

Brussels, 11 June 1998

9240/98 (Presse 187)  
P. 51/98

**Declaration by the European Union,  
the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe,  
the associated country Cyprus and Iceland and Norway, EFTA countries members  
of the European Economic Area,  
on the EU programme for preventing and combating  
illicit trafficking in conventional arms**

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia declare that they share the objectives of the EU Programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms adopted by the Council on 26 June 1997. They declare their intention to implement the Programme.

In particular, the above countries declare themselves ready to take concerted action with the European Union and the Member States in order:

- to assist other countries in preventing and combating illicit trafficking of arms, particularly small arms;
- to assist affected countries, especially in post conflict situations and in situations where a minimal degree of security and stability exists, in suppressing the illicit circulation and trafficking of arms, particularly small arms,

by the specific means mentioned in the EU Programme.

The European Union takes note of these commitments and welcomes them.