

Dear Dr. Zverzhanovski, dear guests and colleagues,

I wish you welcome to Belgrade and hope that you will have a very pleasant stay.

First of all, I would like to thank SEESAC for long lasting and continuous support of the meetings of this kind, that became an important part of cooperation among the countries of this region, improving and spreading mutual understanding and cooperation.

The Republic of Serbia has regulated its national control mechanism for the export of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods in line with the rules and standards applied by the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the obligations pursuant to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Within the framework of export control, special attention is being devoted to the countries under the UN mandatory arms embargo in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions or politically binding OSCE decisions relating to arms exports, or to countries sponsoring terrorism, posing a threat to peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the countries having a poor record of human rights or those carrying out internal repressive measures.

Let me tell you some facts about the Serbian actual position. The Republic of Serbia recently became a member of the NSG export control regime, and applied for the membership at Wassenaar arrangement. We prepared a new legislation harmonised with EU. The Law on export of dual use goods was enacted in our Parliament and shall enter into force these days. The new Law on export and import of weapons and military equipment is at the governmental procedure now. We expect it to be adopted till the end of this year. In drafting this Law the EU experts were included.

The Republic of Serbia fully harmonised its National Control Lists of weapons and military equipment and dual use goods with the latest EU lists. We prepare regular annual reports on foreign trade in weapons, military equipment and dual use goods. The last one, for 2011 was translated and printed thank to SEESAC. These figures are included in the Regional reports published by SEESAC, also. I would like to stress the figures from the recently announced Regional Report for 2011, where you can see that Serbia is the biggest exporter of arms and military equipment in this region (more than 55% of exported goods is from Serbia).

The Ministry of Foreign and Internal Trade and Telecommunications, timely and regularly supplies reports, information and answers to questionnaires in relation to the control of the export of weapons in accordance with the commitments undertaken according to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the Report on the Application of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the UN Register of Conventional Arms.

Finally, I would like to mention that The Republic of Serbia organises regularly industry outreach seminars (supported by EU and SEESAC), where we present the export

control system aiming the awareness raising of Serbian exporters. The last one was in December 2011, and we are planning that next would be also in December 2013.

We face with a lot of different challenges in our daily work. We believe that this kind of meetings and exchange information can facilitate our work and be very useful. So, we strongly support the continuation of this regional exchange information meetings and believe that by that we also send a message to the international community that the countries from this region are strictly complied with its international obligations and commitments related to non-proliferation, both of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms.

I wish you a successful work and once again a very pleasant stay in Belgrade.

Belgrade, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.