

SERBIA: CONTRIBUTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REFER TO RESOLUTION 79/46 ENTITLED *PROMOTION OF MULTILATERALISM IN THE AREA OF DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION*

Serbia has the status of respectable manufacturer and exporter of conventional arms and military equipment. Accordingly, and in line with its foreign-policy goals and priorities, it has harmonized its national system of the control of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods with the rules and standards of the EU and the OSCE, as well as with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions and other international documents.

The matter related to the manner and the conditions of the export, import, transport, transit and provision of services in the field of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods has been regulated by the *Law on the export and import of arms and military equipment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 107/2014)* and the *Law on the export and import of dual-use goods (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia Nos. 95/2013 and 77/2019)*, as well as by relevant by-laws.

In accordance with relevant conventions and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540/2004, Serbia has consistently implemented its international obligations in the field of non-proliferation of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

Also, a comprehensive and legally-binding document was established by the adoption and the entry into force of the *Arms Trade Treaty* (ratified by Serbia in October 2014); it set up common international standards related to the transfer of arms and military equipment.

By its Conclusion of April 2008, the Government of Serbia decided that the country accede to international export control regimes. Serbia is currently a full member of the regime of the *Nuclear Supplier Group*, while the negotiation mechanism for the country's accession to the *Wassenaar Arrangement* is under way, whereby it would contribute to the exchange of information on proliferation risks and the improvement of the system of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024 was confirmed within the Berlin Process (2019 diplomatic initiative for EU expansion within the Security Agenda). Following the evolution of the document and 2023 recommendations, an initiative was launched for the adoption of a new Roadmap by 2030. Upon completion of relevant procedures and the support by the European Union, the Ministerial Forum EU – Western Balkans on Justice and Home Affairs held in Budva, Montenegro, on 28 and 29 October 2024 approved the second phase of the Roadmap.

The said regional document established the starting basis for a multilateral approach to the solution of the problems relative to these types of weapons, i.e. their proliferation and,

in the final analysis, of disarmament. And even though the Roadmap was initially established as regional in character, it has been expanded to include, in addition to the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. In their meetings, organized by the United Nations Development Programme, the countries of the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe (Moldova and Ukraine) espouse multilateralism, i.e. they join efforts to solve problems together, cooperate and exchange information in the field of arms trafficking prevention, aimed at preventing the proliferation and diversion of arms from legal to illegal flows. Multilateralism is reflected in international cooperation in the fight against these types of crime, in particular in adjacent countries, irrespective of whether the countries are EU member States or EU candidate member States. The promotion of multilateralism is also reflected in plans to harmonize laws in adjacent countries, lest differing legal systems facilitate arms smuggling in transit and EU countries, thereby contributing to proliferation.

The exchange of experiences and the promotion of multilateralism in the fight against all types of misuse of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and explosives are carried out also within the regular regional meetings, attended by participants from the Western Balkans, Southeast Europe and some EU member States. They include the regional meetings of SALW Commissions, South East Europe Firearms Experts, regional meetings of crime and border police, RAR Task Force and others.