

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting

Friday, 3 July 2020

## Meeting notes

### BACKGROUND

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting was held online on 3 July 2020. The meetings are held as part of implementation of the [European Union Council Decision 2018/1788/CFSP in support of the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans](#).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting gathered representatives of SALW Commissions in the Western Balkans, which are beneficiaries of the Roadmap, representatives of international and regional organizations engaged in arms control in the region, as well as the key donors.

This meeting provided the opportunity to inform on and coordinate activities under implementation as per the specific goals of the Roadmap, present the data as collected by the authorities on the Roadmap Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), discuss contributions from the international and regional organizations engaged in arms control in the region and donor support in countering the proliferation and illicit trafficking of firearms.

### OPENING SESSION

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Chaired by Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC

**H.E. Joanneke Balfoort, Director for Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service** commended the Western Balkans' progress in non-proliferation and arms control and their steady commitment to the Roadmap implementation. She emphasized the high priority that the Western Balkans have on the EU's security agenda, as well as the **EU's comprehensive support** to disarmament and arms control since 2002. Such steady support led to the development of the Roadmap as a **fully regionally owned process** and to its adoption in a very short time. Ms. Balfoort emphasized the level of knowledge and good practices established by the region, which can be replicated in the other parts of the world. Lastly, she described **the coordination and monitoring** of the Roadmap implementation, as a unique process, professionally led by SEESAC and with valuable contribution by all parties.

**Mr. Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission** reiterated that the Western Balkans remain the top priority for the EU and that includes engagement and support in security matters. Mr. Popowski informed on the most recent steps related to accession negotiations with the Western Balkans including a new methodology launched to make the negotiations more effective, more credible and more dynamic. He emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation on security matters with the Western Balkans

and that in this context the Western Balkans Roadmap will be fully integrated into the upcoming 2024 EU Firearms Action Plan. Mr. Popowski announced DG NEAR's commitment to support the Roadmap through a regional project aiming to strengthen operational cooperation and increasing the response to the factors fueling demand and misuse of firearms.

**Mr. Marcus Bleinroth, Director of Division, Conventional Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office, Germany** expressed his pride on the Roadmap development and its impact on the region, and the cooperation of the EU with the region in this particular area. Mr. Bleinroth mentioned that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, jurisdictions put in a great deal of efforts in preparation of this meeting, which is shown in the impressive inputs in preparation of progress reports. He emphasized the export of the Roadmap model to other regions including the first one in the Caribbean region, where a similar Roadmap, along with the goals and Key Performance Indicators was agreed. Germany is also supporting a Roadmap in West Africa, which is planned to be endorsed during German's presidency of the EU during the EU-West Africa Summit planned at the end of October. Mr. Bleinroth concluded that the authorities and the international community need to keep the focus on the main goal of the Roadmap to contain the illicit trafficking of SALW by 2024.

**H.E. Jean-Claude Brunet, Ambassador-at-large on transitional criminal threats and fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW, France** highlighted the political importance of the unique partnership with the EU in the framework of the Roadmap. He stressed that it will be crucial to maintain mobilization of the SALW Commissions and to work closely with the Ministries, especially in terms of operationalization of the Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) and arms control legal harmonization. He pointed out the importance of coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders in order to be able to exchange information and experience. Mr. Brunet reiterated France's commitment to the European perspective of the WB partners by supporting three main priorities including legal framework harmonization, increasing seizure of illegal firearms and supporting criminal investigations and prosecutions.

**Ms. Agi Veres, Deputy Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS** commended the SALW Commissions for their high-level engagement and ownership in the implementation of the Roadmap, which is a strong evidence of long-lasting cooperation and spirit of trust established in this area. She thanked the donors - in particular the EU, Germany and France - and highlighted the funding mechanisms that are currently supporting Roadmap implementation, including the NATO and OSCE funding mechanisms and the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Ms. Veres added that UNDP has currently 18 projects under implementation, all developed and implemented in close cooperation with the authorities, in particular the SALW commissions. Ms. Veres thanked all partners active on the ground and their coordination of efforts in support to the national authorities, which has proven to be a key precondition for success in this process.

**Mr. Amer Kapetanovic, Head of Political Department, Regional Cooperation Centre** recalled the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap process as a unique practical example of a regionally owned process. He stressed the importance of support from donors and international organizations and that the process has been well-streamlined, without overlapping and in full coordination with the SALW Commissions in the region. Mr. Kapetanović concluded by confirming the readiness of the RCC to continue providing political guidance, in full synchronization with the EU values and standards.

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## SESSION I – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP/ACTION PLANS – PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, PLANS

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*This session allowed the SALW Commissions of the six jurisdictions of the Western Balkans to present the progress made under each Roadmap goal, as well as the key challenges in implementation, including those brought by the COVID-19 crisis, priorities, plans and the identified needs for support. The updates were based on the inputs to the Regional Narrative Progress Report on the implementation of the Roadmap.*

Chaired by Ms. Floriana Sipala, Head of Unit D.5, Organised Crime and Drugs Policy, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

### Belgrade

On behalf of the SALW Coordination Council, **Mr. Miodrag Lazić, Head of Department of European Affairs and Planning**, Ministry of Interior (MoI) presented the status of implementation of the Roadmap and the Action Plan as per its Goal, emphasizing the following key points:

- The coordination and monitoring process of the Ministry of Interior established in reviewing the strategic priorities and projects for implementation under the Roadmap;
- Work in progress related to drafting and harmonization of the legal framework with the EU Acquis, in particular related to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, the Law on Marking, the new Law on Explosive Substances, which will regulate the production and trade in explosive substances for civilian use; adoption of the Decision on the Establishment of the National Control List of Arms and Military Equipment and the Decision on the Establishment of the National Control List of Dual-Use Goods in line with the EU regulations;
- Progress related to cooperation with the international organizations including, signed cooperation agreement with EUROJUST, operational and strategic cooperation agreement with EUROPOL, FRONTEX, etc;
- Establishment of the Firearms Focal Points;
- Significant increase of the number of seizures during the reporting season;
- Destruction of 23.4 tons of ammunition (of different calibers), fuses and explosives as part of the demilitarization process (disposed of by MoD); 15,430 firearms, as well as 54,111 pieces of SALW ammunition (disposed of by MoI);
- Progress in the refurbishment of storage locations and evidence rooms with support from US government;
- As per the RCC Public Barometer, the Republic of Serbia is the jurisdiction with the lowest percentage of feeling threatened by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in their neighborhood.

### Comments

**Ms. Maja Đundić, Project Coordinator, UNDP Serbia** informed on the gender-related project implemented in cooperation with the MoI and Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as the only project in the WB tackling this issue, with the broader aim of preventing domestic violence. She emphasized the work with the established group of journalists against domestic violence to tackle the normalization of gun culture.

**Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Head of the Global Firearms Programme, UNODC**, reminded of the long-standing cooperation between UNODC and the region in the area of combatting drugs and crime. She added that UNODC launched the first regional project under the MPTF and that it plans to continue its support in the implementation of the Roadmap. Ms. Grassi stressed that the UNODC increased its presence in the region with the appointment of three project officers and one project assistant. She thanked the MoI of Serbia for coordinating the response concerning the gap analysis on the harmonization of the national legislation with the Firearms Protocol.

**Mr. Veaceslav Balan, Organized Crime Adviser, OSCE Mission in Belgrade**, stated that the OSCE Mission to Serbia has initiated the project to support awareness raising campaign. Furthermore, he added that the OSCE is working on the project proposal for strengthening the capacities of the K9 unit and commended the exemplary cooperation with the Serbian MoI.

**Mr. Pedro Garcia, Action Leader Operational Action 4.1. EMPACT FIREARMS**, highlighted the value of the Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) as an efficient cooperation tool between the national investigative agencies in tackling cross-border crime. In this sense, he recalled EMPACT's participation to the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of the South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN), organized in Novi Sad last November by SEESAC, and Meeting of the FFPs from the Western Balkans and EU, that EMPACT organized with the support of SEESAC. Mr. Garcia informed on the upcoming organization of the Joint Action Days (JAD) planned on 24-27 September and supported by the participation of EUROPOL, INTERPOL, FRONTEX and UNODC. He noted the challenges imposed by the current health crisis. Lastly, he indicated that through the TAIEX instrument, EMPACT will organize an online investigation training course with a focus on darknet and a Cyber-patrolling training.

## Podgorica

**Mr. Mladen Marković, President of the SALW Commission** presented the status of implementation of the Roadmap and the Action Plan as per the Goals, emphasizing the following key points:

- Harmonization of Law on Weapons (particularly the categorization) ongoing with SESEAC support;
- A version of the draft Law on Production, Modernization and Repair of Weapons and Military Equipment has been sent to BAFA. The opinion of BAFA was received, while further cooperation with UNODC is expected;
- The FFP has been established and is operational. The Criminal Intelligence Sector has the key role in data processing and analysis, due to existing personnel capacities and access to relevant databases and pending cases;
- The ballistic laboratory is yet to be accredited and currently in process;
- Awareness raising activities were implemented through the campaign "Respect life, return weapons" but also through media presence, communications on seizures of illegal arms;
- Citizens voluntarily surrendered 78 pieces of firearms, 37 parts of weapons, and 1,074 pieces of ammunition through a voluntary weapon surrender campaign;
- A total of 990 pieces of SALW and 269 parts of firearms were destroyed through melting;
- Destruction of surpluses from MoD and Armed Forces continues;
- Reconstruction and security upgrade of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence (MoD) weapon storage locations continues.

## Comments

**Ms. Nađa Bobičić, Project Assistant, OSCE Mission to Montenegro**, informed that the OSCE mission is currently implementing the project supporting the update of national policy and procedures on ammunition stockpile management and currently in process of procuring equipment for the detection of weapons and explosives. The training for the use of this equipment will be delivered to police officers. Ms. Bobičić informed that together with the colleagues from the OSCE Secretariat, FSC Support Section, they are tailoring a project in support of the MoD to establish surveillance capabilities system of the ammunition stockpiles in line with international standards and OSCE best practices.

**Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Global Firearms Programme, UNODC** thanked the SALW Commission for their support and coordination, as well as the Prosecution Office for appointing a focal point for cooperation with GFP and the MoJ for establishing a working group to review the proposal for amendments of the criminal code.

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## SESSION II (CONT.) – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP/ACTION PLANS – PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, PLANS

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Chaired by Mr. Marcus Bleinroth, Director of Division, Conventional Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

### Pristina

**Mr. Mensur Hoti, Director of the Department for Public Safety, Ministry of Internal Affairs** presented the status of implementation of the Roadmap and the Action Plan as per the Roadmap Goals, emphasizing the following key points:

- Review of the laws governing arms control has been initiated to make all the necessary changes with the aim of full harmonization with the EU directives;
- The main challenges relate to the difficulties in reviewing the legislation due to the frequent amendments to the Firearms Directive, as well as the law discrepancies between jurisdictions in the region and beyond;
- The FFP established in 2016 and fully operational producing analytical reports;
- Weapons tracing is in place. Although there is no direct access in iARMS, information is sent frequently on stolen/lost firearms through UNMIK INTERPOL. Data on 56 lost/stolen firearms was recorded into iARMS;
- 97 requests sent for verification to Interpol and iARMS and all of them resulted negative; 37 requests have been received that were verified at national level;

- 11 reported cases of weapons trafficking during the reporting period. 159 profiles for control purposes have been submitted and 13,829 second line checks have performed, thus preventing 16 cases of forbidden goods, including weapons, ammunitions and parts of weapons;
- 26 Operational Plans at local level and 1 Operational Plan at international level, in coordination with International Law Enforcement Unit (ILECU) to strengthen border control;
- The ballistic laboratory is accredited;
- Awareness raising activities were conducted targeting weapon producers, entrepreneurs, retailers, youth and tackling in particular domestic violence;
- 594 weapons were destroyed in November through melting;
- Main challenges reported:
  - Not members of Interpol and Europol and therefore do not have direct access to iARMS and SIENA;
  - The Judicial Authority and the Prosecution office do not have a unified database to facilitate exchange of information;
  - No use of the investigation tools provided by EUROPOL and EMPACT;
  - Weapon legalization law and procedures to be reviewed;
  - Database required for legalization data;
  - Insufficient specialized staff with technical knowledge on weapons;
  - Training on stockpile management based on IIATG standards,
  - Further trainings for inspectors and technical equipment for inspection.

## Comments

**Mr. Mentor Cakolli, Safety and Security Programme (KSSP) Project manager, UNDP Kosovo\*** informed that the UNDP is supporting the legalization and surrender of weapons and explosive devices, the countering of illicit arms trafficking (CIAT) by border police and combating illicit arms trafficking in Kosovo by criminal police (CPIAT) focusing on increasing investigative capacities. Mr. Cakolli added that the UNDP handed over five K9 dogs to the authorities. He finished his presentation by announcing that the UNDP submitted two project proposals to the MPTF second call for proposals.

**Mr. Betim Llapashtica, National Programme Officer, OSCE Mission to Kosovo** informed that their project regarding strengthening the existing K9 capacities is approved and that it should start in September. Planned activities include conducting a comprehensive needs' assessment on organizational, structural and operational capacities of the K9 police unit.

**Mr. Ivaylo Stefanov, Principal iARMS Agent, INTERPOL** informed that even if Pristina does not have direct access to INTERPOL databases and communication channel at 24/7, information is received through the Liaison Officer at UNMIK.

## Sarajevo

**Mr. Ermin Pešto, Head of SALW Coordination Board** presented the status of implementation of the Roadmap Goals, emphasizing the following key points:

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\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



- The current SALW Strategy and the Action Plan are due to expire in mid-2020. SALW Coordination Board started the development of the new strategy;
- Harmonization of the laws with the EU legal framework currently in process. Two workshops on the Law on weapons were organized in cooperation with SEESAC. A model of the Law on weapons for one canton was developed and it is harmonized with the amendments of the 2017 EU Directive. This law will be used as a model for other 12 laws in BiH; Work continues with the implementation of the Law of Marking;
- Ongoing challenge in the recent months is the increase of incidents by migrants. In several cases weapons have been used. More data is still needed to analyze the problem and support to tackle it;
- Two activities of destruction of SALW were held with 26,000 parts and components of the firearms destroyed;
- A practice of the annual briefing to the media has been established in order to present work results of the SALW Coordination Board;
- In 2019, the Ministry of Defence destroyed 850 tons and 361 pieces of mines and explosives devices;
- 42,000 pieces of SALW from Ministry of Defence were marked. This is 80% of the planned amount; A register of marked weapons was established;
- In the second half of 2019, there was an increase of seized firearms at the borders;
- Compared to the first half of 2019 number of voluntary surrender firearms has decreased;
- 11 pieces of firearms have deactivated during the reporting period;
- 29 police storage facilities for SALW were visited. After the analysis and assessment report, 10 facilities are envisaged for reconstruction;
- Strengthening of the K9 units is planned and the final and assessment report is under development, as well as the proposal how to improve the capacities;
- The agreement about the donation of Evofinder ballistic identification system by French Government to be signed on 9 July 2020 in the Ministry of Security;
- A proposal of the composition of the working group for the FFP establishment was sent to the Council of Ministers;
- Development of the SoPs for law enforcement agencies, and assessment of the green border was completed and currently in process of procuring the equipment for the law enforcement agencies;
- A new project started with UNDP that envisages among other activities, the establishment of the electronic record for tracking movement of the weapons and military equipment;

**Mr. Slobodan Tadić, Sr. Programme Coordinator / Sector Leader Justice and Security, UNDP BiH,** stressed that UNDP adjusted all activities in the security domain to the COVID-19 crisis. Several field-oriented activities are postponed. Detailed needs assessment of the security sector of BiH will be conducted which will result in concrete recommendations for immediate response, but also for medium- and long-term interventions in issues such as crises management, communication and coordination. The assessment will include an in-depth analysis of the legal, institutional and policy framework, but also all other reported issues, such as cybercrime, migrant situation, gender-based violence, etc.

**Mr. Diman Dimov, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Global Firearms Programme, UNODC** thanked the colleagues from BiH for participating in the evaluation of the Global Firearms. In BiH, together

with the UNDP, UNODC is implementing a joint project. UNODC is in the process of finalizing recruitment of the project officer who will be based in Sarajevo. Moreover, UNODC is working closely with the Prosecution Office.

**Mr. Robin Mossinkoff, Head FSC Support Section, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE** highlighted the longstanding and successful cooperation of the OSCE mission to BiH with the BiH SALW Coordination Board and informed that the OSCE Mission is in the final stage of development of a project proposal in support of the Roadmap implementation. In addition, the mission is assisting in the development of the new SALW strategic framework, 2020-2024. In cooperation with MoD they are maintaining momentum in the implementation of infrastructure works in Dobojo.

**Ms. Jelena Bujaković, SEESAC SALW Project Specialist** emphasized that UNDP SEESAC is providing assistance in a broad range of areas in particular to the border and criminal police, as part of the new EU Council Decision adopted at the end of 2019. A detailed needs assessment of border police services in combatting trafficking of firearms has been finalized and shared with the authorities throughout the region (excluding BiH) for their feedback and approval. A Regional Border Control Meeting is planned to be organized in October to ensure final approval of the needs' assessment. Based on the results of the needs assessments, SEESAC will provide support in the development of Standard Operating Procedures (or amending the existing ones as relevant), and comprehensive capacity development of border services through procurement of the necessary equipment and training, contributing to standardization of approaches throughout the region. She added that similar approach is planned in support of the criminal police services – for their capacity development through SOPs, training and provision of equipment based on a detailed needs' assessment. Ms. Bujaković informed also that the support was provided to the authorities in the region in harmonization of legislation with the EU Acquis and further support can be provided based on identified needs. Delivery of weapons marking machines has been postponed due to COVID-19, and the measures affecting the freedom of movement and assembly. This activity will be finalized by the end of the year. SEESAC will continue to support the capacity development of FFPs, thus strengthening the analytical and investigation capacities of the jurisdictions. She concluded informing that UNDP SEESAC will further continue its support to the authorities in destruction of SALW and security upgrade of the police evidence rooms, evidence based policymaking, integration of gender in SALW control, awareness raising and facilitation of regional cooperation at the strategic and operational levels.

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## SESSION III (CONT.) – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP/ACTION PLANS – PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, PLANS

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*This session allowed the SALW Commissions of the six jurisdictions of the Western Balkans to present the progress made under each Roadmap goal, as well as the key challenges in implementation, including those brought by the COVID-19 crisis, priorities, plans and the identified needs for support. The updates were based on the inputs to the Regional Narrative Progress Report on the implementation of the Roadmap.*

Chaired by H.E. Jean-Claude Brunet, Ambassador-at-large on transitional criminal threats and the fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW, France



**Ms. Marija Topalovska, Advisor in Department for legal affairs, court proceedings and human resources management, Ministry of Interior** presented the status of implementation of the Roadmap and the Action Plan as per the Goals, emphasizing the following key points:

- Harmonization with the EU regulations is ongoing with a Working Group formed to this purpose.
- Rulebook on the technical specifications for firearm deactivation is soon to be adopted;
- Work ongoing on drafting the Law on Explosive Substances. The final text of the law should be ready by the end of 2020;
- Draft Law on Development, Manufacture and Trade in military goods has been developed and sent to the competent institutions for their comments/opinions;
- Training for the legal entities/personnel involved in firearm deactivation is a need including: the members of the commissions which verify deactivation, the staff in the MoI's Department for Weapons, Explosive and Hazardous Substances which is responsible, inter alia, for control and oversight of the aforementioned legal entities; the staff in the security and detective's agencies;
- OSCE conducted an analysis of the National SALW Commission. The recommendations resulting from the analysis are integrated into an OSCE project the implementation of which will commence in 2020;
- With the support of UNDP, an ongoing project aims to improve the national SALW-related data collection practices through: introducing an electronic system for weapon registration and tracing, and improving and harmonizing the information management system in the Ministry;
- FFP has been established in the Division for Firearms and Ballistics of the Department of Forensic Investigations and Expertise (OKTIV);
- Information is exchanged in the framework of an investigation between law enforcement authorities regarding international movements of illegal firearms, but also for legal firearms that have been lost or stolen;
- The ballistic laboratory is accredited;
- During the reporting period, the organizational units for prevention have coordinated the implementation of preventive activities concerning the use of firearms and pyrotechnics with the target groups;
- A public destruction of SALW was organized on 9 July 2019 when 585 pieces of firearms were destroyed;
- A total of 38 weapons have been reported stolen or lost during the reporting period;
- Support has been requested from OSCE for the planning, design and implementation of public awareness raising campaigns. The OSCE Mission to Skopje has submitted a project proposal;
- Identified challenges:
  - The need for developing and implementing a new software for weapon registration and tracing;
  - FFP - Support to connect all relevant databases.

## Comments

**Ms. Meri Atanasovski, Project Manager, UNDP North Macedonia** informed that their work is coordinated with the MoI. In order to have accurate collection, dissemination and analysis of data on arms control and collaboration of national institutions, UNDP is developing a weapons registration and stockpile management software that will allow communication with the entities outside the MoI, such as arms

dealers and border police. This software should be finalized by October this year. In parallel, UNDP will be working on the police information management system to incorporate all information systems used in the MoI. They are working closely with the custom in order to provide interoperability of two systems.

**Mr. Diman Dimov** mentioned that the UNODC placed focus on the work with the Ministry of Justice in North Macedonia. The recommendations for the amendments to the Criminal Code are under review by the Ministry. UNODC will appoint a new colleague who will be based in Skopje. Mr. Dimov announced that the global study on firearms trafficking has been launched and he invited participants to join the official launch that will be held on 15 July.

**H.E. Clemens Koja, Head of Mission, OSCE Mission in Skopje**, emphasized that the OSCE Mission in Skopje will continue to support the Roadmap. In cooperation with the SALW Commission and Ministry of Interior, the OSCE Mission developed a project proposal for assisting the authorities in North Macedonia to decrease the weapons proliferation and misuse of SALW. This project is currently under review by the MoI. Mr. Koja stressed the excellent cooperation with the MoI, as well as with the partners such as UNDP, UNODC, SEESAC, GIZ, etc.

**Mr. Iwaylo Stefanov** stated that North Macedonia is one of the leaders in the region of usage of IArms database.

## Tirana

**Ms. Rovena Voda, Deputy Minister of Interior/Head of SALW Commission**, presented the status of implementation of the Roadmap and the Action Plan, emphasizing the following key points:

- Three main priorities have been identified: harmonization of the SALW legal framework, reducing illicit possession of firearms by citizens and awareness raising on the threats of firearms.
- A working group has prepared the amendments to the Law on Weapons aiming to harmonize it with the EU firearms Directive;
- A Table of Concordance for the Law on weapons has been prepared with SEESAC's support. A draft law on explosive substances on the market is currently under development.
- The state police conduct regular inspections, operations and searches to reduce the number of illicit firearms;
- The police are closely monitoring the cases of celebratory shooting and conducted specific campaigns to reduce the use of fireworks. Communication with the public is also conducted through community policing approach;
- Registration of weapons is ongoing. 54.1% of all hunting weapons have been registered by April 2020 in the Firearms Information Management System (SIMA);
- The State police continued awareness activities regarding SALW by using different means such as publishing police reports, leaflets, organizing public discussions targeting general public;
- The FFP has been established. The unit is operational, and its activity consists of the collection, analysis, follow-up and exchange of information between national and international law enforcement agencies and with counterparts in the Balkans and European countries. The unit analyses, registers and uses data regarding firearms, which have been received by the following systems: SIMA, I-Base and I-Arms;

- Continuous communication and cooperation with EUROPOL through SIENA channel. This communication has increased after the appointment of EUROPOL liaison officer;
- Cooperation with FRONTEX in south Albania, at the land border with Greece;
- Cybercrime unit cooperates with the Security Office of the US Embassy to improve the investigation tools. Several people using dark web were detected through the application for the data export from the social networks. At least four people exposed themselves on Facebook. The cases have been sent for prosecution.
- The number of criminal offences of illicit possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) in 2019 decreased compared to 2018 with 400 cases of proceeding in 2018, 361 proceedings in 2019;
- Criminal production, sale and trade has a low percentage of investigated proceedings and increased compared to 2018, since there are 3 cases more in 2019.
- Regarding the upgrade of safety and security of SALW/FAE storage facilities, the authorities are cooperating with SEESAC on increasing the security measures in one ammunition storage facility by improving the external fencing and video surveillance as well as by providing metal safes to store the weapons used by foot patrol structures.

## Comments

**Mr. Redi Voshtina, Project Coordinator, UNDP Albania** stressed that support to the upgrade of procedures and equipment for the Albanian Scientific Institute focusing on the ballistic sector and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) teams, funded by the Government of Germany, is ongoing. Procurement process for a Water Tank for bullet recovery and 3D scanners is almost completed, as well as for several IT equipment and Comparative Microscope for Ballistic examination; development, revision and update of the SoPs and establishing laboratory information management system is ongoing. Consultations with the Government in supporting priority areas were conducted. Two main areas were identified consisting on increasing the safety of the police evidence rooms across Albania and conducting public awareness campaigns and sensibilization of population about misuse of weapons.

**Mr. Sasho Trpchevski, Law Enforcement Development Officer, PSCE Presence in Albania**, stressed that the OSCE will continue their work in Albania in reducing the risk of proliferation of SALW with key areas of focus in:

- Increasing the capacities of national authorities in raising public awareness on the dangers of misuse and proliferation of SALW & implementation of awareness raising campaign/s;
- Establishing of Deactivation legislative framework and its practical implementation;
- Strengthening capacities of MoI/National Police K9 units for detection of weapons and explosives.

**Ms. Paula Parker, Head of International Development, NABIS** provided an update about the NABIS work in the Western Balkans. NABIS experts visited ballistic forensic facilities in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Belgrade to support the accreditation process. Assessments were undertaken against ISO 17025 accreditation criteria and gap analysis reports and proposed action plans were produced and shared with each jurisdiction, as well as with UNDP SEESAC. Ms. Parker added that the NABIS documentation, including

Quality manual procedures, processes and training modules have been shared across WB6 forensics centres and they remain available to all labs for guidance and support. She also informed that plans for an inspection against ISO accreditation of the laboratory in Tirana, due to take place in Q1 2020, were postponed.

**Ms. Amina Mašović, Legal Adviser, IPA 2017 Countering Serious Crime in the Western Balkans** provided an update about the Countering Serious Crime in the Western Balkans IPA 2019 project. She stressed that the activities planned to be implemented in cooperation with EMPACT will be postponed and added that the new phase of the project was started and will be more focused on the regional elements.

**Ms. Eirini Lemos-Maniati, Deputy Director, Arms Control, Disarmament, and WMD Non-Proliferation Centre (ACDC), NATO HQ** provided an overview of NATO supported activities in the region and available tools and guidelines. She emphasized that there are projects under the implementation in Serbia, Montenegro and BiH regarding demilitarization of ammunition and PSSM. There is also a project under implementation in Kosovo through the NATO KFOR Kosovo Force Mission mandated by the UN.

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## SESSION IV – FUNDING SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP

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*This session allowed the OSCE and UN to update on the funding mechanisms and tools established or available in support of the implementation of the Roadmap, while the donor informed on the current or new planned funding.*

Chaired by **Mr. Amer Kapetanović, Head of Political Department, Regional Cooperation Council**

**Mr. Robin Mossinkoff** presented the OSCE/SALW portfolio of projects contributing to the implementation of the Roadmap. He emphasized that the OSCE has developed 10 projects based on the assistance requests received from the jurisdictions from the region and for which funding support is needed. He added that these projects are complementary to the other projects that are under implementation in the region. Mr. Mossinkoff underlined the SALW/SCA Repository Programme that is the OSCE Trust fund and could be used by the WB jurisdictions.

**Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of UNDP SEESAC** informed participants about the activities relating to the Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. She stressed that the current contributors are Germany, UK, France, Netherlands, Sweden and Norway. The participating organizations to the MPTF are UNDP and UNODC and these organizations can apply for funds. Moreover, Ms. Balon added that the current portfolio totals approximately USD 11.5 million, and that there are four projects under the implementation. A second call for proposals was organized at the beginning of this year. Nine project proposals are under review while a decision of the allocation of funding will be made by the Steering Committee in July

### Conclusions of the meeting

**Mr. Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission** in his concluding remarks expressed appreciation to all participants who have spent despite difficult circumstances, almost entire day remotely in providing with a top-level update on different activities. He stressed the four priorities for the EU in this area including: **the control of illicit firearms, the better knowledge on the actual treat of firearms trafficking, the improved law**

**enforcement cooperation** and **international cooperation**. Mr. Onidi commended the authorities in the Western Balkans for the commitment and progress made in Roadmap implementation – in harmonization of arms control legislation with the EU acquis and ensuring safety and security of stockpiles in particular. What is still needed is further advancing the knowledge on the actual threats of firearms trafficking and further advancing cooperation among police services, border guards, prosecutors in combatting trafficking, and increasing the number of adjudications. He also commended the establishment of Firearms Focal Points and stressed that further support is needed. He highlighted the need for awareness raising activities on dangers of misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms. Mr. Onidi also thanked all the international organizations and donors supporting the Roadmap implementation as well as contributing to the coordination efforts.

He concluded by informing about the integration of the Roadmap in the EU action plan, which would be the first time that the EU is proposing to apply across the European Union a solution developed by the Western Balkans. This is a recognition to the extraordinary work done by the Western Balkans and an example of how the EU and the Western Balkans partners can work successfully together towards a common goal.

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