

German Bundestag



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**FINAL REPORT**

**Regional Meeting for Eastern Europe**

**German Bundestag**

**Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

**13th and 14th of February 2009**

**Berlin, Germany**

***“Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons***

***Responsibilities, Challenges and Opportunities for European States.”***

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## Friday 13th of February

### Opening session: Introductions

Hon. Hans Raidel, Member of the German Bundestag , opened the conference by extending warm words of welcome to all participants. He emphasized the immense problems related to Small Arms and Light Weapons and referred to the deaths and injuries which these types of weapons cause every year. He expressed the hope that by the conclusion of this conference a "Berlin-Declaration" could be adopted. Thus the German capital of Berlin could be associated with this particular topic. He finished by thanking his fellow colleagues from the Bundestag for their attendance and noted that even though they come from different political groups, as Hon. Winfried Nachtwei, MP from the Alliance90/Green Party, they are closely cooperating when these important issues are dealt with in parliament and beyond. He expressed particular words of thanks to all NGOs working in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Mr. Raidel also underlined the previous efforts undertaken by the Parliamentary Forum during recent regional conferences.

Hon. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Thierse, MP and Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag spoke about the importance of consolidating peace and common security. Security is a global issue which cannot be achieved by one country alone. We are all affected. Parliamentarians in democratic countries will play an important role in this mission and creating networks facilitates the task.

Hon. Senator Sonia Escudero, President of the Parliamentary Forum, gave the key note address of the session. She started by expressing her gratitude to Latin American parliamentarians that the presidency of the Forum has once again been entrusted to a representative from Latin America which is, without a doubt, one of the regions most affected by the terrible consequences that easy access to weapons imposes on society. She gave a brief introduction and explained the history of the Forum and then pointed to the severity of the problem in Latin America and in Africa in comparison to other regions such as Western Europe.

However, the problems which arise from the manufacturing of firearms etc are indeed an area where European countries, as well as other core countries, play an important part. Four of the eight largest exporters of weapons are European which will undoubtedly have implications on security in various other regions of the world.

With all this in mind she therefore hoped that the Parliamentary Forum, with its broad membership consisting of parliamentarians of various ideologies representing different countries and continents, can provide a visualization of the problem in all its comprehensiveness and various dimensions. The Forum should establish an area for discussion and the exchange of experiences that can serve all in order to nurture the most important initiatives in these matters and update us on the ongoing processes.

To achieve this, we must consolidate and strengthen the lines of work and partnerships formalized by the Parliamentary Forum. She highlighted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as a priority area and the importance of European countries being involved and called for constant interaction with the UN Group of Governmental Experts.

She concluded by saying that meetings like this should serve to define the objectives to be achieved, as well as to identify which programmes and initiatives are needed to achieve them.

Hon. Ruprecht Polenz, Member of the Bundestag and Chairman Committee of Foreign Affairs

continued by saying that Weapons of Mass Destruction must not let us lose sight of SALW since these weapons kill far more people. He expressed the German Bundestag's commitment to the United Nation's Program of Action and the hope that the Arms Trade Treaty would become a reality one day. An important task of parliamentarians is to raise awareness about these issues.

Hon. MP Hans Raidel, stated that, like the Ottawa process, this will be a step by step process. He referred to Germany's strict regulations on export controls, exemplary at European level. Increased and continued efforts, however, need to be pursued. Not all targets have been achieved so far.

Mr. Peter Weiderud, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum, said that meetings like these, where parliamentarians get together and share experiences, create wisdom. These ideas will then be incorporated into the Berlin Declaration to be discussed by the end of the conference.

Following this, President Escudero suggested a round of introductions of all participants where they could give an account of the situation of SALW in their countries.

Hon. MP Christer Winbäck from Sweden started by saying that there has been an increase in armed crime in Sweden and the parliament is trying to improve legislation. In his opinion awareness-raising is key. Some groups such, as users of sports weapons, argue their case but we also know that most illegal weapons started out as legal arms. He is a member of the Swedish Parliamentary Association on SALW which has members from all parties.

The Albanian delegation preferred to make their statement at the next session.

Mr. Zeljko Grubestic, Senior technical advisor to the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) spoke on behalf of his delegation. He started by thanking the organizers and proceeded to explain the situation.

Independent studies commissioned by UNDP show that over 19% of BiH population possesses weapons of which 16% are illegally owned. High levels of weapons and ammunition in the country remain one of the key challenges that BiH is facing as a consequence of the 1992-95 war.

Since 1999 over 60,000 SALW have been collected from civilians but it would require 80 years to collect all the weapons in civilian possession. However, thanks to the SALW control initiatives in BiH, implemented by national institutions and UNDP, there has been a 31% decrease in weapons related incidents in 2008 compared to 2007. Nonetheless, the large levels of military stockpiles in the country remain one of the key challenges. In 2004 BiH had over 450,000 SALW and 60,000 tons of ammunition stored at over 40 storage sites. The army has been restructured and downsized from 60,000 to 10,000 personnel, making safekeeping of these stockpiles one of the major challenges in the country.

BiH remains committed to solving the issue. He then explained the important work conducted by the UNDP's Small Arms Control Programme and local NGO's which work in cooperation with the Joint Committee for Defence and Security

The program has amongst other things established a national Coordination Board for SALW Control including many of the ministries. The Joint Committee also worked in partnership with national institutions and international organizations in aligning the SALW legislation system. The Ministry of Defence and UNDP have to date destroyed over 95,000 SALW and over 3,500 tons of unstable ammunition in the country. One of the key challenges that hamper the pace of the programme implementation is the complete transfer of ownership of military property from entity to state level as well as a complex political environment in BiH.

He concluded by saying that the Committee would like to invite all participants to engage in closer regional cooperation in this area keeping in mind that SALW and ammunition are some of the key obstacles and potential threats to national and regional stability and peace.

Hon. MP Nedzhmi Ali, Bulgaria, acknowledged on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation the seriousness of the problem. He highlighted that Bulgaria is now a member of the EU and NATO which means that they have undergone development and now adhere to all regulations applied by these organisations, including the United Nations and the Program of Action, and they wish to contribute to international security. Destruction of surplus is one of the most important tasks for the Western Balkans in order to ensure security. The region is now at peace but it is still fragile and a lot of arms are still in circulation. Harmonisation of legislation as well as regional cooperation will be crucial. At this conference we have representatives from the people of the region and together we can develop further mechanisms for cooperation.

Hon. MP Ante Kotromanovic, Croatia spoke on behalf of the Croatian delegation and they come from a region in South Eastern Europe who is contaminated by these types of weapons. In Croatia the police force has been very engaged in collecting and destroying arms and has been quite successful. There is a need for a legal framework to control arms in the future. He would like to come back to this issue later in the session.

Hon. MP Cristos Stylianides, Cyprus shared that the Republic of Cyprus has improved the legislation on trade and export control of SALW. He also stated that there is no manufacture of arms in Cyprus.

Hon. MP Juris Dalbins, Latvia agreed with the other participants that this is indeed a serious problem. In Latvia there is illegal movement and trade of SALW and their security services are doing their best to try to locate them. Weapons that for some reason are lost can reappear and be reused. This type of conference will provide good contacts so that, together, we can stop the proliferation of SALW.

Mr. Andrei Ilasciuc, Advisor to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, explained the situation in his country. Moldova has a legacy from the Second World War. He described the situation in the separatist Transnistria region. This area has large stockpiles of arms as well as arms production. This is of deep concern for the Government. Most problems with arms in Moldova are related to this issue.

Hon. MP Vasilije Lalosevic, Montenegro, asked to give a statement later and added that he was looking forward to the conference.

Hon. Titus Corlatean, Senator Romania spoke on behalf of the Romanian delegation and expressed Romanian's deep concern for the humanitarian aspect of the problem and stated that Romania is a very active nation in the UN and has adapted its national legislation in light of the new European laws. With reference to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Romania was only an observer to the Oslo Process and has not signed the convention for several reasons. He pointed out that Romania is not a producer of these types of weapons. They are also not using, nor plan to use, these weapons.

Mr. Yuri Padun, Department of Security Cooperation, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted that he did not in fact represent Russia even though that is where he is originally from (as his name badge mistakenly indicated) and he explained his task with the OSCE Mission. After the Civil War there are still huge stockpiles of SALW and the arms are easy to access both legally and illegally. He thought a focus on improved legislation would be very helpful.

Mr. Dušan Prorokovic, Advisor to the Parliament of Serbia referred to what his colleagues from Croatia had said. There are huge quantities of small arms in the hands of people and organised groups in the Balkan region. 90% of these arms are found in the Kosovo area.

*Before lunch the participants were given a guided tour of the German Bundestag*

## **Session II: Parliamentary response on brokering of small arms**

Session II started with a presentation given by MP Christer Winbäck from Sweden. The Key expert speaker Mr. Brian Wood from Amnesty International had fallen ill at the last minute and unfortunately had to cancel his trip to Berlin.

Hon. MP Winbäck, Sweden pointed out that the illicit spread of SALW represents a threat to peace. He remarked on the great labour of Parliamentarians and their concern about this serious problem.

He started by describing the UN Biennial Meeting of States to discuss the Program of Action on Small Arms. Last year was the second time he had participated as part of the Swedish Delegation to the meeting. Last year's meeting focused on several key topics, including reducing illicit arms brokering, management of stockpiles and strengthening international cooperation and assistance. 136 countries were represented.

He highlighted the important work conducted by NGOs and the importance of sharing best practices and experiences. He stressed that regional and international efforts between states are needed. It is necessary to build up regional capabilities and initiatives that reach across regions. Developing legislation is vital as well as gathering data about what needs to be done to protect lives and ensure security.

Lack of a legal framework or differences in legislation between countries create loopholes that brokers use for illicit purposes. Society and world media monitor the work conducted by parliamentarians and

it is important to remember our commitment to these issues and our task to implement the tools available to fight the proliferation of arms.

He gave an account of the situation in Sweden where the number of confiscated guns has increased by 3%. Homicide rates from 2004 – 2005 had also increased from 35 to 70. At the moment almost all Swedish parliamentarians are concerned about this issue and are committed to working on it.

He explained that the Forum had recently had a meeting in Washington with a U.S. Congressman to discuss US involvement in SALW issues.

MP Winbäck pointed out that the Forum facilitates information sharing. Participants at this conference come from different backgrounds and have different experiences and ideas. Sharing those experiences will help parliamentarians to work together on this issue. The booklets are a good example of how it is possible to share experiences.

### *Discussion*

President of the Forum Senator Sonia Escudero referred to the legal system in Argentina; the Congress is divided into two Houses: the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) and the Senate (the upper house). Either of them can propose legislation. Senator Escudero said that a law proposal regarding production of arms had been developed but later stopped since some argued that if other producer countries continue producing arms, Argentina can not be the only one to prohibit the industry because it would mean a huge economic loss for the national economy.

Senator Escudero explained that she is currently pushing for a new law against firearms in the congress, trying to gain the support of parliamentarians. She highlighted the need to create strong ties between NGOs and the people to achieve these goals.

Hon. MP Winbäck, Sweden explained that the Forum had recently taken the initiative to approach the representatives in the USA on the issue of arms. It is a delicate topic but it needs to be discussed.

Hon MP de Araujo, Mozambique congratulated the Forum for this initiative and reiterated the need to continue work in this area.

Mr. Weiderud highlighted the need to create networks and tools in order to advance the agenda. These tools will help to share our experiences with Congressmen in the USA and to listen to their experiences. He continued by describing the situation in Sweden after the Second World War. Sweden had not taken part in the war but when the war ended the country recognised that they needed a stronger defence and many called for a nuclear weapons program. This was an ongoing debate even in the 1960's. However, popular opinion soon changed with the realization that nuclear arms would make us less rather than more secure. The investments already made in nuclear programs instead became Sweden's most important resource when advocating for nuclear disarmament.

Hon. MP Christer Winbäck stated the importance of following up the process in order to know what other states are doing in this regard. This is an essential tool for sharing experiences. It requires planning, commitment, and follow-through by parliamentarians.

Hon. MP Raphael Chegeni, Tanzania emphasized that arms control measures can also help to promote human security in post conflict societies. Parliamentarians should show stronger commitment; they can reduce the levels of arms related violence. MP Chegeni also mentioned the importance of exploring new opportunities in USA due the recent changes in policy resulting from the new Administration.

Hon. MP Titus Corlatean, Romania said that trafficking in small arms requires an adequate response. He remarked that common challenges demand a coordinated action, a strong commitment between parliamentarians, as well as among regional and international organisations. At the same time, a comprehensive approach should be taken into account considering both the sources and the destinations of small arms.

He explained that Romania developed its national legislation concerning arms when they joined the EU. The national mechanism for controlling the export and import of strategic products was strengthened and the National Agency for the Control of Strategic Exports and Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was introduced to ensure the respect of legal provisions in this area. Romanian practice on licensing exports has improved considerably since the 1990s, and Romania is constantly supporting and promoting the international and regional organizations.

Hon. MP Raidel Germany, explained Germany's uniform approach as to the topic in discussion, i.e., a parliamentary response to the brokering of SALW. He considered it essential to reduce the number of weapons in circulation in any country in order to reduce the risk of renewed conflicts. He said that Germany has been involved in the Oslo-Process on cluster munitions.

He illustrated that parliamentarians in Europe play a significant role in the implementation of projects emanating from the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001). In his view parliamentarians can also help to strengthen security and promote confidence - building measures targeted at related issues including illicit traffic and misuse of conventional weapons.

Mr. Raidel recommended that when approaching the USA on this topic it is important not to trespass sensitive principles. He recommended development and identification of common interests designed to enhance regulations and commitments with regard to SALW. He expressed concern about Russia providing enriched uranium to Iran which could be used for other purposes beyond cooperation on nuclear power. A dialogue with Russia needs to be reinforced in order to reach agreements on nuclear transfers and cooperation within the IAEA regime.

Governments spend huge amounts of money on arms, Mr. Raidel continued, amounts no longer available for other purposes. Consequently governments are called upon to take such a situation into consideration and change priorities accordingly.

### **Session III: The Convention on Cluster Munitions**

The expert speaker for the session was Mr. Burkhard Ducoffre from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He made a PowerPoint presentation on the prohibition of cluster munitions and the state of affairs after signing the Oslo-Treaty: The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

The presentation started by giving a brief description of what cluster munitions are and which weapons the Convention encompasses. He then proceeded to show the types of weapons which are still permitted such as Point Target Munitions controlled by a multiple sensor system. These weapons are designed to disperse over and scan the target area in order to detect the target. If no target is detected the munition will self-destruct or self-deactivate. He showed the different effects on the ground of point target versus area target.

He then talked about the convention and its final adoption in Dublin on the 30th of May 2008. 107 states participated and NGOs had played a vital role. The Convention was adopted by consensus and not by vote. He highlighted two important events which had been the Declaration by UK Prime Minister Brown as well as the joint declaration made by German Federal Ministers Steinmeier and Jung.

The signing of the Convention had taken place on the 3rd of December 2008 in Oslo. 94 states signed the treaty in Oslo (including Germany), Tunisia joined later as state no. 95. 19 EU- and 18 NATO-member states signed. However, states with the largest stocks and most frequent use of cluster munitions USA, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Korea and Israel did not take part. In the EU, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Cyprus did not sign.

The Convention will come into effect six months after ratification by 30 states which is expected in the beginning of 2010. As a comparison he mentioned the Ottawa-Convention, which required 40 ratifications over one and a half years. Germany will ratify as soon as possible. The Cabinet passed the decision on 1/21/09, and it is now up to the German Parliament to make the decision.

The Convention means a total ban on the use, development, production, storage, import and export of all kinds of cluster munitions is prohibited. It also includes destruction of existing stocks to be destroyed preferably within 8 years (2 extensions of each 4 years is possible).

The goal of the Convention is a total ban on cluster munitions due to their hazardous effects from a humanitarian point of view, protection of the civilian population as well as additional explicit guidelines for alternative munitions that are not included in the ban on cluster munitions. He also mentioned that there are other types of weapons, such as air defence munitions and smoke bombs, that are not classified as cluster munitions.

He went through the rules regarding transition period and interoperability as well as the extensive provisions concerning providing assistance for victims of cluster munitions (which is more extensive than in the Ottawa-Treaty) extended to family members and social communities.

With regards to Germany the German Federal Armed Forces have been destroying stocks of cluster munitions since 2001. As from June 2008 there is an official commitment to no longer use, produce or transfer cluster munitions. More than 30% of stocks of cluster munitions (reference year 2001) have already been destroyed. There are still some problems related to the lack of capacity and intensive manual work.

To conclude he pointed to the fact that the 'Big Ones' did not sign. However, stigmatization has already taken place and future efforts and follow up meetings have already started.

Hon. MP Artur Hasanbelliu, Albania was asked to give a parliamentary response to the presentation and the topic. He started by giving an account of the situation in Albania which is one of the 94 countries who signed the Convention and accepts its full obligations. The ratification process is underway and he thought it would happen very soon, hopefully within two to three weeks. He reaffirmed that Albania has never used, produced, stockpiled or transferred these weapons but that there are contaminated areas in Albania. This is as a result of the Kosovo Conflict of 1999. Statistics showed that, in particular, there are 13 villages in the north-eastern part of the country which are affected and this directly affects around 10 000 people. Cluster munitions were used during this conflict by both the armed forces of the Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and NATO Allied Forces. None of the cluster sub-munitions affecting Albania have any kind of self-destruct, self-deactivation or self-neutralization mechanisms.

He talked about the large socio-economical impact in the country as well as the clearance activities initiated. However these clearances did not reach humanitarian standards and therefore all areas had to be re-cleared.

National and international agencies working in Albania on clearance operations, mine risk education and survivor support fully integrate action aimed at cluster sub-munitions. In other words, sub-munitions are dealt with in the same way as mines and other unexploded ordnance. Local organizations implement community-level mine risk education, which includes specific information on cluster munitions and sub-munitions. As a result of risk reduction and education activities also covering the affected communities, no incidents from cluster munitions have been recorded in northern Albania since 2005.

To conclude he reassured that Albania is entirely committed to honouring its own obligations within the time frames provided in these international agreements. He urged for continued cooperation to make the world a safer place by getting rid of these deadly weapons. However, this requires a full and genuine commitment by all States.

As a member of the Board of the Parliamentary Forum, Hon. MP Dr. Raphael Chegeni, Tanzania was asked to give the second parliamentary response. He highlighted the fact that 98 % of all victims of cluster munitions are civilians and this is why so many actors and countries have been involved in the Cluster Munitions Process.

The Parliamentary Forum adopted a policy statement on Cluster Munitions in May 2007 and many of our members have been involved in the process.

Before the final negotiations in Dublin there have been several conferences. He had attended the conferences held in Livingstone, Zambia (March-April 2008) as well as the final negotiations in Dublin in (May 2008). Other members of the Forum have also participated. MP Celestino Suarez from Spain

(who is here today) attended the conference in Vienna in December 2007. Vice President of the Forum Hon. MP Manuel de Araujo attended the signing conference in Oslo in December last year.

The work of parliamentarians has been crucial to the success of the Oslo Process and their engagement on this issue and collaboration with civil society has helped to ensure widespread support for the comprehensive treaty that was adopted in Dublin in May.

The involvement of parliamentarians will again be of crucial importance during this next stage to ensure that states ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions nationally, but also to promote signature, ratification and implementation of the treaty globally.

The Forum reaffirms its commitment to support the Convention on Cluster Munitions that will lead to effective assistance for victims, the clearing of affected areas and regulate the use and stockpiling of cluster munitions.

### ***Discussion***

A question was raised regarding the possibility of the USA signing the Convention. The answer given was that the USA has adopted a new position on cluster munitions, even during the Bush administration. This will not have the same effect as the Oslo Convention but it will hopefully be complimentary.

Mr. Weiderud highlighted that cluster munitions are not technically SALW but it is important to work with the issue due to the humanitarian consequences and to protect civilians, especially children.

Another question regarding NATO was raised. Mr. Ducoffre stated that 18 out of 26 NATO members had signed the Convention.

Hon. MP de Araujo, Mozambique thought it was surprising Finland had not signed and asked what the reason for this could be.

Mr. Weiderud said a probable reason was that they still see the need for these types of weapons in their defence due to their long border with Russia.

Mr. Ducoffre said that Finland had affirmed that they might ratify within a few years. At the moment they are giving priority to the ratification of the Ottawa Convention to eradicate landmines.

Hon. Senator Escudero noted that Argentina believes that since the big users did not take part or sign, the Convention will not have the expected effects.

After the discussion a Press Conference was held where Hon. Hans Raidel, MP Germany, Hon. Sen. Sonia Escudero and Mr. Peter Weiderud were interviewed.

*End of day one.*

## Saturday 14th of February

### Session IV: Stockpiling of Conventional Ammunition

Hon. de Araujo MP, Mozambique opened the session and gave the floor to Consultant Jim Carr, Ammunition Technical Officer, UNDP Bosnia to give his presentation.

After introducing himself Mr. Carr gave some examples of dangerous incidents at ammunition depots and their severe consequences. He showed a table of all ammunitions explosions that have occurred over the last few years. The sheer quantity of incidents was astonishing as well as the number of deaths and casualties. The first example brought up had occurred at Bharatpur Ammunition Depot, India on the 28th April 2000 and had resulted in five fatalities as well as the evacuation of 10,000 people. On top of this US \$90 million of stock was destroyed. The grass surrounding the depot where the fire had started had not been cut for two years as a cost saving measure.

He noted that after an explosion occurs the danger is not over. Sometimes only 50% of the ammunition explodes, which means that the remaining ammunition is still present and continues to pose a threat for civilians. These risks include both unexploded ammunition as well as toxic contamination. It can take years to clean it up properly.

Mr Carr said that in many places, storage facilities are poor and thus very insecure. He also mentioned that the major threat is the propellant. They are designed to be kept at a certain temperature and many depots do not have any control of temperature levels.

Mr Carr indicated poor storage conditions and standards and poor ammunition management as contributory factors for accidents. There is a need to establish legislative framework, to engage the security and defence committees in the issue and mostly to initiate international cooperation by visiting the storages and conducting quality checks.

#### *Questions*

Mr. Weiderud asked about the political responsibilities when these incidents happen.

Mr. Carr answered that one case he was aware of was when the Minister of Defence resigned because of an explosion in Albania.

A response was then given by Mr. Hans-Werner Wiermann, German Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Wiermann described the fine technical knowledge that Germany has applying in practical procedures to destroy stockpiles of ammunition and upgrade stockpile management and security measures. He pointed out that this is an old problem and it is necessary to invest money in order to destroy surplus ammunition.

Governments at the national level should address the issue of ammunition stockpile management in a comprehensive manner by maintaining appropriate legislation and regulations for the safe and secure storage of ammunition. It is important that governments analyze how much ammunition is needed and identify surplus and obsolete ammunition stockpiles.

Mr. Wiermann noted that part of the problem is the lack of infrastructure. The best way to guarantee the security of ammunition is through construction measures and planning. Ammunition storage should be protected from external influences in order to achieve secure ammunition stockpiles. If there is a stockpile ammunition accident somewhere, Germany tries to investigate what happened and learn from that experience.

He added that it is necessary to invest in human resources and training programmes because it is the most successful solution for an effective protection for the people, the environment and the equipment. The German Army is working on different programs in order to help other countries deal with this topic. They have cooperated closely with Ukraine, sharing the knowledge that Germany has gathered. The German Army also has a two year program to give specialists training in stockpile ammunition issues.

Mr. Wiermann concluded by stating that the entire spectrum of safety measures for stockpile management of ammunition needs the commitment of parliamentarians. They need to work and take actions to develop solutions to this problem.

***Questions:***

Hon. MP Ante Kotromanovic Croatia asked why NATO does not promote measures to avoid problems with stockpile management of ammunition and why NATO does not have any training for people working in that field in other countries?

Mr. Wiermann answered that NATO has standards for the storage, transportation, security, and stockpile management of ammunition and weapons. If a country is a member of NATO, specific norms and methods concerning this topic should be applied immediately.

Major Jeffrey Reed from the US Army - NATO Head Quarters in Sarajevo explained NATO's support to the PFP (Partnership for Peace). He explained that there is a desk officer for every country and that they can exemplify what the country is doing under NATO parameters. Major Reed noted the importance of learning from each other in this meeting and sharing experiences. Some of the states present want to join NATO and the EU and thus it will be a positive contribution for them.

A response was then given from the Parliamentary Forum by Vice President Manuel de Araujo, MP Mozambique.

Hon. de Araujo began by describing the situation in his country. He explained that problems with ammunition stocks and the proliferation of small arms is the result not only of internal issues but also because of the problems in the region and the several wars it has endured. He indicated that Mozambique has suffered almost 20 years of war. It accumulated large amounts of ammunition and caused a proliferation of small arms in Mozambique.

He continued by describing that Mozambique had suffered explosions at deposits of ammunition in October 2002 and March 2007. On the 22nd March 2007 a major explosion occurred, killing 104 people and injuring another 600. UNDP sent one of their experts to Maputo to investigate the reasons for the explosion, but the Government did not allow the expert to access the site.

MP de Arujo affirmed that all of these accidents show a lack of provisions and supervision. He stressed the need to find out where the responsibilities lay. He said that the booklet 'Conventional Ammunitions Stockpiles – Parliamentary Handbook 2008' published by the Parliamentary Forum was a helpful tool to approach parliamentarians.

He ended his response by highlighting the importance of attending this kind of meeting, as they help to improve capacity and solve problems together, pointing out the representative and legislative role of parliamentarians.

### ***Questions***

Mr. Jim Carr offered to address any doubts or questions that the parliamentarians may have and suggested they e-mail him.

## **Session V Model Legislation for Europe**

President of the Parliamentary Forum Senator Sonia Escudero from Argentina presented the Model Legislation on firearms and ammunitions of the Latin American Parliament; Senator Escudero started describing the Latin American Parliament's composition, bodies, principles, purposes and member countries.

She mentioned the work of the Latin American Parliament in promoting and supporting freedom, social justice, democracy, international peace and stability, recognition of Latin American people's rights, legal equality of the States, and prevalence of international principles.

Senator Escudero said that 5 of the 6 countries with the highest percentage of deaths by weapons can be found in Latin America and Caribbean, showing a high homicide rate by firearms in the region.

She explained that the purpose of a model Legislation in Latin America is to harmonize regulations, limit the stock and reduce legal and illegal flow of arms. Senator Escudero affirmed that legislation on firearms is needed, but there are certain limitations of the legislative response that needs efficient application, effective controls and repression of activities outside the law.

She continued by mentioning that in the conceptual framework of the model Legislation is a mixed of control and disarmament and it has seven components including general provisions, controlled objects and approved persons, permitted activities, authority of application, sanction regime and parliamentary control.

Senator Escudero gave an account of the extensive discussions the Latin American Parliament has had concerning the general principles of the Model Legislation, where issues as prohibition, restriction,

anticipation, timeliness, revocable justification, correspondence, universality, not transferable and no circulation are settled.

According to Senator Escudero the model Legislation establishes authorized persons to bear arms, where chapters related to private persons, police force and military force in duties, and security forces, are included as well as chapters referring to licenses classification, authority for application reduction of stocks and parliamentary control.

Senator Escudero ended her participation indicating that the model Legislation has been introduced in various countries in Latin America and is used as a source of reference during debates on arms legislation reform.

A presentation was then made by Ms. Christine Tötzke Head of Division Peace Building: Crisis Prevention and Research of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

She started with a quote from the Nicolas Cage film "Lord of War":

*"There are over 550 million firearms in worldwide circulation. That's one firearm for every twelve people on the planet. The only question is: How do we arm the other 11?"*

This very cynical quote shows that the small arms trade is a very lucrative, but unscrupulous business with severe consequences in people's suffering and misery.

The uncontrolled availability and proliferation of small arms and light weapons is not only a security issue, but also a major problem for development. The arms themselves do not cause conflict, but their uncontrolled availability and misuse leads to escalation of violence, prolongation of conflicts and undermines the state monopoly on violence and destabilizes governmental structures, especially in fragile states.

Small arms contribute to the spiral of poverty and violence in which a large number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia are caught in today. She explained the nature of SALW in that they are cheap and easy to use, even for children who end up being both perpetrators and victims. She also highlighted some aspects related to gender-based and sexual violence facilitated by SALW.

She then spoke about international agreements and processes and that the German federal government has been working on these issues in recent years. It is a complex international problem that can only be effectively combated through the implementation of binding international and regional programs. She mentioned the process and the implementation of the UN Program of Action which is a slow step-by-step process.

The future of global standards to combat the illicit trade in small arms remains uncertain. The implementation of the Program of Action will be important. She highlighted that small arms control is only effective if the causes of the demand and their social contexts are taken into account. The German

Federal government has repeatedly stated their willingness and support for the implementation of the Program.

The German Government is working with developing countries on peace building, crisis prevention and conflict management and she explained how this work has taken place, cooperation with OECD-DAC and gave a few examples including a destruction of ammunition stocks program in Cambodia, a project for the East African Community regarding institutional and legal frameworks to tackle the small arms issue in the areas of organizational development, legal harmonization and training. She also pointed out that SALW should not be dealt with as an isolated issue but only in its larger context.

A response was given by Hon. MP Celestino Suárez, Spain and he began describing how the EU is strengthening measures to control international trade of arms and he also noted that the EU is focusing on ways to support international requirements that can help to improve the problems related to the illicit trade and proliferation of weapons.

MP Suárez said that it is necessary for parliaments to promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct that has now been adopted as a Common Position which turned it into a legally binding document. The most important changes are related to international humanitarian law, issues concerning military technology and individual terrorists.

He spoke about the importance of promoting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and he mentioned that six working group meetings are planned. 2009 will be a very important year for the process. However, the negotiations face problems from countries that are sceptical and need constant support from the EU, NGO's and parliamentarians.

He cited as an example the treaties on chemical weapons, landmines and cluster munitions, which were the result of joint efforts of states on these issues and where a step-by-step method had been used.

MP Suarez ended his presentation by listing the actions needed. He stressed the importance of supporting information from states, to promote the active participation of states in the development of the ATT as well as to continue promoting the Code of Conduct and the dialogue between parliamentarians.

Hon. Raymond Lueta, MP from the Democratic Republic of Congo asked for the floor and gave an account of the bitter experiences of his country. DRC is a very large country with nine bordering states. This makes the country very difficult or even impossible to control and the impact has been disastrous. As we speak it is close to anarchy. He explained that as Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee they have seen the need to combat this situation. A bill has been tabled and it is now being discussed by the parliament. It has passed its first stage and things are developing in a positive way but in three provinces the situation is difficult.

He congratulated all countries who are fighting against SALW. He continued by explaining why he thought DRC had such big problems. The country is a continent on its own with extensive resources and raw material. This causes envy and they are being plundered.

Hon. MP de Araujo thanked MP Leuta for sharing his story. DRC is indeed suffering for being rich.

Hon. MP Ivan Šantek, Croatia expressed his gratitude for an interesting conference. He explained that Croatia has problems with both illegal and legal possession of firearms and that the distinction was not always very clear. Arms brokers often bypass international arms embargos. A quality legal framework is therefore very important. In accordance with EU standards, Croatia is now implementing measures to fight the problem. Croatia voted in favour of the UN Program of Action and has now signed all relevant agreements, submits annual reports and is prepared to work towards a legally binding agreement on SALW. This will not eradicate SALW but it will contribute to a more secure nation.

Mr. Zeljko Grubestic, Senior technical advisor to the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina spoke on behalf of his delegation and once again stated over 19% of BiH population possesses weapons out of which 16% are illegally owned. Many weapons have been collected but challenges still remain. They will need strengthened institutional capacity in order to deal with SALW. The committee is working on improving legislation but it is difficult since the 12 cantons all have specific legislation on SALW. Harmonisation in terms of a unified national law is vital as well as coordination with neighbouring countries. This needs to be improved and one way is to install a coordinative board.

Hon. MP Costica Canacheu, Romania explained that he and his delegation were invited for the first time and they will now start to advocate for these issues in their chamber. They were sure they would certainly find other parliamentary colleagues who would also be interested and they would continue engaging with this forum. Romania has been present in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to assist. Romania does not have a culture of gun use, a possible side effect of the oppressive communist past.

Romania has started to exercise close parliamentary oversight and last year they had visited ammunition storage sights and factories which had been a tremendous experience. Romania has a large army and was formerly part of the Warsaw Pact. They are now trying to push the Finance Ministry to fund the destruction of surplus chemical ammunitions and so forth. But to conclude he stated that there is a strong need for funding and advocacy.

Hon. Winbäck, MP Sweden talked about Sweden as a producer and exporter of SALW. There are two main criteria for when arms should not be exported and those principles are based on human rights and democracy considerations as well as development i.e. that trade should not be made with countries that spend a disproportionate amount on defence. He added that there are of course exceptions to these exceptions.

Hon. MP Oglie Pierre, Haiti gave an account of the situation in her home country which has experienced a lot of violence and is getting worse. At the moment there are huge problems with kidnappings and violence in schools. She added that a bill had been tabled about this.

Mr. Weiderud talked about some of the problems a state can encounter when trading in weapons. If an initial deal already has been made it needs to be followed up. If not, the state runs the risk of violating

relations with the other state which can have severe consequences. There is therefore a need to have parliamentary oversight and involvement very early on in the process.

Hon. de Araujo MP Mozambique noted that the problems do however not end once legislation is in place. He also noted that when a country as transparent as Sweden has problems then there is clearly still a lot to be done.

Hon. Escudero Senator Argentina agreed with Mr. Weiderud. She added that the executive government needs to give annual reports so the parliament knows what is going on.

Hon. MP Celestino Suárez, Spain added that the actors who oppose these kinds of changes to legislation are very powerful and resistance can be enormous. Therefore good tactics and strategies are needed.

## **Session VI: Concluding session and remarks**

Ambassador Claus Wunderlich Deputy Commissioner of the Federal Government for Arms Control and Disarmament addressed the participants and gave some concluding remarks from the conference.

Small arms and light weapons claim more victims than any other weapons category, increase conflict, destabilise societies and impede development. In many regions of the world it is possible for civilians to easily acquire SALW whether legally or illegally. The control of small arms and light weapons including their ammunition is therefore one of the main areas of attention with regard to conventional arms control.

In many states SALW seriously impede economic and social development and are a determining factor in contributing to the escalation of armed conflict. This makes SALW control a prominent topic in technical cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

In order to coordinate the Federal Government's international engagement in SALW control issues, the Federal Foreign Office is chairing regular meetings of representatives from the different ministries with responsibility for SALW issues as well as interested NGOs and industry representatives in order to coordinate SALW-related policy matters. These meetings create transparency, coordinate the action of government and civil society and have contributed to a remarkable consensus about aims and approaches to all issues relating to SALW control.

### *UN Programme of Action/frame of reference*

For Germany the United Nations Programme of Action with its regular meetings of member states is the starting point for international engagement in SALW control issues. The UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001) contains stipulations and recommendations on nearly all aspects of SALW control and continues to be the point of departure for a variety of global and regional initiatives.

The UN Programme of Action is the main frame of reference. Its key provisions are recommendatory in nature. This frame requires constant efforts to make it concrete, to further define and to implement it. The aim is to assist member states in implementing the UN Programme of Action and to establish wide consensus with regard to its provisions.

### *Cluster munitions*

This distinguishes the area of small arms control significantly from the path conventional arms control has taken with the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Ottawa Convention and now the Oslo Convention. The Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines and the Oslo Convention on cluster munitions ban entire categories of weapons and include the obligation to destroy existing stockpiles.

Following the signature of the Oslo Convention by 94 states on 3 December 2008, and Tunisia joining as the 95th signatory state on 12 January 2009, it is essential to quickly ratify the Oslo Convention on cluster munitions to allow for an early entry into force. The Federal Government already took the necessary steps and sent the ratification bill to the German Parliament. We are confident that Germany will be able to deposit its instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretary-General before summer 2009.

### *Stockpile management, in particular of conventional ammunition*

Among the issues recently addressed more prominently by member states in the frame of the UN Programme of Action is the management and security of public stockpiles of small arms and light weapons including ammunition.

Since 2007 the Federal Government has paid increasing attention to this topic. The Federal Foreign Office organised, during the German EU Presidency in the first half of 2007, an international experts meeting on issues relating to the management and security of conventional arms and ammunition stockpiles in Berlin from 3 to 4 April 2007. Since then the recommendations made by the expert meeting formed the basis of a variety of technical cooperation activities. An example in question is a project on the management and security of stockpiles of conventional ammunition in Cambodia which is being implemented since early 2007 under the guidance of the Federal Foreign Office in close cooperation with the Ministries of Defence and Cooperation.

Already in the course of the negotiations for the UN Instrument on Marking and Tracing (2005) Germany argued for the inclusion of conventional ammunition. The Federal Government further pursued the aim of politically rehabilitating the neglected issue of conventional ammunition by taking together with France the initiative in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly to table resolutions relating to the stockpile management of conventional ammunition.

On the basis of the 2006 resolution a UN Group of Governmental Experts met in the first half of 2008 under the German chairmanship to develop a catalogue of recommendations with regard to problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus. In order to prepare for the deliberations of the expert group the Federal Foreign Office commissioned a number of research

and publication projects on ammunition issues which were carried out by the Small Arms Survey (Geneva). (One product of this cooperation – Conventional Ammunition in Surplus: A reference guide – has been made available to members of the Parliamentary Forum.)

The Report of the Group of Governmental Experts was published in September 2008 (UN Doc A/63/182 – 'Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus'). The report was endorsed through a resolution again tabled by Germany and France and adopted in the UN General Assembly by consensus (UN Res 63/61 vom 02.12.2008).

In order to implement the resolution Germany will, starting in early 2009, support a UNODA project aimed at setting up technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition in the UN frame. The purpose is thus to contribute to the further implementation of the UN Programme of Action. Setting up technical guidelines for stockpile management provides another example for the impact which the UN Programme of Action develops through model legislation and handbooks of best practices.

### *OSCE*

At a European regional conference devoted to SALW control matters the work of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) deserves mentioning. The OSCE had already adopted on 24 November 2000 its Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The document formulates common export and surplus criteria, creates regional transparency with regard to SALW transfers and forms the basis of an in-depth information exchange. It is the most elaborate politically binding document on military SALW at the regional level. It had a pilot character for the implementation and further development of the UN Programme of Action.

With the same intention in mind the OSCE adopted on 19 November 2003 the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. Currently a process is under way to also elaborate on matters relating to conventional ammunition in a set of Best Practice Guides to assist member states. In this area Germany participates in a variety of project-based activities designed to assist OSCE member states.

### *Export/Brokering/Arms Trade Treaty*

In closing, allow me to also refer to the project of an Arms Trade Treaty. The Federal Government continues to support a comprehensive approach towards a legally binding ATT. An Arms Trade Treaty should cover all conventional weapons categories, in particular small arms and light weapons, as well as ammunition. An Arms Trade Treaty should also contain a catalogue of clear criteria for arms transfers.

In the first week of March the Open-ended Working Group set up by the 63rd UN General Assembly will have its first meeting in continuation of the UN-process towards a legally binding instrument to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.

Germany with its restrictive national export control policies has consistently been advocating for such arrangements at the international level (EU, UN, Wassenaar arrangement). This approach is guided by

the motivation to reduce the uncontrolled spread of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition.

President of the Parliamentary Forum Senator Escudero thanked the Ambassador for his excellent presentation. She expressed her deepest appreciation to the German Bundestag for hosting the event and thanked for all generosity and support. She asked the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum, Mr. Weiderud, to proceed to the Berlin Declaration.

Mr. Weiderud explained that there was now a second draft of the declaration. The draft had been updated based on direct comments from the participants as well as the discussions that had taken place during the two day conference.

The background section had remained the same. With regards to the Model legislation for Europe a third paragraph had been added:

- To support in their Parliaments the recent EU “Common Position” on arms control, which is legally binding and more substantial compared to the previous Code of Conduct.

The section on Cluster Munitions had remained the same. In the section on Stockpile Management of Conventional Ammunition the word ‘Eastern’ in the third paragraph had been taken out.

Regarding the section on Arms Brokering the following changes had been made (underscored):

- To welcome the efforts and initiatives of the OSCE and at different levels of United Nations and the 2007 Group of Governmental Experts to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in all its aspects.

- To reaffirm that arms brokering is not an illicit activity per se, but that the lack of effective regulation and governmental in many countries control contributes to an increase in illicit deals and trafficking.

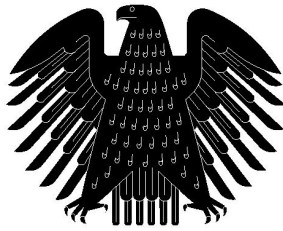
- Encourages parliaments to promote greater international and, where appropriate, regional efforts to develop common standards to control brokering activities which cover the implementation of appropriate export control norms and that are consistent with relevant international law, including international criminal law, human rights and humanitarian law, and with current best practice guidelines and recommendations of the UN, OSCE and EU.

The Berlin Declaration was then adopted by the participants and on that note the conference was concluded. After the Conference a visit to the office of the Federal Chancellor was made.

## **Annexes:**

### **Berlin Declaration**

### **Participation list**



Deutscher Bundestag



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

## The Berlin Declaration

**Parliamentary Resolution from the European Regional Meeting of Parliamentarians Organized by the German Bundestag and the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

***“Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons – Responsibilities, Challenges and Opportunities for European States”***

The illicit accumulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) represents one of the biggest threats to human security. Their wide availability exacerbates insecurity. Since the UN Charter was signed on 24th of October 1945, nearly 30 million people have been killed in armed conflicts. 87 per cent of these – or about 26 million – have been killed by firearms. There are more than 600 million small arms and light weapons in circulation today. About 40 percent are in the possession of military and police forces or other various non-state actors. However, the lion’s share, nearly 60 percent, are privately owned. This is the most important explanation for why so many people –200,000 in total – are killed every year by small arms in non-conflict related violent situations around the world. On top of this are a further 300,000 deaths caused by small arms in armed conflicts.

The proliferation and illegal accumulation of small arms increases deaths resulting from armed crime, hinders peace processes, increases domestic violence and weakens socio-economic development. Although the negative impact on peace, reconstruction, security, stability, human rights and sustainable development is especially damaging to developing countries in the global south, European countries are also directly affected by small arms, as well as indirectly through the spread of instability, cross-border crime and flow of refugees. A significant proportion of the small arms in circulation are also produced in European countries.

The complex problem of small arms proliferation must be addressed in a multi-dimensional way through international agreements, improved and harmonized national legislation, codes of conduct,

strengthened accountability on the part of governments, awareness-raising as well as consolidated efforts to address the root causes.

Recognizing that parliamentarians have a key role in all aspects of such a multi-dimensional approach to address proliferation of small arms, European parliamentarians, meeting in Berlin February 13th–14th 2009, discussed their opportunities with regard to harmonisation, stockpiling of conventional ammunition, cluster munitions and arms brokering. The participants reached the following conclusions:

### **1. Model legislation for Europe**

- To emphasize that European countries and citizens would benefit from deeper cooperation and harmonization of legally binding instruments and common standards for small arms and light weapons,
- To recognize the successful work of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW, the Parlatino and Latin American NGO's in developing model legislation for Latin American Parliaments. The meeting encourages the Forum to initiate a dialogue with the appropriate European Parliamentary Organizations to explore the opportunity for a similar model for Europe.
- To support in their Parliaments the recent EU "Common Position" on arms control, which is legally binding and more substantial compared to the previous Code of Conduct.

### **2. Cluster Munitions:**

- To welcome the Convention Against the Use of Cluster Munitions signed in December 2008 in Oslo by 94 countries as well as its implementation as a legally binding document banning the production, use, stockpiling and trade in cluster bombs, as an important humanitarian achievement.
- To encourage nations to ratify, apply and transform the Convention Against the Use of Cluster Munitions into national law.
- To stress its concern regarding the continued production, proliferation and stockpiling of cluster munitions in the region, recognizing that such weapons cause enormous suffering amongst civilians living near in areas affected by armed conflicts.
- To encourage the Forum together with parliamentarians in all European countries to work for a Europe-wide abolition of cluster munitions.

### **3. Stockpile Management of Conventional Ammunition**

- To acknowledge the risks and hazards that unsafe stockpiles of conventional ammunition present to individuals, communities and society, as well as the negative impact this can have on lives, livelihoods, housing and development.
- To welcome the efforts and initiatives at different levels of the United Nations and the 2008 Group of Governmental Experts to address the problems arising from the accumulation of conventional surplus ammunition stockpiles.

- To recognize that a number of countries in Europe have substantial conventional ammunition stockpiles stored in exposed and inappropriately equipped facilities.
- To encourage the development, implementation and enforcement of national legislation, supported by effective operational procedures, to ensure the safe, effective and efficient stockpile management of conventional ammunition in surplus.
- To recommend international cooperation to improve the control at national and international level related to the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in order to avoid the risks of theft, loss, explosion and pollution.
- To encourage parliaments and governments who have passed the appropriate national legislation on stockpiling of conventional ammunition, to share their experiences with other states, thus contributing to the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW.

#### **4. Arms Brokering:**

- To welcome the efforts and initiatives of the OSCE and at different levels of United Nations and the 2007 Group of Governmental Experts to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in all its aspects.
- To reaffirm that arms brokering is not an illicit activity per se, but that the lack of effective regulation and governmental control in many countries contributes to an increase in illicit deals and trafficking.
- Encourages parliaments to promote greater international and, where appropriate, regional efforts to develop effective common standards to control brokering activities which cover the implementation of appropriate export control norms that are consistent with relevant international law, including international criminal law, human rights and humanitarian law, and with current best practice guidelines and recommendations of the UN, OSCE and EU..

## Participants Berlin 13-14 of February 2009

Name	Committee/organisation
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### Board for the Parliamentary Forum

Suárez	Celestino	MP, Spain
Escudero	Sonia	Senator, Argentina
Winbäck	Christer	MP, Sweden
de Araujo	Manuel	MP, Mozambique
Espinoza Quiros	Ana Yancy	Arias Foundation, Costa Rica
Dr. Chegeni	Raphael	MP, Tanzania
Raidel	Hans	MP, Germany
Pierre	Ogline	MP, Haiti

### Parliamentarians by country

#### Albania

Lutaj	Piro	Security Committee
Xhindoli	Mevlan	Security Committee
Çipa	Stefan	Security Committee
Hasanbelliu	Artur	Security Committee

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Huskic	Adem	Joint Committee for Defence and Security PA of Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Zrno	Branko	Joint Committee for Defence and Security PA of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Matic	Slavko	Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

**Bulgaria**

Ali	Nedzhmi	Member of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee
Mateev Ivanov	Ivan	Member of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee

**Croatia**

Kotromanovic	Ante	Member Domestic Policy and National Security Committee
Šantek	Ivan	Member Domestic Policy and National Security Committee

**Cyprus**

Stylianides	Christos	Member of the Standing Committee on European Affairs and member of the Cyprus delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
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**Germany**

Nachtwei	Winfried	Spokesperson on security and disarmament policy for the Alliance 90/The Greens Group
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**Latvia**

Dalbins	Juris	Chairman of the Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention Committee
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**Montenegro**

Lalosevic	Vasilije	Committee for International Relations and European Int.
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**Romania**

Corlatean	Titus	Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Senate of Romania
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Canacheu	Mr. Costica	Chairman of the Defence Committee, Chamber of Deputies
Ana	Gheorghe	Member of the Defence Committee, Chamber of Deputies
Gelu	Visan	Member of the Committee for Foreign Policy

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Zulu	Kilo-Abi	Member of Parliament DRC
Lueta	Raymond	Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee

### **Experts and Speakers**

Carr	James	Ammunition Technical Officer, UNDP Bosnia
Dr. h.c. Thierse	Wolfgang	MP, The Deputy Speaker of the Bundestag
Polenz	Ruprecht	MP, Chairman Committee Foreign Affairs
Ducoffre	Hans-	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Burkhard	
Wiermann	Werner	Brigadegeneral, German Ministry of Defence
Toetzke	Christine	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Wunderlich	Claus	Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Semmler	Harro	Head of Directorate General", Administration of the German Bundestag

### **Other**

Grubestic	Zeljko	Senior technical advisor to the Joint Committee
Hinic	Dragica	Advisor Joint Committee for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Reed	Jeffery	US Army - NATO HQ Sarajevo
Ionescu	Maria-Luiza	Advisor, External Relations department, Senate of Romania
Panagiotopoulos	Kostas	WEU

Ilasciuc	Andrei	Advisor Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
Proroković	Dušan	Advisor Parliament of Serbia
Reed	Kenneth	Advisor to Senator Escudero
Mayo	Mambeke	Director of the Speaker of the Parliament's office, DRC
Dr. Fuchs	Michael	Secretary of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the German Bundestag
Hartleif	Sylvia	Secretary of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non Proliferation
Dr. Brune	Sophie C.	German Institute for International and Security Affairs
Meissler	Christine	Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik (Federal Academy for Security Policy)
Dr. Cromer	Erhard	Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
Dr. Woischnik	Jan	Konrad Adenauer Foundation
Hebeker	Ernst	Hanns Seidel Foundation
Riecke	Henning	German Society for Foreign Policy
Weiderud	Peter	Secretary General, Parliamentary Forum on SALW
Quiroz Llanos	Miguel	Consultant, Parliamentary Forum on SALW
Dybeck	Teresa	Desk Officer, Parliamentary Forum on SALW
Arrigoni	Gordon	Coordinator Committee of Foreign Affairs
Padun	Yury	Department of Security Cooperation, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina