

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2: SPECPOL - SOCHUM BACKGROUND PAPER

*TOPIC: THE REGULATION OF TRANSNATIONAL
AGREEMENT CONCERNING AIR AND SEA
TRAVEL.*

Introduction

Greetings and welcome to 1MSKMUN 2021 web edition. My full name is Iosif Iakovidis, I am 18 years old, I have recently graduated from the first high school of Kifissia and I have begun my studies in civil engineering at the university of west Attica. I have participated in some MUN conferences before, my first one was back in 2019, I was the delegate of Japan in the historical crisis committee and was awarded as the best delegate while my committee was given a similar award. This year I was tasked with carrying out chairing duties in the historical crisis committee, a few months later I participated in the BRAMUN conference as the delegate of China in the security council and was rewarded as one of the best delegates there.

I would like to call myself a calm person in situations of tension, I am also an individual who has high standards and does not aim for anything less than ideal when it comes to administrative matters. I am generally a person who will take initiatives in new situations and I guarantee that through my social skills, any delegate or chair will feel comfortable around my presence. My biggest concern every day is to answer my own questions by searching for information far and wide in order to develop my general knowledges.

These last two years I made a full focus on my studies as to do well in the panhellenic exams, as a result my free time was severely limited and having many hobbies was not possible. The breakout of the virus did put the final nail in the coffin. Other than swimming and mountain biking in the summer months I was mostly inside in the winter, studying and socializing with people from abroad. With a few of them, I managed to create and finish projects similar to our conference, I got to interact with many people and even earn their respect by instructing them.

I am the General Secretary assistant of this conference. My task is to organize and run this event along with my superiors and inferiors, respectively. Finally, nearing the end of the conference, me and the other two GA members will run the general assembly. All the administrative members would be happy to see you online in this conference and we all wish you a wonderful time in advance.

Should anyone have any questions that this paper has not answered properly or at all, please send an E-mail to iosifiakovidis@hotmail.com submitting your questions.

A brief summary of the topic

The world has changed since the first conception of free trade and it has rapidly grown ever since. The last few generations have lived in the most prosperous and peaceful times thanks to free trade. However, this has brought many hinderances concerning world peace. Piracy, trafficking, smuggling, illegal immigration and terrorist attacks are causing considerable damage in the economy, infrastructure and the populace around the globe. Most countries in the world have taken several actions to fight back crime in the department of mass transportation and trade, yet the ambitions of men are too great, new ways to breach security measures are being implemented by the hidden enemy. It is up to the UN to make greater efforts in order to

increase safety and offer help as well as, better quality of life to people who have suffered the most, while also finding ingenious means and ways to root out this issue.

Definition of key-terms

Term	Definition
Free Trade	trade based on the unrestricted international exchange of goods with tariffs used only as a source of revenue.
Terrorism	violence or the threat of violence used systemically as a weapon of intimidation or coercion.
Smuggling/trafficking	Illegal or disreputable usually commercial activity.
Immigrant	a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence
Ammunition	cartridges (rounds) for small arms, shells and missiles for light weapons, mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems, anti-personnel and anti-tank hand grenades, and landmines.
Light weapons	heavy machine-guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, mortars of calibers of less than 100 mm
Small Arms	revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, light machine-guns
Illegal black market transfers	clear violation of national and/or international laws and without official government consent or control, these transfers may involve corrupt government officials acting on their own for personal

	gain.
Fire Arms Protocol	Protocol Against The Illicit Manufacturing Of And Trafficking In Firearms, Their Parts And Components And Ammunition, Supplementing The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
Illicit trafficking	the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from or across the territory of one State Party to that of another State Party if any one of the States Parties concerned does not authorize it (...) or if the firearms are not marked in accordance with (...) this Protocol

Background Information

It is a big world that we live in, nothing seemed more impossible than to change this. Over the last century though, we seem to be proven wrong with every day that passes. Nowadays, civilians can travel around the world with relative ease and most important, cheaply. Consumer goods and other commodities can be transported around the world without the risk of spoilage due to conserving methods. This has always been achieved via the sea but, thanks to technology, more recently through air travels. With the institution of free trade being dominant in most countries of the world, many of them have developed and prospered while international relations have only become greater than ever before.

The country-members of the European Union are clear examples of this era. The use of a common currency and market has encouraged civilians, traders and companies to open up to the rest of the world, either for tourism or profit by international trade. However, this does not mean that these countries face their own share of problems due to this freedom of sorts. As legal business owners and companies can conveniently do business internationally, so can the illegal ones. Many shady businesses which specialize in trafficking also attempt to pass illegal goods internationally in other markets with high demands. Most countries have fabricated the means to check and terminate such activities such as customs, yet the ingenuity of smugglers can go far enough to overcome these hinderances.

Asia is a different story depending on each region. Most of the middle east is preoccupied with defeating the remnants of the Islamic state while Syria is embroiled in civil war. Libya is also in a similar situation where the Government of National Accord receives weapons and other equipment from Turkey via the Mediterranean Sea. As a result, immigrants attempt to travel en masse to Europe and the inability to properly support them, has only worsened the situation.

Countries such as Greece, Italy and Spain are tasked with the heavy burden of receiving immigrants due to proximity with the middle east and Africa. The issue is that due to the lack of commitment the rest counties "suffer from", these 3 pre-mentioned countries, especially Greece, have held many more immigrants they can handle. This situation is directly connected to the topic as many solutions to it lie in the premises of this topic.

The Southern China sea and the waters of Indonesia and Singapore also are infested with pirate activity, trafficking in a common case. Despite the measure taken by some countries like the Philippines which are more direct, it seems like a lost cause. The People's Republic of China has ambitions to dominate over the oceans which borders with, in order to export its goods to more and more countries. Specifically, the northwest passage in the Artic is getting more and more accessible due to the melting of the ice. Through it, China can export its industrial goods in all of Europe and the east coast of America at ridiculously cheap prices due to the cuts in distance and as a result, the transport costs. This can prove beneficial for China, on the other hand though, many local products will be shunned and left on the shelf cause of the price difference. Consequently, the European and American market may have to be heavily regulated or damaged.

The 21st century, even though people have become more civilized, war declaration have become a common thing. Countries and states wanting to rule the world have given rise to extremist organizations which will stop and nothing. Via illegal arms transfers, these group find an easy way to achieve their goals and beliefs. Illicit arms trafficking fuels civil wars and contributes to sky-rocketing crime rates and feeds the arsenals of the world's worst terrorists. Particularly troubling is the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SA/LW). SA/LW account for an estimated 60-90% of the 100,000+ conflict deaths each year (Small Arms Survey 2005) and tens of thousands of additional deaths outside of war zones. They are also the weapons of choice for many terrorists. Of the roughly 175 terrorist attacks identified in last year's State Department report on Patterns of Global Terrorism, approximately half were committed with small arms or light weapons.

Hundreds of thousands of small arms in leaky government arsenals are vulnerable to theft, loss and diversion. Once acquired by traffickers, these weapons are smuggled across national borders in every conceivable way. They are hidden under sacks of vegetables in the back of pick up trucks, packed into household appliances that are then loaded onto cargo ships, even air-dropped out of old Soviet military transport planes.

In the hands of terrorists and other criminals, these weapons have the capacity to kill dozens, even hundreds, of innocent civilians. A shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile - available on the black market for as little as a few thousand dollars - can bring down a commercial airliner. Even a couple of \$100 assault rifles can inflict horrendous casualties, as evidenced by the November 1997 terrorist attack in Luxor, Egypt, during which 6 terrorists armed only with assault rifles, pistols and knives systematically slaughtered 58 tourists.

From 2009 to 2014, more than 73,000 guns seized in Mexico were traced to the United States, according to a new update on the effort to fight weapons trafficking along the US-Mexico border. The figure, based on data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, represents about 70 per cent of the 104,850 firearms seized by Mexican authorities and submitted to US authorities for tracing. The data was analyzed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which notes in its report that US police agencies have acknowledged firearms smuggling is fueling violent crime in Mexico. According to the GAO, many of those guns bought legally in the United States were then smuggled over the border.

In another example, a report says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has been able to trace the original purchasers of less than half of the 73,684 guns seized and submitted for tracing. The GAO says the agency could not figure out who bought 53 per cent of the guns at retail "because of factors such as incomplete identifying data on trace request forms, altered serial numbers, no response from the federal firearm licensee to ATF's request for trace information, or incomplete or never received out-of-business licensee records." Citing data from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the GAO says, "the agency seized 5,951 firearms that were destined for Mexico in the last 6 years."

To prevent illicit trafficking, the Firearms Protocol therefore requires State parties to establish or maintain "an effective system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, for the transfer of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition" (Article 10 Firearms Protocol). State parties need to establish the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition as criminal offences (Article 5 Firearms Protocol), and the Protocol provides internationally agreed definitions that help shaping the legal or illicit nature of certain conducts. Other provisions of the Firearms Protocol require States to mark and record firearms, to establish preventative and security measures to impede the theft and diversion of these arms into unauthorized hands, and to consider licensing and recording brokers and brokering activities inter alia. Through this set of provisions, the Firearms Protocol has created a significant barrier to illicit manufacturing, acquisition and trafficking, a barrier that actors in the illicit market must deal with.

Criminals also use less sophisticated means for illicit trade online that do not necessitate venturing into various marketplaces in the "Dark Web". Facebook profiles, or Internet forums, can offer illicit firearms, and merchandise be delivered to buyers through postal services. In 2018, the Security Service of Ukraine finalized the investigation against an organized criminal group, which had specialized in procuring illegal firearms and their parts, and deactivated firearms, from the United States and the European Union. Delivery took place in parts through courier companies to Ukraine, with subsequent re-assembly or re-activation, and sales offered via specialized online forums.

For these reasons, small arms trafficking is not a problem you solve; it is a problem you manage. By enacting strong export and border controls, safeguarding (or destroying) stockpiles, dismantling trafficking networks, and addressing the root causes of the civil conflicts and soaring urban crime rates, governments can reduce the supply of, and demand for, these weapons.

There are many more problems that transnational agreement concerning air and sea travel and since this topic is broad enough on its own, these were some branches of the issue that can be resolved by you delegates. You may have to go through more research to find out more parts of the issue that needs to be solved or find more information about the state of the world.

Bloc Positions

Most European countries have developed good relations among each other over the years and the same can be said for the north American countries that also cooperate with Europe. Their agreements on transnational travel by air or sea have been around for quite some time and their economies have profited by it. It is in a country's best interest to have open borders with its neighbors in most cases. Most south American countries and some African ones have already followed suit and have developed relations with Europe and north America. Yet, the trade routes around the horn of Africa are still ravaged by Somali pirates who, despite US intervention, are still active in the area. The same is true for the Gulf of Guinea.

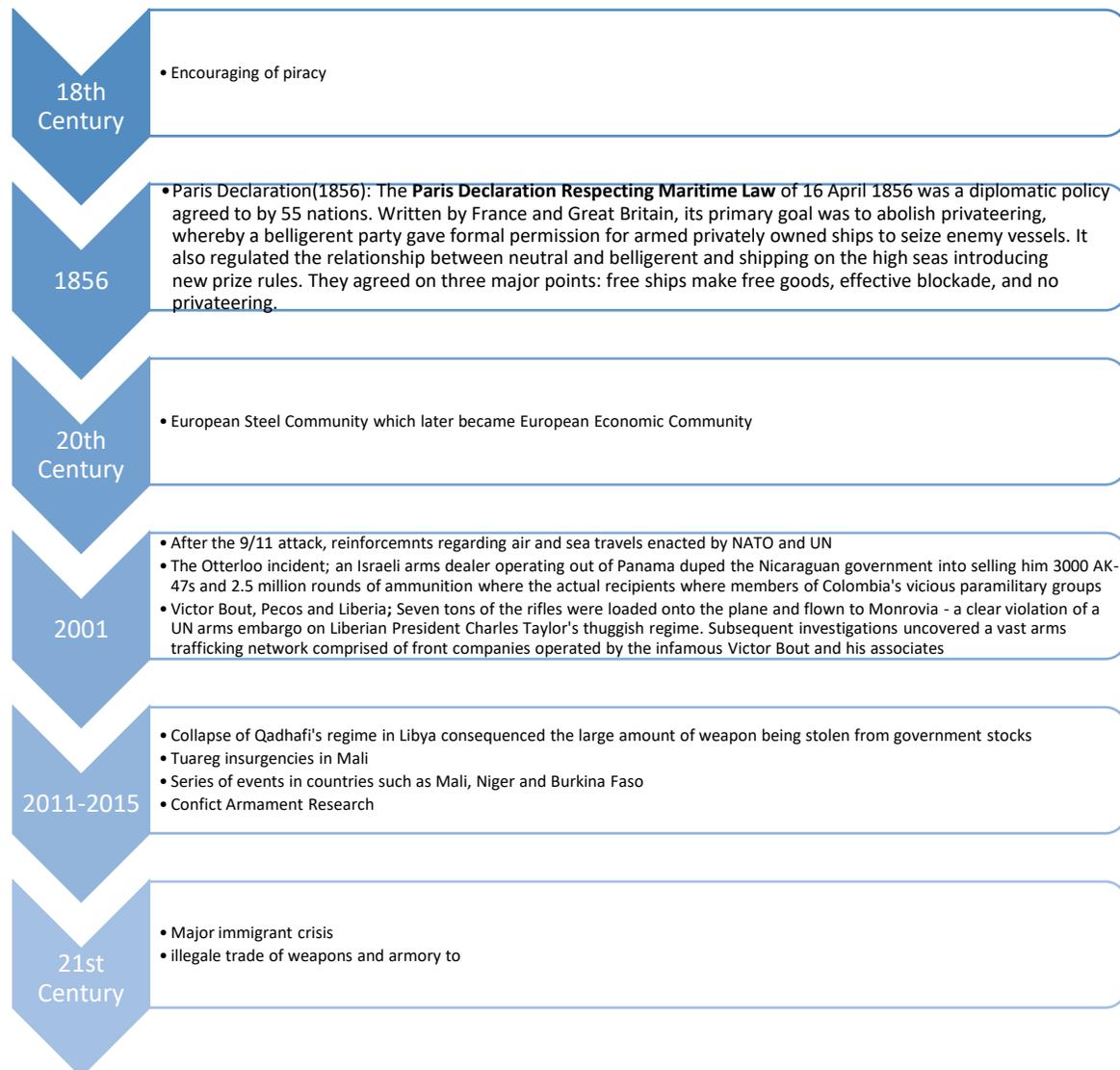
As for the middle east, it is widely known that many countries in that region are battered by civil wars and instability from the aftermath of it. Members or followers of the Islamic state, which operate there, often organize and attempt to carry out attacks on civilians in Europe as an act of terror. To some extent, the middle eastern countries are connected to this issue by one way or another, yet they must address to more important matters as mentioned above.

The following case study is largely based upon the report "Guns, Planes and Ships: Identification and Disruption of Clandestine Arms Transfers", by Griffiths and Wilkinson (2007). The clandestine broker at the centre of major weapons trafficking operations to Iraq, Liberia, Sudan, Burma, Libya and Somalia was Tomislav Damnjanovic, who gained his first experience in chartering and organizing sanctions busting flights into the former Republic of Yugoslavia as that country began to fall apart, becoming 'a smugglers paradise' in the 1990s. He chartered planes 'throughout Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, supplying everything from humanitarian aid to hand grenades'. Damnjanovic learned to operate through a network of shell companies and subcontractors and later began to link with the Italian mafia and organized criminal groups in Switzerland smuggling drugs and contraband cigarettes into Europe. Later, in 2004, having become manager of a Serbia based, but Russian owned, air freight company he began to diversify into arms trafficking, recognizing that he would be well-positioned to exploit the developing transport market, comprising both legal and illegal shipments, shifting the region's massive stocks of surplus AK-47s and ammunition that US, Israeli, Arab and German arms brokers had begun buying up to supply the new security forces in Iraq under Pentagon contracts. And even when weapon supply eventually reached saturation points in the conflict destinations, there remained still a continuing demand for ammunition. Damnjanovic organized dozens of Ilyushin cargo aircraft flights into and out of North Africa, exploiting the cover provided by his legitimate contract credentials, financial and security connections, carrying everything from expensive consumer goods and smuggled cigarettes to Kalashnikovs and missile launchers, often shipped under the guise of humanitarian aid. On one of these occasions, whilst

flying legitimate cargoes of arms into Iraq, one of Damnjanovic's planes diverted to Oman to collect an unspecified cargo. The following day the same plane was observed by United Nations personnel at Mogadishu airport in Somalia where UN investigators reported that the plane was delivering a cargo of arms and ammunition to Islamic militia groups. Damnjanovic insisted that the plane landed to refuel but the Omani authorities disputed this claim. Suspicion had first fallen upon Damnjanovic's air freight business after one of his Ilyushin planes was intercepted in Spain with an illegal cargo of millions of contraband cigarettes destined for the European Union. Documents seized when the plane was raided pointed to other aspects of Damnjanovic's illegal trafficking operations.

Similar patterns of firearms trafficking in small numbers are evident in the Western Balkan countries. Data from several court cases reveal the modus operandi of local traffickers being the use of vehicles with purposely-designed concealed compartments for moving a number of firearms across the border without authorization. For example, in the period of August-November 2017, one citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) travelled three times to Italy using two different vehicles and delivered four automatic rifles to Napoli.

Timeline of events



Questions that a resolution must answer

- The issues regarding safety in travels between countries
- The issues regarding cheap and convenient travel between countries
- Ways to succeed in early detection and prevention of any sort of attack (mostly terrorist)
- Measures to root out piracy around the world
- How to better detect and counter trafficking and smuggling activity around the world
- How could illegal immigration be addressed here?
- What will be different for civilian and military vessels and aircrafts?
- Can the economy and trade run as effectively as before when the upper questions are answered? How can that be achieved?

- Will the people hold resentment around the world after some of the issues above are resolved? What can be done about it?
- How can Member States control the illicit arms trade through the dark web which results in the sea and air transactions?
- What actions should be made to stop and control illegal black-market transfers?
- How can Complex and large-scale arms trafficking from post-conflict countries intermingled with legal arms cargoes and other legal commodities?
- Should the UN intervene during war to pick up the lost ammunition lost during battle?

Resources for further research

<https://www.youtube.com/user/voxdotcom>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Wendoverproductions>

https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a39/Documents/Provisional_Doc_9626.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Kr_WREJ0tZY5se-uKH0itj_zTiUL-oqoqC6Cx9jvWqulOKmvzCS9lw30

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/oceans-and-law-sea/index.html?fbclid=IwAR1oNDsxeTW1NZQqh39aQgP3pl5ndGZUyhnNd1Kee5Mgqkqg2RowT97r8yY>

https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/GPTOC/Issue_Paper_-_TOC_at_Sea.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oNDsxeTW1NZQqh39aQgP3pl5ndGZUyhnNd1Kee5Mgqkqg2RowT97r8yY

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<https://www.dhs.gov/national-plan-achieve-maritime-domain-awareness#:~:text=%20National%20Strategy%20for%20Maritime%20Security%20%201,Awareness.%20The%20National%20Plan%20to%20Achieve...%20More%20>

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https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/recenttexts/18-12_c_e.pdf

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

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/12/the-sale-of-illegal-weapons-on-the-dark-web-and-the-impact-on-international-security/>

https://www.unodc.org/documents/e4j/Module_04_-_The_Illicit_Market_in_Firearms_FINAL.pdf