



AR/085

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/085

SALW IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE - PARLIAMENTARY HANDBOOK

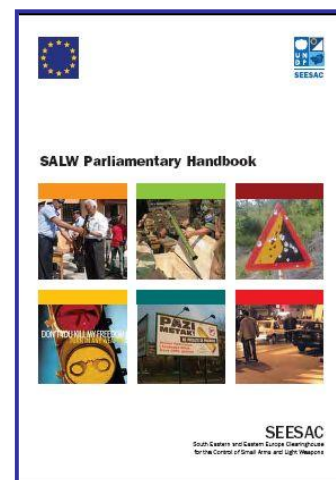
SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 2- Legislative and Regulatory Issues FA 3 - Management Information
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	OA 1 - Capacity Building OA 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities OA 7 - Training and Research

In most countries within South Eastern Europe a combination of past conflict and weak, but developing state institutions has resulted in varying degrees of control over the possession, use and trade in weapons in the first few years of the decade. Limited police performance, corruption and the growth of organised crime and trafficking networks, have effectively served to both justify illicit weapons possession in the minds of many, and also allowed for undesirable transfers and possession of illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). Problems with co-operation and exchange of information, either at the national level between the different relevant departments or agencies, or internationally between governments, have also been evident.

Parliaments in the region are entrusted with adopting relevant SALW Control legislation and ensuring its implementation and although progress has been made in terms of revised arms control legislation covering arms exports, transfers and civilian possession, the remaining challenge is one of effective and efficient implementation. Moreover, parliaments could further make a substantial impact and improve SALW Control by addressing some of the outstanding issues:

- Transparency;
- Availability of official information on SALW;
- Prioritisation of the SALW issue on the agendas of donors, governments, NGOs and international organisations alike; and
- Maintaining political momentum, donor support and international technical assistance to see through the required changes to SALW Control policy.

This publication was developed by SEESAC with support from the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Sweden, using materials from various other sources, in support of a Regional Parliamentary Conference on SALW. It has been designed for parliamentarians in the region of South Eastern Europe but its basic principles can be applied globally.



This report will shortly be available on the SEESAC website (www.seesac.org). For more information please contact SEESAC Deputy Head Diman Dimov: diman.dimov@undp.org.



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