

AR/058

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR58

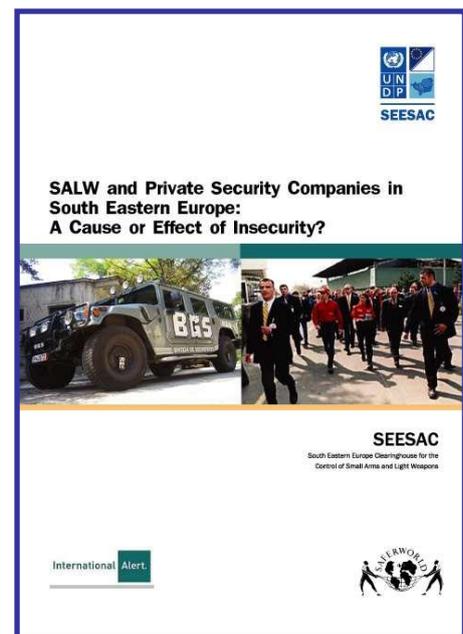
SALW AND PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES (PSC) IN SEE ‘A CAUSE OR EFFECT OF INSECURITY?’

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 3 - Management Information FA 4 - SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 2 - Co-ordination Measures SG 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities SG 8 - Operational Research Activities

A newly published report, commissioned by SEESAC and written by the international non-governmental organisations Saferworld and International Alert, investigates the conduct, regulation and development of the private security industry in South Eastern Europe. The rapid privatization of security in the region that followed the end of Communism in the early 1990s mirrors a global trend in which security roles that traditionally fell exclusively within the realm of the state have been gradually outsourced to private actors.

The report shows that in its early years, the industry in South East Europe was unregulated and some parts of the industry were strongly associated with organised criminal elements, as well as in some circumstances extreme nationalist politics. Over the last decade the sector has continued to expand and begun to professionalize, as the governments of the region have made legislative efforts to introduce controls. Despite this, it raises concerns about cases of improper criminal, political or paramilitary affiliations among some PSCs and the improper use of force by some employees.

This study is the first of its kind conducted in the region and is intended as an initial scoping exercise to identify key issues of concern for policy-makers, and also as a basis for more detailed future research. For each country studied the text highlights key trends and major issues of concern areas such as patterns of affiliation with criminal organisations, the use of force and firearms, training procedures and procurement practices. Whilst in most cases the members of the private security industry do not pose a direct threat to the states or citizens of the region, serious concerns remain, ranging from cases of improper criminal, political or paramilitary affiliations, to the improper use of force in individual cases.





In light of the report's findings the authors urge the regulatory authorities of each country and entity in the region to continue work together with the most progressive members of the private security industry to introduce and implement far-reaching regulations that meet the best international standards, so as to ensure that PSCs operate in a safe and professional way. On the basis of the research findings, SEESAC, Saferworld and International Alert are also working to produce detailed best practice standards and tools for client organisations and governments.

The report was commissioned by SEESAC and was researched and compiled in partnership by the international Non-Governmental Organisations, Saferworld and International Alert. The report will be officially launched in September 2005 and will shortly be available for download from both the Saferworld and SEESAC websites. For a printed copy of the report kindly contact Ms. Ana Martinovic, SEESAC Communications Officer, ana.martinovic@undp.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Wilkinson', is positioned above the contact information.

Adrian Wilkinson
SEESAC

Office: +381 11 344 6353
Mobile: +381 63 217 350
Fax: +381 11 344 6356
E Mail: adrian.wilkinson@undp.org
URL: www.seesac.org