

AR/027

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## SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT - AR27

### JOINT NATO EAPC/PFP/SEESAC REGIONAL WORKSHOP COUNTERING SALW TRAFFICKING IN THE BLACK SEA REGION (CHISINAU, MOLDOVA, 04 - 05 MARCH 2004)

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	<p>FA 1 - Cross Border Control</p> <p>FA 2 - Legislative and Regulatory Issues</p> <p>FA 3 - Management Information</p> <p>FA 7 - SALW Stockpile Management Issues</p>
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	<p>SG 2 - Co-ordination Measures</p> <p>SG 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities</p>

The flow of illegal weapons presents an immediate threat to the safety and security to all inhabitants of the Black Sea Region. The flow of illicit SALW from the region has fuelled conflicts and crime to other continents and regions. The Joint **NATO/SEESAC Regional Workshop Countering SALW Trafficking in the Black Sea Region - Improving Regional Standards**, was one of the first initiatives in the region to tackle this very real problem. This workshop, sponsored by the governments of Moldova, Switzerland, the Netherlands and SEESAC, (held under the auspices of NATO EAPC and Pfp), successfully brought together the countries of the Black Sea Region, (Turkey, Moldova, Romania, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and others), to discuss concrete measures that could be taken to enhance SALW control in the region.



The issue of illicit SALW trafficking was identified as being closely linked to improved **border security and integrated border management**. All participating countries expressed an interest in increasing cross-border security and, most importantly, **cross-border cooperation** in order to curb the threats from illicit SALW trafficking.

Another key issue was that of **SALW stockpile security and management**. Numerous participating countries stated their willingness to share national experience and expertise to assist other SEE Region nations in improving SALW security in order to prevent any future SALW leakages from national stockpiles.

Another equally important issue brought to the forum was that of **SALW Import, Export and Transfer Controls**. A need to **harmonize legislation** regarding this aspect was identified as being crucial to ensure that SALW traffickers and brokers could not breach gaps in SALW legislation in the various countries of the SEE region.

The plenary and discussion sessions consisted of:

- ❑ Implementation of multilateral documents- gaps and achievements;
- ❑ National Frameworks;
- ❑ Stockpile Management; and
- ❑ Enhancement of Border Controls.

Participants of the workshop included 76 members of national governments, international organizations and NGO's and was chaired by Ambassador William Hill, Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and Mr Michael Miggins, Head of NATO Arms Control Policy. The success of the workshop was based on numerous factors, but credit must be given to the extremely professional organizational skills of the Moldovan Government and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, without whose help, the workshop would not have been made possible.

The final conclusions and recommendations of this workshop will be release shortly by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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