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Subject: Eleventh Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition - (2011/I)

Delegations will find enclosed the Eleventh Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition, as endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 July 2011.

**Eleventh Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to
Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition - (2011/I)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The eleventh progress report on the implementation of the SALW Strategy covers EU activities during the first half of 2011. The report was prepared by the EEAS Department for non-proliferation and disarmament, in cooperation with other relevant EEAS and European Commission services. During the reporting period, the EU continued to promote the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all multilateral fora and in its political dialogue with third countries in the context of relevant international instruments, such as the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms. Over the last six months the EU continued the implementation of several projects related to the prevention of SALW illicit trade and excessive accumulation, and started the elaboration of new initiatives to be further developed over the next months.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN CONTAINED IN THE EU SALW STRATEGY

II.1 Effective multilateralism to develop universal, regional and national mechanisms to counter the supply and destabilising spread of SALW and their ammunition

a) Implementation of the 2001 UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

In the framework of the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA), the EU participated in the Open-Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE) on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and All Its Aspects, held in New York 9-13 May. The meeting covered several themes related to the implementation of the UN PoA, focusing in particular on marking; record-keeping;

cooperation in tracing; national frameworks, regional Cooperation, international assistance and capacity-building. The meeting served as an opportunity for national experts to share practical information on the national implementation under the UN PoA. The EU's related project activities were presented by the EU delegation both at formal and informal settings during the meeting.

The EU continued the preparation of a new Council Decision in support of the UN PoA to be adopted in 2011. The new Council Decision will aim at promoting the regional implementation of the UN PoA, International Marking and Tracing Instrument (ITI), and the UN technical guidelines for ammunition stockpile management.

b) Arms Trade Treaty

The EU continued to attach high priority to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) process, participating actively in the second session of the Preparatory Committee on the ATT (28 February - 4 March 2011 in New York) that were characterized by a high level of engagement by most UN Member States and by substantial discussions on the scope and parameters of an ATT. The EU continued to coordinate its negotiating position with a view to the next sessions of the Preparatory Committee in July 2011. Consultations were held with third countries with a view to seeking broad support for an ATT.

Implementation of Council Decision 2010/336/CFSP, promoting the process leading towards an Arms Trade Treaty among third countries, continued also during the first half of 2011. Out of the seven additional regional seminars foreseen by the Council Decision, and focusing on the political aspects of an ATT and on the technical features of export control systems on conventional arms, over the last six months three regional seminars were held for Central, Western and Northern Africa (February 2011 in Morocco), Americas and Caribbean (April 2011 in Uruguay), and Eastern Asia and Pacific (June 2011 in Indonesia).

c) Implementation of the UNTOC Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms

In the first half of 2011, the EU started the implementation of a new project through the Instrument for Stability to prevent and counter trans-national illicit trade in firearms by promoting the ratification and implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Trans-national Organized Crime. The project will also include capacity building activities in support of law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations, in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa. The project is implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

d) Export controls

Within the framework of Council Decision 2009/1012/CFSP on support for EU activities in order to promote the EU Common Position 2008/944/CFSP on export controls on conventional arms, a regional seminar was held in Montenegro, on 4-5 May 2011 to promote arms export controls among countries in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia). As part of the study visits to the EU provided by the Council Decision for national export controls officials among EU candidate countries, in June 2011 several Croatian export control officials visited Hungary and took part in several meetings with their Hungarian counterparts, introducing them to the functioning of conventional arms export controls in an EU Member States.

e) Illicit trade in SALW by air

Following the adoption in December 2010 of a new Council Decision 2010/765/CFSP on EU action to counter the illicit trade of SALW by air, implementation of the project by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has began. The EU aims at improving tools and techniques for international and national actors to effectively screen and target suspect aircrafts likely to be involved in illicit trade of SALW.

II.2. SALW in the framework of political dialogue with third countries and regional organisations, SALW clauses

SALW was included in the agenda of a number of the EU's regular **political dialogues with third countries** and cooperation with regional organizations, including from Africa, America, Asia, Eastern and South East Europe, Gulf, and Middle East.

- a) As part of its support to the development of an **African Union Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy (AU SALW Strategy)**, the EU participated in the meeting of the AU-REC (Regional Economic Communities) SALW Steering Committee. The latest AU-REC meeting, held in Burundi in May 2011, continued the development of a continental SALW Strategy to be submitted to the AU-REC Executive Council for formal adoption by the end of 2011. The meeting also discussed a first draft of a possible common African position regarding the Arms Trade Treaty.
- b) As part of the **EU-China dialogue on SALW and ATT**, the EU has continued to hold consultations with Chinese representatives on these issues and on the possibility to explore avenues of cooperation to prevent the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of SALW and cooperation in the field of conventional arms exports, also at civil society level.
- c) In the first half of 2011, in the framework of the IfS, the EU has provided financial **assistance to INTERPOL** for the development of a database to collect data on lost/stolen arms. The database would provide a centralized tool for tracing and tracking of illegal arms and its flows.
- d) The EU continued to explore ways to strengthen its **cooperation with the OSCE**. Preparatory work start in the first half of 2011 aiming at developing joint initiatives to support demilitarization and conventional arms controls efforts of OSCE Participating States.

- e) In line with the **Council Conclusions on the inclusion of a SALW element in agreements between the EU and third countries** adopted in December 2008, a SALW element was successfully negotiated with Azerbaijan and Georgia, for inclusion in their respective agreements with the EU.

II.3 Specific EU project assistance to Third Countries and Regional Organisations

a) Western Balkans

- I) The EU continued to support demilitarization efforts in the field of SALW, in particular through the implementation of Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP in support of SEESAC activities in the **Western Balkans** adopted in March 2010. Several activities related to improvement of stockpile management and surplus destruction took place in Croatia, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.
- II) The EU also continued to support, through the Instrument for Stability (IfS), a UNDP small arms control programme in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** aimed at reducing the security risks posed by high levels and instability of obsolete ammunition and explosives and at providing institutional support to the national Small Arms Control programme.

b) Africa

The EU pursued the implementation of projects to increase regional cooperation in the field of SALW in **Regional Economic Communities in Africa**, notably the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community, and the Economic Community of Central African States.

- I) In the framework of the Instrument for Stability, the EU continued implementation of a project to support the fight against illicit accumulation of and trade in firearms and ammunition in Africa, through the **Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)**, located in Nairobi. This project aims at supporting the Africa-EU strategic partnership in the fight against illicit trade and excessive accumulation of firearms and explosive materials. During first half of 2011, following extensive consultations carried out at regional level during 2010, a consolidation meeting was held in Ethiopia providing a clear roadmap for the effective implementation of project activities. A trans-regional seminar for all the Regional Police Chiefs Organizations in Africa was held in Rwanda, aiming at strengthening regional police co-operation. An extension of the project is under preparation, allowing to provide continuity to the on-going work and to deepen the cross border aspects of contrasting illicit trafficking.
- II) The EU is currently supporting the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** through technical assistance to the Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP) on inter-agency collaboration in Ivory Coast, Mali, Guinea and Sierra Leone.
- III) The EU continued to support the **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** through technical expertise to develop peace and security capacity of ECCAS, including in the field of SALW.
- IV) Under the Conflict Prevention and Management Resolution (CPMR) Programme, the implementation of the SALW programme in support of the **East Africa Community** continued through the conduct of activities aiming at strengthening the regional capacity to prevent arms trafficking and proliferation in the East and Southern African region. The project supported the process for the approval of the EAC SALW Policy and the EAC Peace and Security Protocol, along with engagement with the AU and the UN in various processes such as the preparation and finalisation of the African Union Small Arms and Light Weapons (AU SALW) strategy preparation and the APSA (African Peace and Security Architecture).

c) **Central America**

The EU pursued implementation of a project financed through the Instrument for Stability and managed by the **Central American Small and Light Weapons Control Programme (CASAC)** to support the fight against illicit trade in firearms and ammunition in Central America and neighbouring countries, including the Caribbean region. The EU extended the support to the project until the end of 2011 and is currently preparing follow-up actions to this initiative.
