Dear Ms. Fuchs,

In reference to the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on providing information regarding implementation of disarmament resolutions, required by the United Nations Office for for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the General Police Inspectorate (GPI) would like to inform you on the following:

Arms and ammunition for civilian use represent tools used by society for a variety of purposes as: practicing sports, hunting, self-defence, ensuring security of property and valuables, as well as deterring or discouraging criminal intent.

Currently, according to the Law Nr.130/2012 on the regime of arms and ammunition for civilian use, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is the competent authority ensuring authorization, record, control and monitoring on holding and using arms and ammunition and their operation. Thus, MIA is the only competent agency on matters related to arms and ammunition transfer and notification, carrying out its duties through the General Directorate on Public Security of the GPI.

In order to implement the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions designed at preventing and counteracting the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition; eradicating proliferation of arms, ammunition and explosive materials; ensuring confidence building in the regional and sub-regional context, the Police has conducted a series of relevant measures as follows.

Aiming at strengthening the normative framework in the area of arms control, the Government approved Decision Nr. 210 as of 07.03.2018 on “Establishment of the National Commision on monitoring the circulation of small arms and light weapons”. The Commission coordinates implementation of provisions of international treaties on control of small arms and light weapons (SALW), to which the Republic of Moldova is a party, and drafts national reports. The Presidency and Secretariat of the Commission are ensured by the MIA, which is responsible for implementation of the Republic of Moldova’s commitments.
towards the European Union and international organizations dealing with SALW control.

Additionally, an Expert Working Group was created to develop the policy framework for implementation at national level of arms control-related provisions foreseen by international regulations, as well as to ensure the instruments required for the National Strategy on control of small arms and light weapons, which is currently under development and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2020. This activity is coordinated by MIA’s Policy Directorate for Preventing and Combating Crime.

As for improving the monitoring of circulation of weapons for civilian use, and combating illicit trafficking of arms, the General Directorate for Public Security of the GPI ensures a daily cooperation with international counterparts via the OIPC Interpol arms verification system "iARMS". As a result, 59 requests of foreign states on 149 firearms detected on their territories were processed during 2019. Additionally, 24 firearms from illegal possession detected on the territory of Moldova were checked via the system.

Furthermore, particular emphasis was put on prevention of incidents using firearms through raising awareness on the need to register firearms, to hand over arms held illegally, to reduce the incorrect use of arms by civilians and to increase citizens’ safety. To this end, during November 2018 – January 2019, the information campaign “Now is the time, hand over the arms!” was carried out, calling on citizens to hand over the arms held illegally in return for release of the liability foreseen by legislation. As a result, 445 meetings were conducted with hunting and fishing communities, forest agencies, territorial ecological inspections, local public authorities and civil society. The participants received 9500 leaflets with information on voluntary on handing-over the arms held illegally. Information on the campaign was disseminated in mass-media, via the GPI web-page and social media, in the journal “Hunter and Fisher”, and 210 press-releases were published.

Subsequently, the police investigated 12 crimes on illegal holding, procurement, fabrication of firearms and ammunition (Art. 290 Criminal Code). As a result, grenades and ammunition of different caliber were detected and seized.

Moreover, 769 arms were delivered for smelting to the State Commission for arms evaluation and destruction, established by the Government Decision Nr. 1447 as of 30.12.2016. In addition, 66 mine and shells; 7 grenades ; 2 TNT bars of 400 grams; 2073 cartridges, and 2 automatic gun loaders were voluntarily handed over.
In October 2019, with the financial support and monitoring of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) 2,149 arms were destroyed at the “ARES” Factory.

Aiming at ensuring the management and physical security of arms and ammunitions, in October 2019, the weapons storage depot of the GPI was modernized with the financial support of the EU, and implementation support from UNDP and SEESCA.
In addition, in the framework of a UNDP Project, the Ballistic Laboratory of the Forensic and Judiciary Expertise Center was equipped to create replicas of “Double casting” bullets and tubes.

By the end of 2019, SEESAC supported acquisition of the device for firearm marking, which is in the process of delivery to the GPI.

The Automated Information System “State Register of Arms” is currently being developed. The System will ensure a strict record of arms for civilian use and their operation, and will serve as an efficient interaction tool for data operators and arms control specialists.

Taking into consideration the above, we would like to express our commitment to further promote activities aimed at ensuring arms control and eradicating illicit possession of arms.

Kind regards,

Ianuș ERHAN
State secretary

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United Nations
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