

AR/031

27 May 2004

SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR31

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE 2ND REGIONAL ARMS LAW ROUNDTABLE

(Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 25/26 May 2004)

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 2 – Legislative and Regulatory Issues
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 1 – Capacity Building SG 2 - Co-ordination Measures SG 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities

One of the primary functional areas in SEESAC's mandate is addressing the legislative and regulative issues regarding Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) of stakeholder nations in South Eastern Europe. SEESAC's work in this field mostly concentrates on providing support to the regional harmonisation of arms control and export legislation, including the provision of independent, impartial and neutral legal advice to regional governments for the development of effective and appropriate legislation.

Tackling small arms and light weapons (SALW) issues in many instances demands a cross-border approach, and thus coordination of actions and initiatives between governments and international stakeholders is imperative. Legislative harmonization is at the core of this process, as it is the institutional framework which allows for internal, and importantly, regional and wider international cooperation in this matter.

Eighteen months after the 1st Regional Arms Law Roundtable, following a range of consultations on legislative progress with regional governments and international stakeholders, it was decided that it would be appropriate to continue with the process. The objective of the 2nd meeting was to review the current situation and assist the regional governments in moving forward with the legal issues they are tackling.



Hyatt Regency Hotel 25 May 2004

SEESAC Legal Advisor, H.E. Deputy
Minister of Foreign Affairs and SEESAC
Team Leader.

On 25 - 26 May 2004, 30 representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior and Defence from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Moldova and Serbia and Montenegro gathered in Belgrade to discuss the legislative developments their countries have made in SALW issues. Observers and Working Group mediators to the Roundtable included over 20 international representatives from NATO, the Wassenaar Agreement, the OSCE, RACVIAC, Saferworld, US Embassy Belgrade and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Roundtable was organized in association with the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, who provided valuable support, especially in relation to aspects of SALW export and import legislation.

The event was regarded as a great success by participants, with much cross-fertilization of ideas between the stakeholder nations within the region, with the remaining challenge being the implementation of these laws.



The SEE 2nd Regional Arms Law Roundtable has also drawn significant press interest and was reported on by all national (Serbia and Montenegro) media, including several international correspondents from Deutsche Welle Radio, Agence France Press and the BBC Serbian section.

The Conclusions and Recommendations from the 2nd Regional Arms Law Roundtable will be distributed to all participants and observers, and can be obtained on-line from 04 June 2004 from the SEESAC website (www.seesac.org) or by contacting the SEESAC Communications Officer Tijana Vukadin on: (+381) (11) 244 2902 or tijana.vukadin@undp.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Wilkinson', is located in the middle left of the page. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

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