



FLYER

Joint EU Commission /UNODC Webinar Firearms Trafficking: Policy Implications and Responses in Europe

**Thursday, 17 September 2020 - 9:30-12:30 CET
via Webex**

Background

Illicit manufacturing, trafficking and misuse of firearms represent a serious threat to peace, security and social stability, and a serious impediment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Illicit firearms constitute important multipliers of crime and violence, not only as instruments of armed violence and as a lucrative trafficking commodity, but also as catalysts that aggravate the impact and damage caused by other serious crimes, such as organized crime, drug trafficking or terrorism.

How do these phenomena unfold in Europe? Which specifics are attributable to the firearms issue within the European Union region compared to other regions? What policy implications can be drawn from the available analysis of the issue? And what policy and operational responses exist?

The objective of the joint EU-UNODC webinar is to discuss these and other questions based on the content of three key publications:

- The UNODC Global Study on Firearms Trafficking,
- The UNODC report on on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition,
- The EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking (2020 – 2025).

Strengthening Efficient Responses against Firearms Trafficking within Europe

As Illicit firearms trafficking is a multifaceted security phenomenon, there is a the need for a comprehensive approach to combat it and mitigate diversion risks. The European Union and its Member States and other international organizations, including the INTERPOL, OSCE, UNDP and UNODC, are taking important steps to countering firearms-related criminality and developing related strategies and supporting operational activities.

The response measures against firearms trafficking should be holistic in nature and tackle the existing challenges starting with harmonizing legislative and regulatory frameworks, and closing loopholes; improving export risk assessments to prevent the diversion of legally exported firearms from the early stages of the supply chain; strengthening border control and law enforcement capacities to detect and investigate illicitly trafficked firearms and promoting an effective criminal justice approach to related crimes; reinforcing international cooperation and information exchange; and continue improving the knowledge and intelligence picture on illicit arms flows involving European Union Member States by improving firearms data collection and analysis capacities.



For more information scan the QR code or follow below link:

bit.ly/3ioevuv

UNODC's efforts to counter illicit manufacturing, trafficking and misuse of firearms

This initiative is framed within the EU-funded project on "Supporting Global Data Collection and Analysis on Firearms Trafficking and Fostering Cooperation and Information Sharing, in particular Among Countries along Major Trafficking Routes to/from the EU".

The outputs provide a vital resource for law enforcement, policymakers and public bodies seeking to reduce the damage caused by the illicit circulation of firearms.



The landmark Global Study on Firearms Trafficking

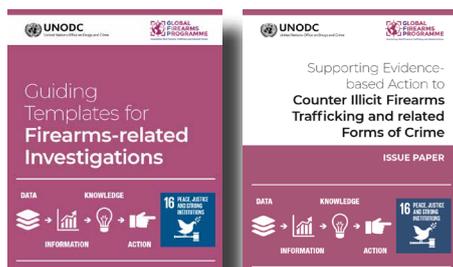
The [Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020](#) is the result of UNODC's most comprehensive collection of data on firearms trafficking to date, gathering details from survey responses and other sources from more than 100 countries and territories.

It analyses the flows of firearms trafficking, the types of firearms that are trafficked, how this trafficking is conducted, how it is related to other types of crime and how firearms enter the illicit market.



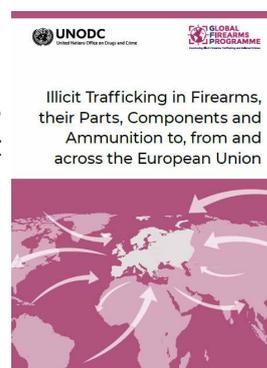
Related Technical Assistance Tools

As part of a comprehensive approach that seeks to enhance evidence-based responses to firearms trafficking, UNODC also developed technical assistance tools that aim at improving national data collection protocols and practices and ensuing datasets.



"Zooming into the European region"

Additionally, as part of this work, UNODC has started to develop a series of side products that analyse the firearms trafficking phenomenon from the regional perspective and dimension.



The first one was developed UNODC, with the support of the Flemish Peace Institute and focuses, has prepared a report on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition to, from and across the European Union.

The report complements qualitative and quantitative data compiled by UNODC in the Illicit Arms Flows Dataset with other qualitative and case-based data sources, in particular previously collected data by the Flemish Peace Institute, as well as information exchanged among practitioners during a cross-regional experts' meeting organized by UNODC in October 2019.

The EU Policy responses against firearms trafficking

The various problems caused by the spread of illicit firearms have led the EU to recognise their destabilising effect on regional and national security more than two decades ago.

On the path toward building up its internal security, on 24 July 2020, the European Commission adopted a new Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking (and the annexes 1 to 4) as part of the Security Union Strategy.



Brussels, 24.7.2020
COM(2020) 608 final

The new [Action Plan on firearms trafficking](#) of the EU lays out the strategic approach to counter firearms trafficking involving the European Union. It focuses on four priorities, including:

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

2020-2025 EU action plan on firearms trafficking

- Securing the legal framework to reduce risks of diversion of firearms from the legal to the black market;
- Improving knowledge of the threat, addressing the lack of comparable statistics on firearms events and seizures across the EU;
- Reinforcing law enforcement to stop the traffickers; and
- Stepping up international cooperation, with a strong set of activities focussing on south-east Europe

The Action plan is part of a continuing engagement of the EU to address the issue of firearms trafficking along with:

- the adoption of the 1991 Directive 91/477/EEC on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons,
- the 2008 and 2017 revisions of the Directive to respond to developments of the firearms issue and fill legal loopholes,
- the approval of the Firearms Protocol in 2014,
- the diversification of actions through the firearms chapter of the European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats (EMPACT) and the group of European Firearms Experts (EFE), that also support joint action with neighbouring countries including from the Western Balkan and the Middle East and North Africa regions, and
- the continuing financial support of UNODC to assist Member States across the globe in the implementation of the Firearms Protocol.

AGENDA

Opening remarks:

- Mr. Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), European Commission
- Mr. John Brandolino, Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC

Presentations:

Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020 - Key Findings and Related Technical Tools

- Mr. Antoine Vella, Research Officer, Research and Trend Analysis Branch, UNODC
- Mr. Diman Dimov, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Global Firearms Programme, UNODC

Zooming into one region: Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition to, from and across the European Union – A regional analysis

- Mr. Nils Duquet, UNODC Consultant and Acting Director, Flemish Peace Institute

Policy Responses - The EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking

- Mr. Jorge Manuel Bento Silva, DG HOME, European Commission

Panellists & guest speakers:

- Mr. Emmanuel Vallens, DG HOME European Commission
- Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Global Firearms Programme, UNODC
- Mr. Joaquim Rodrigues, Firearms Programme, INTERPOL
- Mr. Marinus-Martin Van der Meij, Weapons & Explosives Analysis Project, EUROPOL
- Mr. Jose Romero Morgaz, EMPACT Firearms Driver, Guardia Civil, Spain
- Ms. Bojana Balon, SEESAC, UNDP
- National experts

Conclusion and closing of the event:

- Ms. Floriana Sipala, European Commission Head of the Organised Crime & Drugs Policy Unit, DG HOME, European Commission
- Mr. Tofik Murshudlu, Chief of the Implementation Support Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, UNODC

The event is moderated by Ms. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Independent Expert.