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# **SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE ARMS LAW COMPENDIUM**

## **Introduction**

Belgrade, 04 May 2004

One of the functional areas covered by SEESAC's mandate is addressing the legislative and regulative issues of stakeholder nations in South Eastern Europe. Our work in this field mostly concentrates on 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 as well as international stakeholders is imperative. Legislative approximation 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.

In order to harmonize these efforts and provide all regional SALW stakeholders with a unique, easy-reference guide for SALW legislation, SEESAC has compiled a South Eastern Europe Arms Law Compendium. It is as up to date and accurate as possible, but SEESAC recognizes that the Compendium may not have a complete overview of draft legislation that governments are currently developing. The Compendium is limited by the contributions received from governments, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations that have contributed to this publication. The Compendium is a continually changing reference guide for stakeholders to monitor regional legislative changes, and the most up to date legislation will be posted on the SEESAC website ([www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org)).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all governments, UNDP offices, international and nongovernmental organizations in South Eastern Europe that have contributed to the Compendium, and to invite all stakeholders to keep updating this publication. We hope that the South Eastern Europe Arms Law Compendium will prove to be a useful resource to your organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Wilkinson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Adrian Wilkinson**  
**SEESAC Team Leader**