

Objective

This seminar will present EU-level measures to complement Member States' initiatives to control the legal sale and holding of firearms both within the EU, such as Directive 2008/51/EC (amending Directive 2008/51/EC), and with third countries.

The present legal framework and the new Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 on the combatting of firearms trafficking with countries outside the EU, which will lead to adoption of the UN Firearms Protocol by the EU, will be analysed. The seminar will also look at the ongoing review of the EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, as well as other European Commission legislative proposals, such as on the marketing and use of explosives precursors.

Key topics

- The present legal framework on trafficking in firearms and explosives, new and proposed legislation and the ongoing review of the EU Action Plan on Enhancing Security of Explosives
- Firearms and the Common Foreign and Security Policy: EU action in the area of excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and other initiatives
- Enhanced law enforcement cooperation in the field of firearms trafficking: the EU Action Plan, the work of the European Firearms Experts Group in assessing the EU firearms threat and an update on Europol's work
- Examples of good provisions in Member States in controlling firearms trafficking
- The road ahead: challenges in improving detection and control

Who should attend?

Ministry officials, representatives from the industry and law enforcement officers.

Speakers

Ramin Farinpour, Course Director, European Criminal Law, ERA, Trier

Joseph Kennedy, Special Agent & Liaison Officer, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, EUROPOL, The Hague

Alex Korte, Coordinator, European Firearms Experts Group (EFE) Secretariat, Zoetermeer

Fabio Marini, Coordinator of the Anti-Firearms Trafficking Task Force, DG Home Affairs, Brussels

Scott Richardson, Scanning, Analysis & Notification System (SCAN) Team Leader, EUROPOL, The Hague

Víctor Pérez Sañudo, Expert on Explosives and CBRN, Counter-terrorism Unit, EUROPOL, The Hague

Mauro Silvis, Secretary General, European Institute of Hunting and Sporting Arms (IEACS), Rome

Matjaž Vidic, Senior Criminal Inspector, Slovenian Liaison Office, EUROPOL, The Hague

Gunnar Wärnberg, Illegal Weapons Expert, National Police Board, Stockholm

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THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS AND THE SECURING OF EXPLOSIVES

THE EU LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND THE WAY AHEAD

Trier, 11-12 April 2013
ERA Conference Centre
Metzer Allee 4, Trier, Germany

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Ramin Farinpour, ERA

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Thursday, 11 April 2013

- 08:30 Arrival and registration of participants
- 09:00 **Welcome**
Ramin Farinpour
- I. THE EU'S APPROACH TO THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE EU**
Chair: Ramin Farinpour
- 09:05 **Control of the acquisition, possession and transfer of weapons within the EU: state of play of Directive 2008/51/EC**
Fabio Marini
- 09:25 **Are a reclassification of firearms and common EU rules on their deactivation and technical security features necessary? The way forward**
- The Commission report on possible advantages and disadvantages of reducing the classification of firearms
- Fabio Marini, tbc*
- 09:45 **Towards EU adoption of the UN Firearms Protocol: Regulation (EU) 258/2012 on licensing and controls of transfers of weapons in and out of the EU**
Fabio Marini
- 10:15 Discussion
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:15 **EU action in controlling the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW):**
- EU strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW
 - Code of conduct for exporting conventional weapons
 - Common Position on arms brokering
 - Common Position on control of exports of military technology and equipment
- tbc*

- II. ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING**
Chair: Fabio Marini
- 11:45 **The impact of the 2010 EU Action Plan to combat illegal trafficking in heavy firearms and the work of the European Firearms Experts Group**
Alex Korte
- 12:15 **New and emerging threats related to firearms trafficking with an impact on Europe: Europol's role in an EU-wide integrated approach against illegal trafficking in firearms**
Joseph Kennedy & Scott Richardson
- 12:45 Discussion
- 13:15 Lunch
- III. REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES IN COUNTERING FIREARMS TRAFFICKING**
Chair: Ramin Farinpour
- 14:15 **The situation in the Western Balkans: the need for better weapons stockpile management, strengthened controls and exchange of information**
Matjaž Vidic
- 15:00 **Legal regulation, controlled deliveries and the situation with SALW in Sweden: is the present legal framework working?**
Gunnar Wärnberg
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 **The role of the industry in controlling the sales of firearms and countering trafficking: more self-regulation or government intervention?**
Mauro Silvis
- 16:30 **Participant discussion: exchange of views on best practice at industry and Member State levels**
- 17:00 End of first day
- 18:00 Guided tour of the city of Trier
- 19:00 Seminar dinner

Friday, 12 April 2013

- IV. ENHANCING THE SECURITY OF EXPLOSIVES**
Chair: Matjaž Vidic
- 09:30 **Implementation of the 2008 EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, its ongoing review and the need for tighter controls on precursors**
Víctor Pérez Sañudo
- 10:30 Discussion
- 11:00 Coffee break
- V. THE ROAD AHEAD: CHALLENGES IN IMPROVING DETECTION AND CONTROL OF FIREARMS AND THE SECURITY OF EXPLOSIVES**
Chair: Gunnar Wärnberg
- 11:30 **Panel discussion on the need for minimum criminal sanctions, enhanced information exchange and judicial cooperation between Member States and EU actors**
*Fabio Marini
Víctor Pérez Sañudo
Scott Richardson
Matjaž Vidic
Gunnar Wärnberg*
- 12:30 **Participant discussion: identifying important features to be included in future policy on the basis of participants' own experiences**
- 13:00 Light lunch and end of the seminar

Programme may be subject to amendment.
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