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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/076

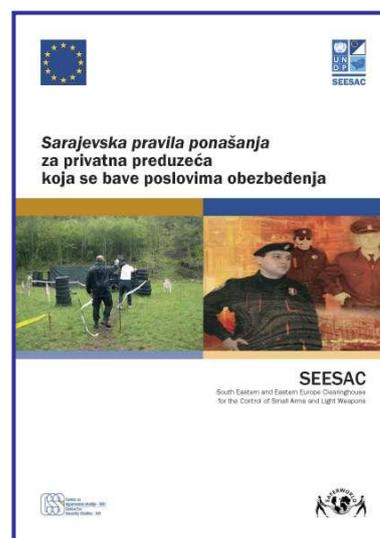
THE ‘SARAJEVO PROCESS CODE OF CONDUCT’ FOR PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES (PSC)

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

A range of writers and observers have monitored the increase in private security provision across the world during the last decade.¹ Increasingly, the private security industry is taking on roles that have traditionally been the preserve of state security providers, including: escorting and transporting high-risk commodities; providing rapid response services attached to alarm systems; stewarding large public events; operating prisons; securing courts; providing surveillance services, risk analysis and providing protective security to a wide range of facilities such as banks, ports and embassies.

A study commissioned in 2005 found that there are now around 200,000 private security guards working in the SEE region.² In general terms the private security sector was found to be providing a welcome additional layer of security in addition to that offered by state law enforcement agencies: one that client organisations clearly found valuable. Yet despite this fact, the professionalism of companies was found to vary widely across the region. Formal regulation of the sector was also found to diverge widely: although most countries in the region now have specific legislation to regulate the industry, problems with the effective implementation of these laws and with the broader oversight of the sector were numerous. In those cases where companies had chosen to self-regulate by forming trade associations and agreeing codes of conduct this was seen to have helped in raising standards.

The key conclusion of the study was that the regulatory authorities of each country, together with the most progressive members of the industry, should collaborate to develop and implement comprehensive but workable regulations and voluntary guidelines to ensure that the highest standards are maintained within the sector. In summer 2006, with financial and technical support from SEESAC, Saferworld and the Centre for Security Studies (Bosnia and Herzegovina) initiated the *Sarajevo Process* in which stakeholders from the Bosnian Government, client groups and international organisations came together for this purpose. The



¹ For example Peter Singer, *Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003.

² *SALW and Private Security Companies in South Eastern Europe*, International Alert-Saferworld-SEESAC, 2005. The report provided a comparative study of the conduct and regulation of companies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) and Romania.

result is the *Sarajevo Code of Conduct* and the *Sarajevo Guidelines for the Procurement of Private Security Companies* (see AR/077).

The *Sarajevo Code of Conduct* contains a set of basic standards of professionalism and service delivery for application by all employers and employees in the private security industry. It covers a wide range of areas, including the selection and recruitment of workers, vocational training, health and safety at work, non-discrimination, and relations with clients, the police and other security companies. The *Sarajevo Code of Conduct* is not intended as a substitute for national legislation in this area, the effective implementation of which is the single most important guarantee of good practice. Rather, the purpose of the *Sarajevo Process* is to support the development and enforcement of formal regulation by engaging all relevant actors in a drive towards improved standards. The document is based on European and international best practice in this area and draws on international mechanisms such as the *Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights*; *United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials*; and *United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials*.

The English language edition of the *Sarajevo Code of Conduct* can be downloaded from the SEESAC website (www.seesac.org). Printed copies of the report will soon be available in English and Bosnian language, upon request from the SEESAC Communication Officer, Ana Martinovic, who can be contacted on (+381) (11) 344 63 53 or by email at ana.martinovic@undp.org.



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