



**NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Committee  
Study Guide**

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Dear Delegates,

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to KADIKOYMUN'20. I will be serving you as your Under-Secretary-General at this committee. I am an

eleventh grader at Beyoglu Anatolian Imam Hatip High School. And I am really grateful to be a part of this conference.

In this committee we will try to simulate North Atlantic Treaty Organization's proceedings. As you all know we have two topics to discuss and solve. Our first agenda is Border Security in Eastern Europe as a result of European Refugee Crisis. We decided on this topic because we thought that it would allow for a wide variety of topics to be discussed in committee underneath this theme. And our second agenda is Illicit Arms Trade which causes a huge destruction among all over the world. This study guide is not the only source of information at your disposal and we encourage you to bring other topics to the debate if you feel that they are relevant to the theme. We highly encourage you to do research outside of this study guide and, of course, to do more detailed research regarding your individual country's position.

We look forward to productive debate during the conference and creative approaches in order to come up with solutions to the topics. We do expect that delegates be professional, respectful and come willing to make the most of their experience. Most importantly, we hope that you enjoy yourself and have a wonderful, fun experience in our committee.

If you guys have any further questions about our study guide please do not hesitate to contact me through my email before the conference or during the conference.

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## **Introduction**

# INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE

## HISTORY AND ORIGIN

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was originally created on April 4th, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty between the original 12 Allies. The purpose of the treaty, and the organization that would be built upon it, was "...deterring Soviet expansionism, forbidding the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent, and encouraging European political integration."<sup>1</sup> The treaty also enshrined the key principle of mutual protection in Article 5, where it was detailed that "an armed attack against one or more of them... shall be considered an attack against them all".

The treaty established an American military presence in Europe, countering the strength of the USSR and the threat posed to the West by its communist ideology, and was one of the defining features of the Cold War. However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the subsequent end of the Cold War, NATO's nature and mandate had to change to remain relevant in the modern military arena. Its priorities and core tasks changed as the global focus shifted from bipolar nuclear politics and Mutually Assured Destruction to maintaining global peace in a multipolar world

## CURRENT ROLE IN THE WORLD

Membership has expanded significantly since 1949: the organization now includes 29 States, many of which had previously been under Soviet rule. Today, NATO's three core tasks are "utilizing collective defence, managing crisis situations and encouraging cooperative security". It now acts mainly as a peacekeeping force, collaborating with civilian organizations and partner governments to help create and maintain the peace after a conflict. The Alliance has adopted the policy of a "comprehensive approach", committing itself to being involved in "all stages of a crisis - before, during and after".

## **Agenda Item A: Border Security in Eastern Europe**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In an era when countries and their populations are increasingly exposed to the opportunities and risks associated with the ever-expanding global movement of people, policymakers are rethinking approaches to border controls and border management. These policies and programs run the gamut from facilitating the legitimate movement of people and trade to prohibiting the unauthorized movement of humans and contraband, the latter a significant preoccupation in the post-9/11 era and as publics have become ever less accepting of illegal immigration. Our committee will examine the management of borders, enforcement policies and initiatives, and technologies used in pursuit of border security.

#### **European Migrant Crisis:**

The European migrant crisis, also known as the refugee crisis, was a period beginning in 2015 characterised by high numbers of people arriving in the European Union (EU) from across the Mediterranean Sea or overland through Southeast Europe following Turkey's migrant crisis. It was part of a pattern of increased immigration to Europe from other continents which began in the mid-20th century and which has encountered resistance in many European countries. In March 2019, the European Commission declared the migrant crisis to be at an end.

Immigrants from outside Europe include asylum seekers and economic migrants. The term "immigrant" is used by the European Commission to describe a person from a non-EU country establishing his or her usual residence in the territory of an EU country for a period that is, or is expected to be, at least twelve months. Most of the migrants came from Muslim-majority countries in regions south and east of Europe, including the Greater Middle East and Africa.

## **Key Terminology**

**Asylum seeker:** An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it.

**Biometrics:** Automated means of identifying an individual through the measurement of distinguishing physiological or behavioural traits such as fingerprints, face, iris, retina or ear features.

**Border governance:** The legislation, policies, plans, strategies, action plans and activities related to the entry into and exit of persons from the territory of the State, comprising detection, rescue, interception, screening, interviewing, identification, reception, referral, detention, removal or return, as well as related activities such as training, technical, financial and other assistance, including that provided to other States.

**Collective expulsion :** Any measure compelling non-nationals, as a group, to leave a country

**Displacement:** The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence.

**Emigration:** From the perspective of the country of departure, the act of moving from one's country of nationality

**Expulsion:** A formal act or conduct attributable to a State by which a non-national is compelled to leave the territory of that State.

**Family unity (right to):** A family's right to live together and, as a fundamental unit of a society, to receive respect, protection, assistance and support.

**Humanitarian visa:** A visa granting access to and temporary stay in the issuing State for a variable duration to a person

**Immigrant:** Person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence.

**Immigration:** The act of moving into a country other than one's country of nationality or usual residence.

**International migration:** The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence and across an international border to a country of which they are not nationals.

**Irregular migration:** Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws.

**Migrant flow (international):** The number of international migrants arriving in a country over the course of a specific period.

**Migration cycle:** Stages of the migration process encompassing departure, immigration in the State of destination and return.

**People smuggling:** The facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person or persons across an international border, in violation of one or more countries' laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents

**Regular migration:** Migration that occurs in compliance with the laws of the country of origin, transit and destination.

**Schengen:** An area comprising 26 European states that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. The area mostly functions as a single jurisdiction for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy.

**Stateless person:** A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.

# CHRONOLOGY OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE

## 2015

- Hundreds of thousands of people escape war and suffering, mostly from Syria.
- Many try to reach Western Europe via the Balkan route.
- In July, Hungary erects a razor-wire fence along the country's border with Serbia in order to decrease migrant arrivals.
- In August 2015, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announces an open borders policy towards refugees coming into Europe.
- The photo of a drowned Syrian boy washed up on a beach in Turkey in September 2015 goes viral. It becomes a pledge to Europe's responsibility to help.
- In the same month, the slogan 'Refugees Welcome' becomes a symbol for solidarity movements.
- In the end of 2015, several European countries set up border controls, suspending the Schengen system of open-border and passport-free travel

## 2016

- In March 2016, the Balkan route through Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary is officially closed. Thousands of migrants remain trapped in Greece.
- In the same month, the EU-Turkey deal is signed: The EU agrees to safely resettle one Syrian refugee from Turkey for each irregular migrant returned to Turkey from Greece.

- In December 2016, the return of rejected Afghan asylum seekers from Germany begins.
- In the same month, over 5,000 people lost their lives while crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

## 2017

- In February 2017, Italy strikes a controversial deal with Libya to stem migrant arrivals, training the Libyan coast guard to turn back vessels and return migrants to Libya.
- NGOs running migrant rescue operations in the Mediterranean are increasingly under fire in the summer of 2017, condemned as “migrant taxis” by Italian prosecutors.
- In the same year, other populist and anti-immigrant parties and movements across Europe are making headway.
- At the beginning of the year, the migrant routes shift: The Western Mediterranean Route is seeing a threefold increase in arrivals in 2017, fewer people are arriving in Italy

## 2018

- In February 2018, thousands of migrants remain stranded in overcrowded camps on Greek islands. Amnesty International calls the conditions an “open wound” for the EU and human rights.
- In June, Bosnia is seeing a drastic increase in migrant arrivals: Hundreds are camping out on the streets.
- According to UNHCR, 68.5 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide (refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people).

## Major Parties Involved

### United States of America:

Immigration policy and, specifically, illegal immigration to the United States, was a signature issue. They supported for a variety of "limits on legal immigration and guest-worker visas", including a "pause" on granting green cards. Their president Trump imposed a travel ban that prohibited issuing visas to seven largely-Muslim countries. He also imposed a "zero tolerance" policy to require the arrest of anyone caught illegally crossing the border. The zero tolerance policy was reversed in June 2018. In the beginning of 2018 Trump outlined his administration's four pillars for immigration reform:

1. a path to citizenship for DREAMers (key terms);
2. increased border security funding;
3. ending the diversity visa lottery; and
4. restrictions on family-based immigration

### United Kingdom:

The early 2000s saw record numbers of individuals seeking asylum in the UK. These numbers led to significant public discontent, so the government introduced a number of measures that sought to limit the number of applicants entering the country, which included making it more difficult to obtain asylum and decreasing the benefits that asylum applicants could receive. In 2014, the numbers rose again with asylum seekers forming 4.1% of immigrants entering the UK during that year. Appeals were lodged in 74.3% of the 2014 cases in which asylum was initially refused, and of those for which the outcome was known, 30.1% of the appeals were approved. In brief The United Kingdom is really cautious about sharing their land.

## France:

France has a long tradition of offering asylum to foreign refugees, and the right of asylum has constitutional value under French law. There are two types of asylum protection in France: refugee protection and subsidiary protection. Asylum may be denied or revoked for individuals who have committed crimes or whose presence would be a threat to society or national security. Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have the right to live and work in France. Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have similar rights to social benefits as French citizens do, but only have access to certain special aid programs during the time that their application for asylum is being processed.

## Germany:

The right to asylum is a constitutional right in Germany and granted to everyone who flees political persecution. An asylum seeker is allowed to stay in Germany if he or she is granted political asylum, refugee status, or subsidiary protection. The Asylum Act and the Residence Act are the two most important immigration laws in Germany that provide rules for the admission and handling of refugee claims. In order to determine whether a person is entitled to refugee status, an in-person interview is conducted and country-specific resources and experts consulted. Every applicant over the age of fourteen must submit to measures establishing his or her identity and provide fingerprints. Refugees are generally housed in reception facilities, which provide them with essential items like food, housing, heat, clothing, health care, and household items.

## Netherlands:

In 2016, the Netherlands rejected 28.2 percent of asylum seekers, meaning the rest would receive some type of protection, whether it be refugee status, subsidiary protection or humanitarian protection. If refugees those at risk of being persecuted in their home country due to ethnicity, religion, nationality or political beliefs do not qualified for refugee status, they may be given subsidiary protection. Subsidiary

protection is often given to those who may be subject to torture or the death penalty in their home country.

## **Turkey:**

Most refugees seeking asylum in Turkey are from non-European countries, Turkey's instrument of accession to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees limits the scope of the Convention's application to European asylum seekers, and Turkey's Settlement Act still places emphasis on persons of Turkish descent and culture as the immigrants eligible for settlement in the country and possible citizenship. While Turkey's Law on Foreigners and International Protection has instituted major changes in the country's asylum system, most current asylum seekers are placed under "temporary protection" for settlement in another country rather than being accepted as refugees for settlement in Turkey. In the case of the influx of migrants from Syria, Turkish authorities have over the years expanded their rights and protections, but they remain barred from gaining regular refugee status and instead are classified as beneficiaries of temporary protection. Applications for refugee status must be filed in person in provincial offices of the Directorate General of Migration Management. Under the terms of temporary protection, the authorities provide for refugees' basic needs and also furnish social services, translation services, IDs, travel documents, access to primary and secondary education, and work permits.

## **Past Treaties and Solution Attempts**

### **Dublin Regulation**

The purpose of this Regulation, adopted in 2003, is to determine which State is responsible for examining an asylum application – normally the State where the asylum seeker first entered the EU – and to make sure that each claim gets a fair examination in one Member State. The "Dublin" system operates on the assumption that, as the asylum laws and practices of the EU States are based on the same common

standards, they allow asylum seekers to enjoy similar levels of protection in all EU Member States. In reality, however, asylum legislation and practice still vary widely from country to country, causing asylum-seekers to receive different treatment across Europe. In its 2008 evaluation, the European Parliament noted that, in the absence of harmonisation, “the Dublin system will continue to be unfair both to asylum seekers and to certain Member States”. The Dublin system increases pressures on the external border regions of the EU and harshly disrupts the lives of those fleeing to Europe for protection. In December 2008, the European Commission proposed amendments to the Dublin Regulation, which were largely welcomed by the European Parliament, ECRE and UNHCR.

### **Schengen Agreement:**

is a treaty which led to the creation of Europe's Schengen Area, in which internal border checks have largely been abolished. It was signed on 14 June 1985, near the town of Schengen, Luxembourg, by five of the ten member states of the then European Economic Community. It proposed measures intended to gradually abolish border checks at the signatories' common borders, including reduced speed vehicle checks which allowed vehicles to cross borders without stopping, allowing residents in border areas freedom to cross borders away from fixed checkpoints, and the harmonisation of visa policies.

In 1990, the Agreement was supplemented by the Schengen Convention which proposed the complete abolition of systematic internal border controls and a common visa policy. The Schengen Area operates very much like a single state for international travel purposes with external border controls for travellers entering and exiting the area, and common visas, but with no internal border controls. It currently consists of 26 European countries covering a population of over 400 million people and an area of 4,312,099 square kilometres (1,664,911 sq mi).

Originally, the Schengen treaties and the rules adopted under them operated independently from the European Union. However, in 1999 they were incorporated into European Union law by the Amsterdam Treaty, while providing opt-outs for the only two EU member states that had remained outside the Area: Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Schengen is now a core part of EU law, and all EU member states without an opt-out which have not already joined the Schengen Area are legally obliged to do so when technical requirements have been met. Several non-EU countries are included in the area.

## **Possible Solutions**

- Resettlement of hundreds of thousands of refugees a year from Turkey to a group of EU member states
- Creation, defense and gradual expansion of “safe zones” to which refugees can find protection.
- Revive the redistribution mechanism in order to share the burden fairly among European countries
- Gaining more control over external borders of EU countries.
- Addressing number of refugees arriving in Europe certainly.
- Having a commission which determines the types of refugees like people running from murderous regimes, economic migrants to treat them properly.
- Securing the most critical border — the one between Greece and Turkey.
- Improving the living conditions at refugee centers all over Europe.

-A migration policy that acknowledges and organizes economic migration flows, instead of resisting and denying them.

-Create a system that allows asylum-seekers to register requests from their home countries or states adjoining the EU.



## **Agenda Item B: Illicit Arms Trade**

### **Introduction**

In the contemporary times, current events serve as a stark reminder of the urgency and severity of the problem of the illicit arms trade, which, besides constituting a serious threat to international peace and security, represents a stimulant to other global illegal activities. A direct consequence of arms trafficking is firearms availability, which increases lethality from a wide variety of violent crimes. What's more, there are exceptionally close and organic links with organized criminal activities including money laundering, smuggling, human trafficking, financial crimes and also terrorism. Illegal and irresponsible handling of weapons in general poses a grave danger towards the civilian population. While some illicit firearms are obtained through the theft of weapons that are originally held legally or that are stolen from other legal sources, the vast

majority originates from cross-border trafficking activities. However, due to the blurred distinction between the different types of trafficking and the fact that the activity is illegal, it is rather difficult to quantify the relative importance of different sources of illicit firearms as it is not captured by official statistics. Whilst it is possible to provide a range of estimates, this range remains to be very wide, emphasizing the fact that no accurate quantification of the problem is feasible on the basis of existing available data. Accordingly, reaching a solution to tackle illicit arms market is greatly challenging and efforts to combat such reality undoubtedly require cooperation between authorities in different countries.

## **Key Terms and Terminology**

**Small arms:** There is no official definition of small arms, but the mostly used definition is revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, assault rifles, sub-machine guns and light machine guns.

**The Black Market:** Illegal trade of arms takes place on the black market, violating price controls and rationing. Nevertheless, it is no official organization, nor is it one single person. It is a phenomena happening all over the place. It is structured as an illegal network of vendors and their customers, in the MENA region mostly terrorist organizations.

**MENA region:** There is no official definition the “ MENA region “. It is an acronym referring to the Middle East and North Africa region. Furthermore, it is a mainly Islamic region in which approximately six percent of the worlds population live.

**Heavy arms:** There is no official definition, generally accepted is: Heavy machine guns, hand-held underbarrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missil and rocket systems; portable

launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems (MANPADS); and mortars of calibres of less than 100 mm.

**Illicit arms trade:** Illicit arms trade is the transfer of or the trade with weapons in their entirety or in pieces in violation of existing national or international laws. This includes the illicit manufacturing and procurement as well as the unregulated distribution of arms.

**Grey market:** refers to products which are sold legally as they were manufactured with the consent of the brand, yet are sold at lower prices and outside of the brand owner's approved distribution channels. Accordingly, consumers buying grey market goods are at risk of not having warranties honored.

## **Background**

The volume of the arms trade substantially increased during the 19th century. The continually expanding industrialization in Europe stimulated an unending series of technological advancements in weaponry. In the global context, Belgians and French, along with the Italians, played a major role in the illicit arms trade at that time. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, firearms became a highly demanded commodity in East Africa. Soon, East Africa became the chief destination for imported firearms through trafficking and new private traders. For the most part, these firearms were second-hand military weapons originating from Europe, North America and South Asia. In the second half of the 1890s, the involvement of Belgian and French companies in the arms traffic intensified. Not to forget, the arms trade represented a consequential source of jobs for Europeans. A crucial and non-negligible event in the history of illegal arms trade was the Cold War (1945 – 1991). The long-standing rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union was

rather doubtlessly accompanied by a competition to acquire the most arms. Although primarily focused on nuclear weapons, conventional weapons were of paramount importance in order to sufficiently equip both sides' allies, to sway proxy wars in their favor and to provide an indirect aid to the home country's foreign and domestic policies. An example of illegal arms trading during the Cold War was the Iran-Contra Affair 1985 – 1987, during which senior administration officials secretly executed orders to sell weapons to Iran, despite an embargo, with aims to free some Americans held captive by terrorists in Lebanon.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

The trade in arms becomes arms trafficking when the deals undertaken violate existing laws on the movement of arms.' Particularly troubling is the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW). While a build-up of small arms alone may not be the reason why the conflicts, in which such weapons are used, arose, their proliferation and excessive accumulation oftentimes aggravates conflicts by reinforcing the feeling of insecurity and increasing the lethality and duration of violence. "Small arms facilitate a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, enforced disappearance, torture and forced recruitment of children by armed groups or forces. More human rights abuses are committed with them than with any other weapon."4 As far as the illicit firearms users are concerned, organised crime groups were identified as one of the main groups involved in illegal arms trafficking. What's more, the 2011 Europol Review showed that the possession of firearms by organised crime groups in Europe is rising steadily. An increased use of firearms has been observed across a variety of terrorist and extremist groups as well. In regards to how the guns are supplied, the global arms market can be divided into three categories:

- 1) legal and standard sale of weapons by registered corporations,
- 2) grey market,

### 3) black market.

Research carried out by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) indicates that black market trade in SALW ranges from US\$ 2-10 billion a year. Combating and eradicating the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms along with their components and ammunition is intrinsically very difficult given the hidden nature of the problem. Traders have developed complex and sophisticated methods of procurement, transportation and sale of weapons. A common example is the removal of markings (i.e. serial numbers) on firearms, which makes it difficult to track and trace the origin of different weapons. Furthermore, differences in national legislation entail practical problems as well. For instance, what one nation considers a criminal offence and prosecutes accordingly may be entirely legal in another. Therefore, improving cooperation between law enforcement authorities in detecting and investigating illicit arms trafficking is of considerable significance.

### **Consequences**

- Illicit firearms' trafficking is closely linked to other criminal activities;
- Illegally held firearms are oftentimes used by organised crime groups to coerce, intimidate or punish their victims, and thereby represent a direct intrusion into and violation of human rights;
- The threat of the use of light weapons is forcing millions of people to flee their homes, resulting in a constantly growing number of refugees and displaced persons;
- The illegal import and sale of weapons provides a lucrative business for organised crime groups and the dealers that service them;
- Often represent the incentive to the creation of armed conflicts, which cause many fatalities such as food deprivation, psychological and emotional damage, loss of education, child abduction, torture and slavery, separation of families, etc.

## **Past Treaties and Solution Attempts**

### **Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty**

The 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) is referred to as a "cornerstone of European security" and imposes for the first time in European history legal and verifiable limits on the force structure of its 30 States Parties, which stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains.

Since the Treaty's entry into force in 1992, the destruction of over 100,000 pieces of treaty-limited equipment (tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery, attack helicopters and combat aircraft) has been verified and almost 6,000 on-site inspections have been conducted, thereby reaching its objective of creating balance and mitigating the possibility of surprise conventional attacks within its area of application.

At the first CFE Review Conference in 1996, negotiations began to adapt the CFE Treaty to reflect the realities of the post-Cold War era. This process was completed in conjunction with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Summit in Istanbul in 1999. States Parties also agreed to additional commitments, called the Istanbul Commitments. Although the Adapted CFE (ACFE) Treaty went far in adjusting the Treaty to a new security environment, it was not ratified by Allied countries because of the failure of Russia to fully meet commitments regarding withdrawal of Russian forces from Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, on which Allies' agreement to the Adapted Treaty was based.

Since 2000 at NATO summits and ministerial meetings, the Allies have reiterated their commitment to the CFE Treaty and have reaffirmed their readiness and commitment to ratify the Adapted Treaty.

During the third CFE Review Conference in June 2006, Russia expressed its concerns regarding ratification of the adapted CFE Treaty and claimed that even the ACFE was outdated.

After the June 2007 Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the CFE Treaty, the Russian president signed legislation on 14 July 2007 to unilaterally “suspend” its legal obligations under the CFE Treaty as of 12 December 2007. In response to these events, NATO offered a set of constructive and forward-looking actions.

In 2008 and 2009, consultations were held between the United States – on behalf of the Alliance – and Russia, but with limited development. Further efforts to resolve the impasse were pursued on the basis of the United States’ initiative, which sought an agreement on a framework for negotiations on a modernised CFE Treaty, in consultations at 36 between all CFE States Parties and NATO member states not party to the CFE Treaty. The process stalled in the autumn of 2011 because of the lack of agreement among parties.

In a situation where no agreement could be reached to overcome the impasse, towards the end of November 2011, NATO CFE Allies announced their decisions to cease implementing certain CFE obligations vis-à-vis Russia, while still continuing to fully implement their obligations with respect to all other CFE States Parties. However, in the December 2011 foreign ministers’ communiqué, Allies stated that these decisions were reversible should the Russian Federation return to full implementation.

At the Chicago Summit in May 2012, Allies reiterated their commitment to conventional arms control and expressed determination to preserve, strengthen and modernise the conventional arms control regime in Europe, based on key principles and commitments.

At the Wales Summit in September 2014, Allies reaffirmed their long-standing commitment to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security and emphasised the importance of full implementation and compliance to rebuild trust and confidence. They underscored that Russia’s unilateral military activity in and around Ukraine has undermined peace, security and stability across the region, and its selective implementation of the Vienna Document and Open Skies Treaty and long-standing non-implementation of the CFE Treaty have eroded the positive contributions of these arms control instruments. Allies called on Russia to fully adhere to its commitments. On 11 March

2015, the Russian Federation announced that it was suspending its participation in the meetings of the Joint Consultative Group (JCG) on the CFE Treaty, which meets regularly in Vienna.

### **Vienna Document**

The Vienna Document (VD), that includes all European and Central Asian participating States, is a politically binding agreement designed to promote mutual trust and transparency about a state's military forces and activities. Under the VD, thousands of inspections and evaluation visits have been conducted as well as airbase visits and visits to military facilities; also new types of major weapon and equipment systems have been demonstrated to the participating States of the VD.

In 2019, NATO Allies, together with Finland and Sweden, introduced a new proposal to modernise the Vienna Document. The proposal aims to restore confidence, build mutual predictability, reduce risks and help prevent unintentional conflict.

### **Open Skies Treaty**

The Open Skies Treaty is legally binding and allows for unarmed aerial observation flights over the territory of its participants. So far, more than 1,500 observation missions have been conducted since the Treaty's entry into force in January 2002. Aerial photography and other material from observation missions provide transparency and support verification activities carried out on the ground under other treaties.

This Treaty provides for extensive cooperation regarding the use of aircraft and their sensors, thereby adding to openness and confidence. Following long-lasting negotiations the States Parties to the Open Skies Treaty agreed, at the 2010 review conference, to allow the use of digital sensors in the future. However, these have to undergo a certification process, as foreseen by the Open Skies Treaty.

## UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) not only feeds global terrorist activities, but also encourages violence, thus affecting local populations and preventing constructive development and economic activities.

SALW proliferation needs to be addressed as broadly as possible and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) is a well-suited framework for that. The NATO/EAPC Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action contributes to international efforts to address the illicit trade in SALW and encourages full implementation of international regulations and standards, including the United Nations Programme of Action (UN PoA).

The UN PoA was adopted in July 2001 by nearly 150 countries, including all NATO member countries, and contains concrete recommendations for improving national legislation and controls over illicit small arms, fostering regional cooperation and promoting international assistance and cooperation on the issue. It was developed and agreed as a result of the growing realisation that most present-day conflicts are fought with illicit small arms and light weapons, and that their widespread availability has a negative impact on international peace and security, facilitates violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, and hampers economic and social development. It includes measures at the national, regional and global levels, in the areas of legislation, destruction of weapons that were confiscated, seized, or collected, as well as international cooperation and assistance to strengthen the ability of states in identifying and tracing illicit arms and light weapons. The UN holds the Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the PoA, in which NATO participates. National delegations from all member states gather every six years to review the progress made in the implementation of the PoA.

## **Mine action**

Although not all member states of the Alliance are a party to the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines, they all fully support its humanitarian demining goals.

The Alliance assists partner countries in the destruction of surplus stocks of mines, arms and munitions through a NATO/Partnership Trust Fund mechanism.

The EAPC Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action also supports mine action efforts through these Trust Fund projects, as well as through information-sharing. In particular, its guest speaker programme provides an opportunity for mine action experts to share their expertise with the Working Group. These speakers originate from national mine action centres, non-governmental organisations and international organisations and have included high-profile experts, such as Nobel Laureate Ms Jody Williams, Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. The Group has broadened its focus to also incorporate issues related to explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions onto its agenda.

## **Convention on Cluster Munitions**

The Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions. Separate articles in the Convention concern assistance to victims, clearance of contaminated areas and destruction of stockpiles. It became a legally binding international instrument when it entered into force on 1 August 2010. As of September 2019, a total of 108 had signed the Convention while 107 States Parties had acceded to it.

## **Arms Trade Treaty**

In July 2012, UN member states gathered in New York to negotiate an arms trade treaty that would establish high common standards for international trade in conventional arms. After two years of negotiations, the Conference reached an agreement on a treaty text. Governments signed the treaty and after ratification of 50 states it came into force in

December 2014. Since then, over 100 states have ratified the treaty. It establishes common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. NATO stands ready to support the Arms Trade Treaty as necessary.

### Trust Fund projects

The Partnership for Peace Trust Fund mechanism was originally established in 2000 to assist partner countries with the safe destruction of stocks of anti-personnel land mines. It was later extended to include the destruction of surplus munitions, unexploded ordnance and SALW, and assisting partner countries in managing the consequences of defence reform, training and building integrity. So far, NATO has contributed to the destruction of 5.65 million anti-personnel landmines, 46,750 tonnes of various munitions, 2 million hand grenades, 15.95 million cluster submunitions, 1,635 man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), 3,530 tonnes of chemicals and 626,000 SALW, alongside 164.4 million rounds of SALW ammunition.

Over the years, NATO has trained thousands of explosive ordnance disposal experts, giving, for instance, assistance to more than 12,000 former military personnel through defence reform Trust Fund projects.

Trust Fund projects are initiated by a NATO member or partner country and funded by voluntary contributions from individual Allies, partners and organisations. A web-based information-sharing platform allows donors and recipient countries to share information about ongoing and potential projects.

## Possible Solutions

In order to solve this issue, it is of great importance that the legislation of arms trade is able to control the circulation of legal weapons. It is not intended to completely ban gun use, but it needs to be more regulated. Also, to solve the issue properly, effective law enforcement needs to be put in place, for those violating legislation. As always it is necessary to focus on transparency, with regards to the weapon trade. By doing this it will make it a lot easier to analyse the ongoing business. As long as there is no proper tracking system for legal weapon holders, it will be a difficult task combating illegal trade. Attention also needs to be raised about the dangers of small arms weapons. Also these clauses may help:

- Ensuring better enforcement of arms embargoes.
- Including civil society organizations in efforts to prevent small arms proliferation.
- Mark guns at point of manufacture for identification and tracing
- Maintain records of gun manufacture

## **WORKS CITED AND USEFUL LINKS ABOUT BORDER SECURITY IN EASTERN EUROPE**

[https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/moving-europe-beyond-crisis?gclid=CjwKCAiAjrXxBRAPEiwAiM3DQqmFhEeWuMBn5cpLw2dHY9jDH6Asv1Y6bVFfQAcPdeZmgXlsrpQptBoC5S8QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/moving-europe-beyond-crisis?gclid=CjwKCAiAjrXxBRAPEiwAiM3DQqmFhEeWuMBn5cpLw2dHY9jDH6Asv1Y6bVFfQAcPdeZmgXlsrpQptBoC5S8QAvD_BwE)

[https://helprefugees.org/news/european-refugee-crisis-the-truth/?gclid=CjwKCAiAjrXxBRAPEiwAiM3DQhI4hB5Gbisry1DzfnDPpvCqaYFhuHwN41gdT7GOq5i6VKayGxZerxoCd4QQA vD\\_BwE](https://helprefugees.org/news/european-refugee-crisis-the-truth/?gclid=CjwKCAiAjrXxBRAPEiwAiM3DQhI4hB5Gbisry1DzfnDPpvCqaYFhuHwN41gdT7GOq5i6VKayGxZerxoCd4QQA vD_BwE)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_migrant\\_crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis)

<https://prospect.org/world/migration-crisis-future-europe/>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/security/20190612STO54307/schengen-a-guide-to-the-european-border-free-zone>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

<http://graphics.thomsonreuters.com/15/migrants/index.html>

<https://www.business-of-migration.com/migration-today/europe-s-refugee-conundrums/>

## WORKS CITED AND USEFUL LINKS ABOUT ILLICIT ARMS TRADE

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_48896.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_48896.htm)

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/transfers/illicit-trafficking.html>

<https://fas.org/asmp/campaigns/smallarms/IssueBrief3ArmsTrafficking.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms\\_trafficking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms_trafficking)

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13126.doc.htm>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2009-03/news-analysis-nato-arms-control-nonproliferation-alliance-divided>

<https://www.avrupa.info.tr/en/eeas-news/arms-trade-eu-adopts-comprehensive-approach-scourge-illicit-weapons-7728>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms\\_industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms_industry)

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/armstrade/>