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NOTE

from :	General Secretariat
to :	Delegations
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Subject :	Third Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition (2007/I)

Delegations will find enclosed the Third Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition (2007/I), as endorsed by the Council on 18 June 2007.

**Third Progress Report on the implementation of the
EU Strategy to Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition
(2007/I)**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the first half of 2007 important progress was made in implementing the SALW Strategy. The EU has contributed to the deliberations in multilateral fora on key issues on the SALW agenda. The EU has strengthened the coherence of its action with regard to SALW including their ammunition. It has raised its visibility in multilateral processes, including the UN Programme of Action on SALW. Attention is drawn in particular to the following developments:

- = Heightened attention to the importance of stockpile management and security with regard to effectively combating illegal proliferation of SALW and their ammunition.
- = Increased attention also to the issue of ammunition in developing an integrated response to the escalation of armed conflict and the spread of organised crime.
- = Special CODUN sessions on SALW-related project work and technical cooperation with a focus on key regions: Sub-Saharan Africa and South-Eastern/Eastern Europe.
- = Reinforced regional cooperation on SALW issues within inter alia the ARF, EU-AU (*) and EU-LAC (**) processes in order to advance the global discussion on SALW and their ammunition through more concrete regional activities.

(*) African Union

(**) Latin America and Caribbean

II. INTRODUCTION

This third progress report on the implementation of the SALW Strategy covers EU activities in the first half of 2007. Like the previous one, it has been prepared by the General Secretariat of the Council/Office of the HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation, in cooperation with the European Commission services.

During the German Presidency a specific work programme with regard to the implementation of the EU SALW Strategy was put in place. It included, among other initiatives:

- = An Expert Meeting on **"Enhancing controls and promoting reduction in stockpiles of conventional arms and ammunitions"** held in Berlin on 3-4 April 2007. This meeting focused on the management and security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons as well as ammunition, including the issues of surplus and destruction. (See III.2)

- = Two meetings of the **Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Controls (CODUN)** were devoted to the issue of SALW and their ammunition. These sessions, held in February and May, allowed for better coordination and coherence with regard, in particular, to project work and technical cooperation under the various EU funding instruments. Sub-Saharan Africa and South-Eastern/Eastern Europe were the respective geographical focuses of the two meetings.

- = The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) adopted **conclusions on the issue of SALW and their ammunition** on 18/19 June 2007.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

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

International

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

- The EU continued its support for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW which remains the basis for efforts undertaken at the global level. In particular the EU's strong backing of the process leading to an Arms Trade Treaty builds on efforts to secure common standards on the export, import and transshipment of small arms and light weapons. To this end Member States have individually replied to Resolution A/Res/61/89 "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms". A common EU reply was submitted to the UN Secretary General on 7 May 2007.
- The EU restated its support for an intensification of work with regard to the issue of ammunition at the global level. A common EU reply to Resolution A/Res/61/72 "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus" was submitted to the UN Secretary General on 9 May 2007.

(b) Export controls

- The EU and the Member States continue to support the strengthening of export controls and the promotion of the principles and criteria of the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports among third countries through technical and practical assistance, inter alia in drafting national legislation and in interpreting and applying the criteria of the code, as well as by promoting measures to improve coherence and transparency.

- On 3-4 May 2007, an outreach seminar for countries of the Western Balkans on the control of exports of conventional arms, co-hosted and funded by the German Presidency, took place at the regional arms control centre RACVIAC near Zagreb. In addition, a number of Member States have organised outreach seminars with and/or visits by Albania, Georgia, Montenegro as well as Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries in Latin America.

III.1.2 Regional

OSCE

- The EU and Member States continued their active involvement in further work with regard to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Member States in particular continued to contribute to the drafting of Best Practice Guides on ammunition-related topics.
- The EU delivered a statement at the FSC Special Meeting on the fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW by air transport held in Vienna on 21 March 2007. In this statement, it welcomed the initiative of France and Belgium to discuss the fight against the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) by air transport.

AFRICAN UNION

- The Commission organised, together with the African Union Commission a seminar in Addis Ababa on a wide range of issues related to Antipersonnel Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War and Small Arms and Light Weapons. This involved, for the first time, EU and AU Member States, SROs, APL and SALW Centres as well as representatives of civil society and numerous European and African experts. The EU SALW Strategy was presented to participants by the Office of the Personnel Representative. The need for the relevant EU and AU relevant institutions to strengthen cooperation, co-ordinate policies and implement commitments was underlined by the co-chairs in their conclusions.

III.1.3 SALW In the framework of political dialogue, Strategy papers and Action Plans

- SALW was included in the agenda of a number of the EU's regular political dialogues with countries which are major exporters of SALW, and especially with countries holding surplus stocks of SALW left over from the Cold War, in particular in Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe.
- At the ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting held in Luxembourg on 24 April 2007 a **Joint Declaration on Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)** was issued in which both parties recognised that the proliferation of SALW and their ammunition constituted a serious problem and agreed to enhance their cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating this proliferation through a series of specific measures.
- The European Commission has been pursuing the integration of issues related to SALW into Country and Regional Strategy Papers. The joint development of National and Regional Action Plans offers to partner countries the opportunity to give the appropriate political and funding priority in tackling these issues.

III.1.4 EU assistance to Third Countries

Ukraine: Implementation of Council Decision 2005/852/CFSP. An Opening Ceremony for the SALW destruction facility was held at Kamyanets-Podilskyy, 450 km southwest of Kiev, on 16 January 2007. It was attended by Ukrainian authorities and representatives from donors and local and international media. The European Union is contributing with € 1 000 000 for equipment and the destruction of 20 000 SALW. This one-year project started on 4 August 2006 and is being implemented by the NATO Supply and Maintenance Agency (NAMSA). CODUN is considering further support. In response to the Novobohdanivka ammunition depot explosions the EC committed € 200.000 to support a package of measures including equipment and training.

Latin America/

Caribbean: The implementation of the a third phase of the 'Train the trainers' project kicked-off in 2007 following the adoption by the Council of Decision 2006/1000/CFSP making a contribution of € 700 000 on 29 November 2006. This one-year project contributes to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of SALW in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project will provide, inter alia, for further training of law enforcement officials as well as raising awareness among Members of Parliament and for support to the maintenance of databases and to SALW destruction and stockpiles management. Previous contributions were for amounts of up to € 345 000 in 2001 and € 700 000 in 2003. The project is being implemented by the UN-Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC).

Colombia: The EC provided € 1.5 million to support for the rehabilitation or victims in the framework of the Disarmament and Demobilisation of paramilitary groups in Colombia.

ECOWAS/

West Africa: The implementation of the decision adopted by the Council in December 2004, (financial reference amount € 515 000), with a view to an EU contribution to ECOWAS in the context of the moratorium on small arms and light weapons, was finalised in May 2007.

III.2. An effective response to the accumulation and the problems posed by the availability of existing stocks

- = An Expert Meeting on "**Enhancing controls and promoting reduction in stockpiles of conventional arms and ammunitions**" held in Berlin on 3-4 April 2007. This meeting focused on the management and security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons as well as ammunition, including the issues of surplus and destruction. EU partners, selected countries from all regions of the world as well as NGOs attended. The meeting highlighted the importance of stockpile management and security with regard to effectively combating illegal proliferation of SALW and their ammunition.

 - = **Fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW by air-transport.** At the meeting of the Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Controls in April 2007, a concept paper containing suggestions for an EU initiative to hinder illicit trafficking of SALW by air-transport was presented.
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