Ghoul	Office of H.E. Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS			
Conflict Armament Research	James	Bevan	Director
PRIO	Nicholas (Nic)	Marsh	Research Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
ISPI, Milan	Lorenzo	Vidino	Dr., Senior Fellow, Center for Security Studies, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Institute Open Diplomacy	Yoseph-Fabien	Goasdoue	Open Diplomacy Delegates
Institute Open Diplomacy	Cyprien	Orjubin	Open Diplomacy Delegates
Institute Open Diplomacy	Florian Daniel Thierry	Leduc	Open Diplomacy Delegates
INTERPRETERS			
Interpreter	Francoise	Comte	Interpreter
Interpreter	Francoise	Forster	Interpreter
Interpreter	Alain	Gauthier	Interpreter

Seating Arrangement

	Institute Open Diplomacy ISPI, Milan PRIO Conflict Armament Research UNODC	
Office of the High Repr.		UNDP
Palestinian Nat. Authority		UNHCR
Saudi Arabia		OSCE Mission to BiH
Turkic Council		OSCE PA
Italy / EU		OSCE ODIHR
Italy / EU		OSCE Secretariat
Malta		Ireland
Monaco / FSC		Greece
Monaco / FSC		France
Mongolia		France
Russian Federation		Spain
Serbia		Spain
Serbia		Croatia
Switzerland		Cyprus
Switzerland		Canada
Turkey		Bulgaria
Turkey		Bosnia and Herzegovina
Algeria		Bosnia and Herzegovina
Algeria		Belgium
Egypt		Austria
Egypt		USA
Israel		USA
Israel		Germany
Jordan		Germany
Morocco		Albania