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ILLCIT FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

Illegal trade of weapon is a grave danger towards the civilian population and currently it is an ongoing issue for the international community. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons occurs in all parts of the globe but is concentrated in areas afflicted by armed conflict, violence, and organized crime, where the demand for illicit weapons is often highest. Arms trafficking fuels civil wars and regional conflicts; stocks the arsenals of terrorists, drug cartels, and other armed groups.

At the request of UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council held its first conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2001. During the conference member nations unanimously adopted Program of Action (PoA) to combat and stop Illicit Trade of small arms in all aspects. By adopting the PoA member nations agreed to strategy the working and implementation and limiting this illegal growing trade.

Additionally, member nations also agreed to submit a report yearly on the status of the PoA in their individual nations. Between 2002 and 2010 out of 192 member nations, 152 submitted yearly reports. However this count decreased gradually and by 2013 only 37 nations submitted their report on the PoA.

In spite of world nations signing the PoA, the UN General Assembly agreed to form an official definition for SALW. The UN General Assembly established working group to deal with the problems and scenarios during illicit trade of small arms coined this definition. They were also responsible for creating prosecution guidelines for perpetrators convicted under the legal provisions of the PoA.

To review the progress made by member nations, the UN called a conference on June 2006. However the conference ended without a result and reports indicated that no decisions were taken on the next phase of the PoA.

Surprisingly member nations such as China, Cuba, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States, openly opposed any development in the implementation of the PoA. They discussed the importance of implementing previous programs rather than adopting the new ones.

On the contrary European nations and countries of Latin America, Pacific, and Africa demanded new regulations. They supported the fact that implementing more laws would significantly stop illicit arms trade. Moreover

they agreed on intensifying laws in “crucial” areas such as control on arms transfers, ammunitions and civilian possession of arms.

In 2006, Control Arms presented the UN Secretary General with a petition signed by 1 million people who supported the provisions and developments under (ATT)

Arms Trade Treaty. In October 2006, the UN General Assembly called for a vote to form an ATT.

The Resolution was passed, which stated “the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self-defense and security needs, and in order to participate in peace support operations.”

I think it is right decision, especially for our country, but everybody knows, that war bring in state the problem of illegal weapon and Ukraine is not an exception.

Key moments of developing illicit trade in Ukraine:

Ukrainian civilians possess large numbers of unregistered small arms. The conflict in the east has contributed to significant diversion and losses from national stockpiles and the proliferation of a wider array of weapons types.

Ukraine still has no primary law regulating the manufacture, purchase, and possession of firearms and no central state register of civilian-held firearms. This makes it difficult even to differentiate between legal and illegal firearms in the country—and, by extension, complicates efforts to monitor and address illicit arms flows.

So many guns fall from the East of Ukraine in many regions and it is a big problem for all of us. Hundreds or even thousands weapons are in illegal turnover and our government still did not invent how to solve this problem. To my mind, these problems we can solve only in one way stop war and legalize small arms.

Everybody who has illegal weapon, having passed a special procedure of registration a weapon and medical examination, can hold a weapon legally. The similar way we can eye in our colleagues from USA and as show an experience, it really works. In conclusion I always enjoy saying, nothing is impossible, we just have to keep work and keep strive for our strong Ukraine.

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EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING IN EUROPE

The illegal drug trade or drug trafficking is a global black market dedicated to the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs that are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Most jurisdictions prohibit trade, except under license, of many types of drugs through the use of drug prohibition laws.

In most countries, problem drug use is characterized by chronic opiate use. National estimates of problem drug use vary from 2 to 10 cases per 1 000 adults: some 1 to 1.5 million Europeans. The highest rates are reported in Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and the UK (6 to 10 cases per 1 000 adults). Rates are lowest in Germany, the Netherlands and Austria (3 cases per 1 000 adults).

About 60% of the estimated problem drug users are active injectors (some 600 000 to 900 000). Disease prevention is still critically important. HIV prevalence among injecting drug users (IDUs) varies considerably EU-wide: from around 1% in the UK to over 30% in Spain. In a number of countries, local rates of over 25% are found in a variety of settings.

Although national HIV prevalence data remain mostly stable, they can mask considerable variations locally and among certain groups. HIV increases among IDUs have been reported in the last few years from some regions or cities in Spain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland and the UK.

The long-term costs of hepatitis C infection, both in terms of health-care spending and personal suffering, are likely to be considerable. Prevalence rates among current and former injectors are extremely high in all countries, at 40 to 90%.

How drugs are used and are trafficked is constantly changing and the ways they are trafficked are growing in technical and organizational complexity. What is not changing is the profitability of the drugs trade. Every year EU citizens spend tens of billions of euros on illicit drugs.