

However, it is also necessary to pay attention to the issues of consumer protection of electronic services and legal registration of electronic transactions. In the Republic of Belarus, there are legislative prohibitions on the sale via the Internet of certain categories of goods, the trade of which is established in other countries, including those belonging to the EAEU [3].

There are a number of restrictions on Internet platforms for e-commerce and doing business, including within the framework of social networks [4]. In addition, according to statistics, only 41% of the population uses social networks, which are becoming the leading e-commerce platforms worldwide today. In the Russian Federation, this indicator is 67,8%, the global level is 53,6%.

**Conclusion.** Today, business in electronic form is one of the most promising areas for the development of the national economy. The use of information and communication technologies reduces costs, accelerates the process of interaction with the client, increases the availability of services. It is necessary to continue work on the implementation of the National e-Commerce System and ensuring its operability. In this case, it is necessary to adopt separate comprehensive legislative acts that will regulate e-business and all related processes.

1. Salakhova, Y.S. Factors of increasing human potential and human capital in the digital economy / Y.S. Salakhova // Bulletin of the Belarusian State University of Economics. – 2022. – № 1. – P. 68–75

2. Bobrik, M.Y. The specifics of the formation and accumulation of human capital and human potential in the conditions of the development of the digital economy / M.Y. Bobrik, Y.S. Salakhova // Bulletin of the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus: Collection of Scientific Articles – Minsk: Belarusian Science, 2020. – Issue 1. – P. 87–95.

3. Salakhova, Y.S. Ways to improve the legislative framework for regulating e-commerce / Y.S. Salakhova, M.Y. Derbenev // Science – education, production, economy: materials of the 74th Region. scientific-practical conf. of teachers, scientific. employees and postgraduates, Vitebsk, February 18, 2022 – Vitebsk: Masherov VSU, 2022. – P. 387–388. – URL: <https://rep.vsu.by/handle/123456789/31731> (date of access: 06.09.2022).

4. Salakhova, Y.S. Theoretical aspects of legal support of electronic business in the Republic of Belarus / Y.S. Salakhova, M.Y. Derbenev // Science – education, production, economy: materials of the 73rd Region. scientific-practical conf. of teachers, scientific. employees and postgraduates, Vitebsk, March 11, 2021 – Vitebsk: Masherov VSU, 2021. – P. 451–452. – URL: <https://rep.vsu.by/handle/123456789/27059> (date of access: 06.09.2022).

### **COUNTERING ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL REGULATION**

**Ilya Dorozhko**

VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Vitebsk, Belarus

Keywords: firearms, illegal firearms trafficking, countering illegal trafficking, international cooperation, transnational crime.

Countering illegal arms trafficking has been a very urgent problem for the entire world community for many years. International cooperation in the field of countering illicit arms trafficking requires concerted efforts by different countries based on international agreements at the global and regional levels, international standards for

countering crimes developed mainly by the UN. The fight against the proliferation of illegal firearms is an ongoing problem. In places where the rule of law is already ineffective, it is clearly noticeable that formal prohibitions often do not work.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the state and effectiveness of international cooperation and interaction on countering illicit firearms trafficking.

**Material and methods.** The material for the study was international treaties in the field of countering illegal trafficking in firearms. The methodological basis was formed by the methods of specific legal analysis and generalization of data on the research topic.

**Findings and their discussion.** With the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and the Protocol on the basis of UN General Assembly Resolution 55/255 (2001), the world community agreed at the UN to tighten international and national control over the trade in small arms and light weapons, strengthen the protection of weapons depots and the official marking of each unit and each cartridge in order to know who and where produced them and who is responsible for their illegal supply. The States also decided to provide financial and humanitarian assistance to people with a criminal past so that they could start a new life, and to conduct campaigns to purchase unregistered weapons and ammunition from the population. Nevertheless, years later, the actual state of affairs related to countering illicit trafficking in firearms does not correspond to the agreements of States that sounded so purposefully at the beginning of the XXI century. And the experience of various states proves to the world community the ineffectiveness of the measures taken to prevent crimes involving firearms [1, p. 297].

One of the latest attempts to establish international cooperation in countering illicit trafficking in firearms is the project launched in 2018 "Countering transnational illicit trafficking in weapons through the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture and the Firearms Protocol", which was developed by UNODC to prevent the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms and their links with transnational organized crime and other serious crimes [2].

Part of international cooperation is also the provision, upon request, of training and technical assistance necessary to strengthen the ability of participating states to prevent, suppress and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, including technical, financial and material assistance [3, art. 14].

Organized crime manifests itself in many forms and types of activities, ranging from traditional types of criminal organizations to transnational criminal networks with flexible structures and the ability to quickly move, transform and be controlled from several locations. Illicit trafficking and abuse of firearms are inextricably linked to these criminal organizations and networks: as accomplices of violent crimes, as tools for seizing power and as a lucrative commodity for illicit trafficking, which fuels armed conflicts, crime and insecurity. Often, various forms of crime are intertwined, which is clearly seen in the example of human trafficking, firearms and drugs.

The problems associated with crime and firearms are so complex that targeted measures are required to solve them, including appropriate criminal justice measures in terms of the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes. The active actions of UNODC on firearms trafficking were related to the need to assist States in establishing appropriate criminal justice systems to effectively respond to the problems created by

organized crime, specifically related to the illicit trafficking of firearms [4]. Nevertheless, if such systems were created in the States concerned, then their effective activities are poorly and insufficiently coordinated by national Governments due to the fact that a multitude of international legal acts have not developed a specific mechanism and a clear sequence of joint actions to track and suppress international channels for the sale and trade of firearms.

It should be noted that in addition to formal legal mechanisms of cooperation, it is important to develop cooperation at the working level and contacts with partner institutions responsible for investigation and prosecution in other countries. Regular communication with other practitioners working in this field of law enforcement allows you to exchange experiences and establish contacts. Ultimately, this interaction can lead to the development of a community of practitioners who can share first-hand information for use in the investigation process. For example, information about an alleged group of firearms dealers in a neighboring country may be informally confirmed or denied before the actual official cooperation procedures begin. Such informal cooperation is designed to save time and increase the operational value of investigation or prosecution procedures.

**Conclusion.** Thus, the widespread strengthening of national control systems, primarily in the arms importing States, would help to block the channels of leakage of firearms into illicit trafficking. Currently, among the most urgent unresolved problems in the field of illegal arms trafficking, it is necessary to highlight: the termination of the supply of firearms produced without licenses; the legal regulation of re-export, namely the ban on its implementation without the consent of the original exporter; strengthening control over the final use of the supplied firearms; termination of supplies to structures not authorized by governments, etc. The unresolved problems related to the prevention of illicit trafficking in firearms, including after the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (2013), does not allow us to assert that in the face of new threats, the international legal framework can significantly improve the effectiveness of arms trafficking control, strengthen international security and reduce the risks of weapons entering illicit trafficking.

1. Dorozhko, I. Determinants of increasing crimes in the sphere of illegal use of firearms / I. Dorozhko // The Youth of the 21st Century: Education, Science, Innovations: Proceedings of VIII International Conference for Students, Postgraduates and Young Scientists, Vitebsk, December 10, 2021. – Vitebsk: VSU named after P.M. Masherov, 2021. – P. 296–300. URL: <https://rep.vsu.by/handle/123456789/30751> (date of access: 27.10.2022).

2. Countering Firearms Trafficking project / [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <https://illicitflows.eu/projects/countering-firearms-trafficking-project/>. – Date of access: 29.10.2022.

3. 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, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/255 of 31 May 2001 / [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: [https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/conventions/crimepro.shtml](https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/crimepro.shtml). – Date of access: 01.11.2022.

4. Firearms trafficking. Regulatory framework. Market and trends. Challenges and opportunities / [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/organized-crime/module-3/key-issues/firearms-trafficking.html>. – Date of access: 03.11.2022.