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NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Delegations

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Subject : **Fourth Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat
Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition
(2007/II)**

Delegations will find enclosed the Fourth Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition (2007/II), as endorsed by the Council on 10 December 2007.

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

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second half of 2007 the EU continued to promote the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all multilateral fora. All EU Member States co-sponsored the resolution on *assistance to States for curbing illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them*, tabled by Mali/ECOWAS, and which was adopted by the 62 UNGA 1st Committee by consensus. Also the resolution on *illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspect*, tabled by Colombia, was co-sponsored by 17 EU Member States and adopted by 62 UNGA 1st Committee with one vote against and no abstentions.

The Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Controls held a specific session dedicated to Small Arms and Light Weapons, in which progress on on-going projects were assessed, including presentations from the implementing agencies. Delegations also exchanged views on future projects and the way forward.

The Council carried out preparatory work on:

- a Joint Action in support of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted by the UNGA on 8 December 2005;
- a draft Joint Action promoting the control of exports of conventional arms and the principles of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.

EU Member States provided the Council Secretariat/Office of the PR with national points of contact to which the list of air-transport carriers within the framework of the EU initiative to hinder the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons will be circulated.

II. INTRODUCTION

This fourth progress report on the implementation of the SALW Strategy covers EU activities during the second half of 2007. Like previous ones, 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 Portuguese Presidency a specific meeting of the Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Controls (CODUN) focused on the issue of SALW and their ammunition. This meeting, held in November, allowed for better coordination and coherence with regard, in particular, to project work and technical cooperation under the various EU funding instruments. Representatives from NAMSA, UNLiREC and SEESAC informed Member States on the latest developments concerning their projects and exchanged views on prospects for future cooperation.

The Sixth Annual Report on the implementation of the Joint Action on the European Union's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons, adopted by the Council on 12 July 2002 (2002/589/CFSP) was endorsed by the Council in November and published in the Official Journal. The report covers Member States' efforts to address the problems relating to small arms and light weapons at national and international level as well as their participation in the work of international and regional organisations during 2006.

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

III.1.1 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.
- Concerning the 62 UNGA 1st Committee, all EU Member States co-sponsored the resolution on *assistance to States for curbing illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them* (Mali/ECOWAS), which was adopted by consensus. The resolution on *illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspect*, (Colombia) was co-sponsored by 17 EU Member States and adopted by the UNGA 1st Committee with one vote against and no abstentions.
- Experts from EU Member States took part in the work of the Governmental Group of Experts to Consider Further Steps to Enhance International Cooperation in Preventing, Combating and Eradicating the Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons which concluded its work in June 2007. The meeting was chaired by The Netherlands. The report of the GGE concluded with recommendations aimed at enhancing international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons and practical steps for the implementation thereof. The report was noted by the 62 UNGA 1st Committee.
- The Working Group on Global Disarmament and Arms Control prepared a draft Joint Action in support of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted by the UNGA on 8 December 2005. This Joint Action will support, politically and with a financial contribution of € 300.000, the efforts of the UNODA to promote the International Instrument through a series of regional seminars.

(b) Export controls

- The EU and 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 13-14 December 2007, a follow-up outreach seminar for countries of the Western Balkans on the control of exports of conventional arms, co-hosted and funded by the Portuguese Presidency, is scheduled to take place in Belgrade.
- A draft Joint Action on support for EU activities in order to promote the control of arms exports and the principles and criteria of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports has been prepared by the relevant Council bodies. The draft has been approved by the Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports, with a view to its submission to the Council for adoption.
- EU Member States have been active in the process to gather views on an international Arms Trade Treaty, which achieved a record number of responses (over 90) to the UN Secretary General request. EU Member States also participated actively in the informal meeting on transfer control principles for Small Arms and Light Weapons held in Geneva in August 2007.

III.1.2 Regional

- An EU-LAC Expert Meeting on the "Management and security of public stockpiles of small arms and light weapons including ammunition" was held in San José on 6-7 September. The meeting was co-organised by Costa Rica and Germany in the EU-LAC framework with the aim of providing an opportunity for government officials and experts from Latin America and Caribbean States as well as EU Member States to exchange views on the effective and efficient management and security of national stockpiles of small arms and light weapons as well as their ammunition.

The European Commission participated in a seminar on "Practical Solutions to Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa" organised in Pretoria on 13-16 November. This seminar is part of a series of African owned initiatives to create capacities and better focus policies in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The seminar highlighted major loopholes in national legislation and regulations as well as the need to act forcefully at national level, through needs assessments and Action Plans.

- An ARF workshop on the "Management and Security of Stockpiles of Small Arms and Light Weapons including their ammunition" is scheduled to take place in Phnom Penh on 13-14 December. The workshop is co-organised by Cambodia and Germany in the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum and allows for a dialogue among ASEAN member states and dialogue partners on the effective and efficient management and security of national stockpiles of small arms and light weapons as well as their ammunition.

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

- 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 in the context of the European Community external assistance programmes.
- 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 from the Cold War, in particular in Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

III.1.4 EU assistance to Third Countries

Ukraine, implementation of Council Decision 2005/852/CFSP: 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). To-date 17 710 SALW have been destroyed and the target of 20 000 SALW has been increased to 27 760 due to the reduction in direct costs. The second part of the grant agreement - equipment provision – has not been implemented yet since the Kalinovka and Vinnitsa Rada (Local Parliaments) *unanimously* vetoed the plan to set up the demilitarisation facility in Kalinovka and thus more time is needed to consider other alternatives. It delayed the whole process and the duration of the grant agreement had to be extended to 31 March 2008 in order to accomplish the intended purpose of the grant and make full use of the EU contribution. CODUN is considering further support.

Also in **Ukraine** and concerning assistance to overcome the consequences of the Novobohdanivka ammunition depot explosions, the EC committed € 80 000, for measures including development of clearance procedures and training.

Latin America/ Caribbean. The implementation of the last phase of the 'Training the Trainers and Database' project in 2007 follows the adoption by the Council of Decision 2006/1000/CFSP, which provided for a final contribution of € 700 000. This one-year project contributes to combating the destabilising accumulation of SALW in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project has so far trained more than 1 340 law enforcement officials in investigative techniques and is expected to train a total of 2 300 officials by the end of the project. In addition, more than 180 parliamentarians and their advisors were also trained in a series of training courses and some installations and facilities are being constructed and refurbished to better coordinate joint activities. In terms of impact, certain countries in the region have officially reported the seizure of firearms, their parts and ammunition and linked them to the capacity-building measures delivered through the courses. The project exit strategy is now being implemented with the aim of fostering ownership on the part of States in the region, local donors and organisations through bilateral funding. The project promotes European Union visibility within its activities and systematically informs the Council of the European Union in Brussels, the European Union Presidency and the European Commission representatives in each country where the activities take place.

Colombia. The EC provided € 1.5 million to support for the rehabilitation of victims in the framework of the Disarmament and Demobilisation of paramilitary groups in Colombia . Additionally, a new € 5 million IfS project (Victim-oriented Assistance as a Contribution to Peace Building and Reconciliation in Colombia) commenced. The project will provide legal assistance to victims of the demobilised paramilitaries, support CS and victims' organisations in the elaboration of transitional justice policies, and promote the process of truth, justice and integral reparation in favour of victims of the armed conflict.

Albania. The Council Secretariat/Office of the PR took part in a closing ceremony of the NATO PfP Trust Fund project on demilitarisation of SALW in Albania, which took place in Mjebes/Elbasan on 4 October 2007. The EU committed € 1 320 000 to this project (Council Decisions 2003/276/CFSP and 2004/790/CFSP) , of which € 1 308 423 has been spent.

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

Fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW by air-transport. Delegations have provided the Council Secretariat/Office of the PR with national points of contact. A list of air-transport carriers, prepared by the EU Joint Situation Centre, for distribution, using appropriate communication channels.

The Spanish Verification Unit (Ministry of Defence) organised on 4-7 June an International Symposium in Madrid to share views on **international cooperation in SALW related projects (stockpiles destruction)**. The meeting allowed for presentations on projects in Belarus, Kaliningrad, Cambodia and Afghanistan and on the contents and objectives of the EU SALW Strategy.