



AR/096

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/096

WESTERN BALKANS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM - WEBSITE

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

On 01 November 2006, the initial meeting of the Western Balkans Members of Parliaments took place in Belgrade under the auspices of a Regional SALW Parliamentary Forum. The meeting was organised by SEESAC with the assistance of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms based in Sweden. Members of the European and EU member states' Parliaments, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum for SALW, and UNDP technical advisors and project managers informed the parliamentarians from the Western Balkans about EU SALW strategies and engagement, the involvement of EU parliamentarians in SALW Control, the importance of a national SALW control strategy, and the need for coordinated action and increased parliamentary diplomacy, oversight and advocacy.



The major outcomes of the seminar included;

- ❑ The proposal to form a regional parliamentary network on SALW;
- ❑ The agreement to initiate the regional co-operation process through the Speakers of the Parliaments;
- ❑ The agreement to convene the inaugural meeting of the regional parliamentary forum on SALW in early spring 2007;
- ❑ To establish SEESAC as a secretariat for the regional parliamentary forum on SALW; and
- ❑ To co-ordinate the regional parliamentary activities with the Parliamentary Forum for SALW.

In December 2006, SEESAC and the Global Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons came to an agreement that SEESAC would administer the Western Balkans SALW Parliamentary Forum and the SEESAC Communications Officer was nominated as the Western Balkans SALW Parliamentary Forum Regional Coordinator.

Additionally, it was agreed that the Western Balkans SALW Parliamentary Forum would be a membership-based organization. As such, the members – parliamentarians – own and direct the activities of the Forum. Following decisions by its members, the Forum will subsequently undertake various projects in co-operation with a number of international or parliamentary organizations.

The mission of the Western Balkans SALW Parliamentary Forum is to support parliamentarians in their small arms related work, contribute to the advancement of the small arms agenda, and provide a space for parliamentarians to meet and join forces with other stakeholders and actors, such as Members of the European Parliament and civil society organizations.

With the aim of providing as much information as possible on the activities of the forum and in order to keep all the parliamentarians in the region informed on the most recent developments, it was decided to create a website accessible in all local languages.

The Forum's website (<http://www.seeparliamentaryforum.org/>) is linked to the Global Forum's website (<http://www.parliamentaryforum.org/>) and can be viewed in 7 different languages:

- ❑ English homepage: <http://www.seeparliamentaryforum.org/>
- ❑ Albanian homepage: <http://www.seeparliamentaryforum.org/index.php?lang=alb>
- ❑ Bosnian / Croatian / Montenegrin / Serbian homepage:
<http://www.seeparliamentaryforum.org/index.php?lang=bcsml>
- ❑ Macedonian homepage: <http://www.seeparliamentaryforum.org/index.php?lang=mk>

The website provides the visitor with all background information, organizational structure, past events and an opportunity to join the forum by submitting an online application.

For more information please contact SEESAC Communications Officer and the Western Balkans SALW Parliamentary Forum Coordinator Ms. Ana Martinovic: ana.martinovic@undp.org or visit the Forum website: <http://www.seeparliamentaryforum.org/>



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