



Second day of the Sixteenth Meeting
MC(16) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 11/08
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of OSCE measures in combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and in contributing to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Also recognizing the importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing security risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Taking note of the active role taken by the OSCE in international efforts based on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00, 24 November 2000), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03, 19 November 2003), and related FSC decisions,

Recognizing the importance of improving the management, security and safety of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition,

Also reaffirming the voluntary nature of the assistance provided by OSCE participating States in the reduction of SALW, in the destruction of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition and in upgrading stockpile management and security practices of participating States that request assistance in this regard,

Noting the crucial importance of co-ordination and co-operation between different organizations and other relevant actors to the effective addressing of the aforementioned challenges, and with the intention of strengthening the OSCE's contribution to these efforts within existing resources and/or extrabudgetary contributions,

1. Welcomes, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
 - The initiatives taken in 2008 related to assessing and updating the OSCE's normative commitments on SALW, including:
 - Decision No. 4/08 on the points of contact on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
 - Decision No. 5/08 on updating the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems;
 - Decision No. 6/08 on the handbook of best practices on conventional ammunition;
 - Decision No. 11/08 on introducing best practices to prevent destabilizing transfers of small arms and light weapons through air transport and on an associated questionnaire; and
 - Decision No. 12/08 on an information exchange with regard to sample formats of end-user certificates and relevant verification procedures;
 - The progress reports on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, as submitted to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 3/07, adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The Synergy Conference for Regional Organizations on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW, co-sponsored by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the OSCE and held in Brussels from 28 to 30 May 2008;
 - The OSCE Workshop on the Implications of Technical, Managerial and Financial Issues on Existing and Planned OSCE Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, held in Vienna on 5 and 6 February 2008;
2. Requests the Forum for Security Co-operation to:
 - Remain seized of matters related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition in 2009;
 - To organize an OSCE meeting on SALW to be held in 2009 to review the OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00, 24 November 2000) and its supplementary decisions with a view to explore possible further actions;
 - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2009 on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;

- Continue its efforts to support OSCE participating States seeking assistance in the destruction of SALW and SCA stockpiles in surplus and/or awaiting destruction and to upgrade stockpile management and security practices of those participating States that request assistance, through effective co-ordination and co-operation with other actors where relevant;
- 3. Requests all OSCE participating States to establish or to reinforce, as necessary, a legal framework for lawful brokering activities within their national jurisdiction by the end of 2010 in accordance with FSC Decision No. 8/04 on OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW;
- 4. Encourages all OSCE participating States to bring national laws, regulations and administrative procedures into line with the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, in particular regarding marking, record-keeping and co-operation in tracing;
- 5. Tasks the Secretary General to continue efforts to enhance co-ordination and co-operation with other international and regional organizations in order to develop synergies, increase effectiveness and promote a coherent approach to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.