



## **REPORT OF THE EURO-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**



**ON ITS ACTIVITIES  
IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTION  
TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE  
ILLICIT TRADE  
IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS  
ASPECTS**

**2006 UN REVIEW CONFERENCE**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EAPC CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE

1. The contribution of NATO and its Partners to the fulfillment of the UN's Program of Action is articulated in two dimensions. The first is through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the second is through the Alliance's Partnership for Peace (PfP) program and its Trust Fund mechanism. This report will provide a comprehensive review of both of these activities.

#### EAPC Contribution

2. As an evolution in NATO's relationship with its Partners the EAPC was created in 1997 to enhance and build on previous achievements, paving the way for the development of an enhanced and more operational partnership. The EAPC provides both pragmatic and political guidance for the development and conduct of the Alliance's Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP).

3. Its membership now consists of forty-six nations (26 NATO member States and 20 Partner Countries). The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Work Programme (EAPWP) and other PfP tools contribute directly or indirectly to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action.

4. Two years later in 1999 the EAPC established an Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons in order to provide a forum to be focused originally on issues concerning the impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Alliance joint peace keeping operations. The Working Group decided early on that it would not interject itself into the establishment of international norms and standards preferring to rely on the UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union for that purpose. Rather, it would concentrate on implementation, advocacy, and the exchange of information between Member States, other International Organizations (IO's) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

5. The Working Group organizes its activities around a Work Programme which is adopted on an annual basis and is a sub-set of the overall Euro-Atlantic Partnership Work Programme. In 2006 the priority areas of work are: continued support for the implementation of the UN's Program of Action (POA), support of Partnership for Peace Trust Fund activities, cooperation with the OSCE and other International Organizations, pursuing initiatives on a case by case basis with the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue<sup>1</sup> and Istanbul Cooperative Initiative Countries,<sup>2</sup> cooperation and support of activities in the South Eastern Europe region, and pursuing initiatives with NATO Contact Countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia

<sup>2</sup> Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates

6. For 2006 the Working Group has also adopted an enhanced program in which NATO's International Staff has been directed to develop and conduct in cooperation with other IO's, and NGO's as applicable, a series of workshops. These workshops address specific and practical issues of particular concern to the EAPC as well as serve as an opportunity to foster dialogue and increase cooperation among not only the member states of the EAPC but also, on a case by case basis, the countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperative Initiative (ICI) and Contact countries on issues related to SALW and mine action. They include for SALW workshops on: Physical Security and Stockpile Management; Destruction Technologies and Techniques; Promotion of Regional Security through the UN Programme of Action (PoA); MANPADS In All Its Aspects; and Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons. The first of these workshops was conducted from 21 to 22 February 2006 at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop's title was "Executive Management Seminar on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) of SALW, Ammunition and Explosives."

7. On behalf of the EAPC, NATO's International Staff functions as its executive agent. It has been tasked to develop coordinated actions with other IOs and NGO's in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that would contribute to the full implementation of the UN Program of Action. Several joint activities have been organized which have reinforced the synergy between different international organizations and individual nations.

#### **Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Mechanism**

8. The PfP Trust Fund projects are the tangible and operational dimension of NATO's effort and generally focus on the destruction of SALW, ammunition and mines. A number of Allies and Partner countries are involved in the funding and execution of these projects and have shown flexibility in the definition of the geographical reach of this activity.

9. In summary the Trust Fund accomplishments to date include the destruction of more than 2.5 million landmines, 530 high-altitude anti-aircraft missiles, 320 tonnes of rocket fuel, 28,000 small arms and light weapons and 1,800 tonnes of munitions. This report includes all completed, current and planned PfP Trust Fund SALW as well as mine action and the consequences of the defence reform related projects.

10. The EAPC/PfP contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action demonstrates that NATO and its Partners provide a varied and multidimensional input to the achievement of the objectives of the UN Programme of Action.

11. NATO and its Partners intend to pursue and reinforce this process while keeping a flexible and practical approach. They will continue to explore possibilities to broaden their action where the EAPC/PfP dimension may add value to the global effort and avoid duplication of efforts.

## **EAPC CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE**

### **I. Introduction**

1. Since the July 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, many organizations have sought to enhance their efforts in the fight against the worldwide proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). Within the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and NATO's Partnership for Peace contribute to the attainment of the objectives included in the global, regional and sub-regional level. These activities are accomplished in coordination with other International Organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union and others. The EAPC also interacts with a wide range of NGO's during its yearly activities. Specifically, the contribution of NATO and its Partners to the fulfillment of the UN's Program of Action is articulated in two dimensions. The first is through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the second is through the Alliance's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and its Trust Fund mechanism. This report will provide a comprehensive review of both of these dimensions.

### **II. Activities within the EAPC framework**

2. Established in 1997, the EAPC serves as a multilateral forum, providing the overarching political framework for NATO's cooperation with Partner countries and the bilateral relationships developed between NATO and individual Partners with the PfP programme. The EAPC's Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action, formed in 1999, meets on a regular basis and is designed to promote discussion, understanding and coordination on SALW and mine action-related issues and activities.

3. The Working Group organizes its activities around a Work Programme which is adopted on an annual basis and is a sub-set of the overall Euro-Atlantic Partnership Work Plan (EAPWP). The AHWG's Work Programme is designed to provide a flexible guide which focuses the efforts and activities of the Working Group for the year. It seeks to concentrate on those activities where it can provide real value added to the overall process and thus avoid competition with other organizations, needless overlaps and duplication of effort. EAPC initiatives continue to focus on both, information sharing among EAPC countries, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and on synergies from other relevant EAPWP activities projects. The Work Programme can be modified throughout the year by the Member States in response to changing political and security requirements.

4. For 2006 the priority areas of work are: continued support for the implementation of the UN's Program of Action (POA); support of Partnership for Peace Trust Fund activities; cooperation with the OSCE; pursuing initiatives on a case by case basis with the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperative Initiative Countries; cooperation and

support of activities in the South Eastern Europe region; and pursuing initiatives with NATO Contact Countries.

5. In 2006 the Working Group has also adopted an enhanced program in which NATO's International Staff was directed to develop and conduct in cooperation with other IO's, and NGO's as applicable, a series of workshops. These workshops address practical and specific issues of particular concern to the EAPC Member States. They are designed to produce tangible, concrete results and serve as an opportunity to foster dialogue and increase cooperation among the EAPC Member States and also on a case by case basis, with the countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperative Initiative (ICI) and Contact countries on issues related to SALW and mine action. The enhanced program includes, for SALW, workshops on: Physical Security and Stockpile Management; Destruction Technologies and Techniques; Promotion of Regional Security through the UN Programme of Action (PoA); MANPADS In All Its Aspects; and Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

6. The first of these workshops was conducted from 21 to 22 February 2006 at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop's title was "Executive Management Seminar on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) of SALW, Ammunition and Explosives." It was conducted by a multi-national team of experts led by the United States and included experts from the United Kingdom and Germany. Its purpose was to introduce a set of techniques and "best practices" for PSSM which may facilitate the management and implementation of national safety, storage and security for SALW and related munitions. This seminar was targeted at the senior officer level and was designed to orient the participants to a set of "best practices" of PSSM of SALW and Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS). The seminar also addressed the actual conduct of assessment visits to evaluate management, storage, and physical security of stockpiles. The presentations covered in significant detail: proliferation threat and national responsibilities; program management; operational planning, procedures and policies; protection and management of armaments and protection and management of munitions. The workshop was extremely well received and consideration is being given to offer it to both Partners and contact Countries for on-site presentation. If requested the Team has the capability to conduct actual assessments of the status of physical security and management practices at both weapons and ammunition storage areas.

7. The second of these workshops was conducted in the Ukraine in conjunction with events marking the opening of the PfP Trust Fund Project in Ukraine. This project will destroy 400,000 small arms, 1,000 MANPADS and 15,000 tons of ammunition at a cost of 7.9 million Euros. The focus of the workshop was on "Destruction Technologies and Techniques" especially as they applied to the range of items for destruction in this PfP Project. The workshop was held in Kiev on 19 June 2006 and participants were offered an opportunity to observe a MANPADS destruction event.

**A. Interaction with the Non-Governmental Organizations through the Guest Speaker Program**

8. Acknowledging the essential role of civil society in the struggle against the proliferation of SALW, the EAPC AHWG has sought to develop and encourage an exchange of information with a wide range of NGO's via its Guest Speaker program. The following is a list of SALW-related guest speakers at the EAPC AHWG since our last report:

- Bonn International Center for Conversion on the Societal Aspect of SALW, January 2004
- Small Arms Survey, February 2005 and February 2006

**B. Cooperation with other multilateral institutions and organizations through the Guest Speaker Program**

9. The EAPC AHWG's Guest Speaker program was also used as a tool to enhance and facilitate interaction between the EAPC, international institutions and individual nations. In the same way, the EAPC AHWG was invited to brief other bodies. The following is a list of such events:

- United Nations, "The State of the Implementation of the UN PoA on SALW and Landmine Related Issues," April 2004.
- Wassenaar Arrangement on "The Wassenaar Arrangements Perspectives on SALW and MANPADS," June 2004.
- United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided a presentation on "MANPADS," June 2004.
- European Commission briefed on "Towards the EC Multiannual APL Strategy 2005-2007," June 2004.
- Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE, November 2004.
- OSCE's Conflict Prevention Center, November 2004.
- United States' Department of State, Office of Weapons Abatement, provided a briefing on the status of its destruction activities, March 2005.
- OSCE's Forum for Security and Cooperation Coordinator for Stockpile and Destruction of Conventional Ammunition, May 2005.

- The Director of the South East European Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons briefed on its activities, July 2005.
- United Nations Chairman of the Second Biennial Meeting of States Parties briefed on the results of the Second Biennial Meeting in June 2005, November 2005.
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on UNIDIR's project "European Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Explosive Remnants of War," February 2006.
- OECD presentation on ODA eligibility of NATO PfP trust fund projects, April 2006.
- The Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) addressing overlaps between humanitarian demining and SALW activities, April 2006.
- The OSCE's Forum for Security Cooperation and the Conflict Prevention Center on harmonization of activities between the OSCE and the EAPC related to the UN's POA, June 2006.

### **C. EAPC contribution to other events**

10. The EAPC and PfP in coordination with the OSCE Mission in Moldova organized a regional workshop in Chisinau, Moldova entitled "Countering SALW Trafficking in the Black Sea Region – Improving Regional Standards," in February 2004. The seminar was co-chaired by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova which allowed for a comprehensive approach to addressing the SALW issues affecting the region. Accordingly, the participation in the workshop centered on the states of the region. The seminar was also open to EAPC and OSCE members, international organizations, NGOs, academics, and representatives from the arms manufacturing sector (see Annex 1).

11. NATO and the OSCE co-sponsored a technical workshop on rocket fuel component ('mélange') disposal in Kiev, Ukraine from 6-8 July 2005. NATO and the OSCE have acquired significant practical experience and expertise during the past few years in implementing mélange destruction/conversion projects. This workshop was designed to provide a framework for a comprehensive, cost-effective and ecologically sound response to the 'mélange' problem in the OSCE/NATO Partner countries. The workshop also provided the opportunity for participants from the affected OSCE/NATO Partner countries to discuss methodologies, technical options, national problems, lessons learned, legal and managerial concerns, and exchange views on the best possible way forward in developing and implementing 'mélange' destruction projects.

12. During the annual EAPC Seminar on Implementation of Conventional Arms Control Treaties and Agreements, the United States and the United Kingdom presented a ninety minute presentation on SALW and the contributions that the EAPC Verification Units could make. They emphasized that the skill sets embodied in these units such as on-site inspection experience, application of international law rules and procedures, language



skills and the ability to obtain additional national experts were directly applicable to the achievement of the objectives of the UN's POA.

### **III. Partnership activities with partner nations and other International organizations**

13. The EAPC has agreed to "Over-arching Guidance" which has established goals and objectives to be attained by all members of the EAPC through the Partnership Work Programme for 2007. These goals and objectives for SALW include:

- SLW 1 Achieve the goals of the UN's "Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects".
- SLW 2 Support achievement of synergies and harmonization of programmes between Partners, Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) countries, IOs and NGOs.
- SLW 3 Ensure adequate physical security and management of national SALW and ammunition stockpiles and the destruction of surplus stocks and collected weapons.
- SLW 4 Combat illicit trafficking, and identify needs for tailored assistance in this area.
- SLW 5 Contribute to the development of PfP training modules and programs for the specific problems related to arms collection.

14. Through the EAPWP, the 26 NATO Allies and their European and Central Asian partners have developed a multi-faceted approach to the SALW issue. This approach is based on concrete Partnership for Peace (PfP) projects as well as information sharing. Although initiated before the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action, these actions contribute to the global process and complement the activities of the other institutions and individual nations.

15. The EAPWP contains a wide range of areas of cooperation, SALW is one of these areas, but various other sectors of the EAPWP have links with SALW issues. Among these are:

- Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- Border Security and Control
- Conceptual, Planning and Operational aspects of Peacekeeping
- Democratic Control of Forces and Defence Structures
- Global Humanitarian Mine Action
- Military Education, Training and Doctrine
- Operational, Material and Administrative aspects of Standardization
- Response to Terrorism

16. The EAPWP also provides opportunities for Partners to participate in Alliance training and education programmes. In particular the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany offers a course on “Non-Proliferation” which covers both WMD and conventional weapons. For the non-proliferation of conventional weapons, the course focuses on SALW and ammunition with a concentration on Man Portable Air Defense Weapons. In the course there are two blocks of instruction and a practical exercise devoted to these subjects. Both the United Nations and the OSCE have provided lecturers for the course. In addition, the Alliance’s Verification Coordinating Committee is in the process of developing an entire course focused on SALW in all its aspects which is planned to be open to all Partner countries and on a case by case basis to countries outside of the EAPC and other IO’s.

#### **A. PfP Trust Fund Policy**

17. The scope of the Trust Fund policy is two fold – to assist Partner nations to destroy their anti-personnel land mines (APLs) stockpiles, surplus munitions, SALWs and to assist Partner nations to manage the consequences of defence reform. This may include, but is not limited to projects promoting civil and democratic reform of the armed forces, retraining of military personnel, base conversion and promoting effective defence planning and budgeting under democratic control. Trust Funds can also be established to support projects in the Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperative Initiative countries.

#### **B. PfP Trust Fund Projects**

18. Under Trust Fund procedures, NATO Member States work with the individual Partner countries to identify and implement specific projects. In each case, a NATO or Partner country takes the lead in sponsoring and developing the project proposal, and in identifying potential contributors. The Partner country that benefits directly from the project is expected to take an active part in this work and to provide maximum support to the projects within its own means. NATO experts provide advice and guidance as necessary.

19. Funding is provided on a voluntary basis by NATO members, Partners, other nations outside of the EAPC, International Organizations, and could also include contributions from private sources. Beyond financial support, contributions may also include equipment or contributions in any kind. In many cases the lead country has chosen the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) to serve as the executing agency for their project. In such cases NAMSA in coordination with the NATO Financial Controller provides financial management and accountability for the project. For these projects it also provides project management, contract support, quality control and on-site supervision. NAMSA has fifty years of experience in managing demilitarization projects and brings this wealth of knowledge to each of the projects in which it serves as the executing agency.

20. The following chart provides the status of PfP Trust Fund Projects:

Lead nations	Amount and Project Description	Status	Contributors
Albania/Canada	800,000 USD for the destruction of 1.6 million landmines	Project completed in April 2002	Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom
Albania II/Canada	6,4 million Euros for the destruction of 11,650 tons of munitions for SALW	Project started in December 2002	Albania, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway; Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom; United States; European Union
Azerbaijan/Turkey	1.16 million Euros for the clearance and disposal of UXO	Project started in November 2005	Azerbaijan, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, UNDP, Australia
Belarus/Canada	205,000 Euros for the destruction of 700,000 landmines	Project started in March 2006	Belarus, Canada, Lithuania
Georgia/ Luxembourg	1.1 million Euros for the destruction of ground-to-air defence missiles	Project completed in February 2006	Canada, Czech Rep., Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom
Kazakhstan/United States	220,000 Euros for the destruction of 27,000 SALW and 335 MANPADS	Project to start in 2006	Kazakhstan, Netherlands, United States
Moldova/Netherlands	1.1 million USD to destroy 12,000 landmines and 250 cubic meters of rocket fuel plus safety training	Project completed in December 2002	Canada, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, United States

Moldova/Belgium and Romania	840,000 Euros for repacking and centralization of 1,600 tonnes of chemicals	Project to start in 2006	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Milieukontakt
Serbia-Montenegro/Netherlands	375,000 Euros for the destruction of 28 000 SALW	Project completed in November 2003	Canada, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia
Serbia II/Canada and Austria	1,69 million Euros for the destruction of 1,3 million landmines	Project started in April 2005	Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland
Serbia and Montenegro III/Norway	5.9 million Euros for developing alternative livelihoods for departing servicemen	Project to start in 2006	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Iceland
Tajikistan/Canada	3100 Euros for the destruction of 1,260 landmines	Project completed in March 2004	Canada, Netherlands, Tajikistan
Ukraine/Canada	800,000 USD for the destruction of 400,000 landmines	Project completed in May 2003	Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine
Ukraine II/United States	7.9 million Euros for the destruction of 400,000 SALW, 15,000 tons of ammunition and 1,000 MANPADS	Project started in December 2005	Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, European Commission
Ukraine III/Netherlands	420,000 Euros for retraining and resettlement programme for departing servicemen	Project started in January 2006	Bulgaria, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ukraine

21. In March 2005, NATO/PfP, in cooperation and coordination with NAMSA, sponsored a workshop in Luxembourg on the PfP Trust Fund Mechanism. The workshop explained the PfP Trust Fund policy, project proposal development, project checklists, and financial management as well as provided a detailed explanation of the roles of the key

players including Lead Nations, contributors, and committees, NATO International Staff, NAMSO and NAMSA.

#### **IV. Assessment of the EAPC/PfP contribution to the UN Programme of Action**

22. The overall efforts of the EAPC and especially its information exchange which includes NGOs, other international institutions and individual governments play an important role in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action. These efforts respond to the measures listed in the PoA, Section II, paragraphs 24 to 31.

23. Meetings of the EAPC AHWG are attended by representatives of the EAPC countries who, as they are involved in discussions on other political-military and security issues, bring an integrated and holistic approach to the issues involved with SALW. This is particularly valuable due to the close linkage existing between SALW and overall security at all levels, international, national, regional and local.

24. On the operational side, reducing the excess stockpiles of SALW and ammunition and the destruction of weapons collected from the civilian population, accomplished through PfP Trust Fund projects, directly contributes to the material aspect of the problem; reducing the financial burden of large stockpiles and reducing the threat of the illicit proliferation through theft and illegal entry of these weapons on the black market. As past experience demonstrates, weapons illegally seized from national stockpiles are a major item of cross border trafficking.

25. The widespread availability and easy accessibility of ammunition is also a major component of the overall SALW threat and the destruction of ammunition has proven to be just as important as the destruction of the weapons themselves. As a result, a number of PfP destruction projects include the destruction of large ammunition stockpiles.

26. The implementation of the actions within the framework EAPCWP, together with the SALW-related PfP Trust Fund projects has created a synergy which complements activities and programmes undertaken by other nations, international organisations and non-government organisations.

#### **V. Conclusions**

27. The scope of action and an inter-relation of the EAPC with other structures, both intergovernmental and the civil society are better defined today. Through its efforts to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action, the EAPC/PfP has developed a more precise definition of its role in the overall process.

28. Possible new areas of cooperation and dialogue may be explored in the same cooperative spirit. However, the EAPC/PfP will continue to focus on the operational aspect of its contribution, be it through on the ground projects or with the definition of practical steps and their implementation to address specific problems.

29. We are collectively addressing the threats emanating from the illicit trafficking in SALW. It is well understood that weapons collection, destruction, physical security and stockpile management of SALW, although extremely important are only part of the process. If our efforts are to be truly successful and have a long lasting impact, we must adopt a holistic approach. In the end, it is behavior which must change and that requires education, the establishment of real local and regional security, the implementation of the rule of law, good governments, and promoting economic opportunities.

30. The EAPC AHWG shall concentrate its efforts on facilitating or contributing to the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action by its members.

31. The EAPC will also investigate other areas in which NATO and its partners could bring additional value added, such as the organization of issue-specific workshops that deal with practical topics including humanitarian demining; destruction technologies and techniques; controlling the proliferation of MANPADS; the illicit brokering in SALW; and promoting regional security through the UN Programme of Action. These workshops will serve as an opportunity to foster dialogue and increase cooperation among the members of the EAPC and possibly other countries, international organizations and NGOs.

**EAPC/PfP Regional Workshop  
Countering SALW Trafficking in the Black Sea Region –  
Improving Regional Standards  
Chisinau, 4-5 March 2004**

**Conclusions by the Chairmen**

**Michael D. Miggins, NATO IS  
and  
Ambassador William H. Hill, OSCE Mission to Moldova**

**Executive summary**

1. The uncontrolled proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) affects collectively the countries of the Black Sea Region, and presents a real threat to the stability of the region. It fuels crime and insecurity, exacerbates conflicts and undermines post-conflict peace-building.
2. Over the past few years, the SALW issue has advanced considerably, norms and guidelines have been developed, and a co-operative machinery developed. There is now a much better picture of what can and should be done in the years to come. And individual countries of the Black Sea Region (BSR) have taken many steps in dealing with the SALW issue. Yet, due to the scope and complexity of the issue, much remains to be done.
3. Even though there has been encouraging progress, the implementation of multilateral SALW Documents remains uneven. Greater priority should be given to these documents at the State level and better coordination among the different offices concerned with its implementation is needed. Countries of the BSR should ensure that they have designated a national point of contact for SALW.
4. All States of the BSR have formal export control and licensing systems. Yet export criteria could be made clearer and export policies harmonised. Legislation and procedures could still be improved in a number of domains, including brokering, end-use controls and enforcement.
5. Many States of the region have also come to recognize that large stocks of surplus weapons are a potential problem. Efforts developed with a view to secure these stocks or destroy them must be encouraged. Many projects are in progress or under consideration in these domains. Close co-ordination among the different players active in this field is needed.
6. Customs co-operation should also be enhanced, and countries of the region could take advantage of experiences in this domain in other parts of the EAPC region, notably the Ohrid process. However, the Ohrid model can only be applied in a situation where co-operative spirit and trust prevail.

7. Improving transparency and accountability of the legal production, stockpiling, and trade in SALW is also an element that countries of the BSR may want to consider. Transparency is not easy in a domain that touches upon national security, but has the potential of contributing substantially to the identification of gaps/loopholes, and to the improvement of standards.

8. Regional political co-operation is also central to tackling trafficking in SALW, and countries of the BSR may want to consider addressing this issue within a regional political framework. The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) could provide such an institutional framework.

9. The fact that requests for assistance have been submitted to the OSCE by countries of the region and that projects are in progress or under consideration within the framework of the PfP Trust Fund is proof that these countries take their responsibility under the different multilateral SALW Documents very seriously. Additional demands for assistance were made by countries of the BSR in the course of the workshop, notably by Moldova and Georgia. The mechanisms that have been developed by multilateral institutions should be used, and States in a position to do so should, as far as possible, support these requests.