

**NATIONAL REPORT ON BULGARIA'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2001 UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND
ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT
WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**(in accordance with op. p. 6 of UNGA 61/66 The Illicit Trade in Small
Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects)**

Implementation at the national level

No new legislation was adopted. The mechanisms of national co-operation, inter-ministerial and inter-governmental co-ordination and the ways and means of information exchange among the respective administrative and law enforcement agencies are stipulated and defined by detail in the respective provisions of the existing “Law on Control of Foreign Trade Activity in Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies”. Information on legislative measures as provided in 2002, 2003 and 2005 National reports on the UN SALW Programme of Action still applies.

With an amendment of 9 May 2006 to the Law on the Control over the Explosives, Firearms and Munitions, the European Firearms Pass (EFP) was introduced. The EFP is an official document issued to a person holding a permit to carry and use a firearm when s/he passes from the territory of one EU Member State to that of another. The EFP contains a number, expiration date, personal data of the person, type, brand, model, category, calibre and serial number of the firearm, as well as information for the type of firearm the pass is issued for on bans or permits in the EU Member States concerned.

Although no changes have been introduced in the export control system for the reporting period, a process of review of the existing export control legislation was launched on 2006 with a view of Bulgaria’s accession to the EU on 1 January 2007. The main objective of this review process was to grant coherence and compliance with the EU provisions in the area of export control, as well as to further improve its practical implementation. As a result, the existing Law on Export Control in Arms and Dual-Use Items was amended by the Bulgarian National Assembly (entering into force in the beginning of 2007). The “new” Export Control Law keeps all the established export control measures regulating arms-trade and, in addition, enhances control measures for re-export, transit and brokering activities (strictly following the EU Common position EC/ 468/2003). In accordance with the EU Common Position for any brokering activity a registration of the broker is required as well as an individual licence for each brokering transaction.

The structure of Bulgarian Export Control system remains as reported previously, with strengthening interdepartmental information exchange. Bulgaria adheres to the responsible policy in the area of SALW control and implements the recommended measures established by the UN Program of action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW to avoid an illicit trafficking, inappropriate re-export, with respect of the human rights in the country of final destination and the international peace and regional stability. The measures are directed also to prevent the use of arms for internal repressions, as well as for terrorist or organised-crime purposes.

In 2006 the National Customs Agency organized several courses and trained 50 Customs officers in the field of fight against illicit arms trafficking with special focus on SALW.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Defence has submitted the following information related to the national activities on SALW in 2006:

- ☐ No changes in the systems of control, accountability and safety of arms caches in the Bulgarian Army with these, preliminary reported;

- ☞ No changes in numbers of SALW and Ammunitions, reported as a surpluses for the Army;
- ☞ No destruction of SALW and Ammunitions has been conducted in year 2006.

Bulgarian Contribution at the regional and global levels

Bulgaria financed a project for the destruction of 1 897 small arms and light weapons which were illegally held by civilians, and subsequently, confiscated by the Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro. Bulgaria donated USD 7588 to the Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro for the completion of the project. The destruction was completed on 28 February 2006.

In 2006 Bulgaria hosted an International seminar entitled “Export Control of Dual-Use Items and Arms: Industry Outreach (Sofia, 22 – 23 May 2006). The 2006 Sofia seminar was a part of the continuing implementation of the Joint Action Plan of Hungary and Bulgaria under the Australia Group outreach programme targeting non-participating states.

The Sofia seminar was an opportunity for exchange of information, experience and training in the form of presentations and interactive discussions to participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the FY Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

Following its policy to assist as much as possible NATO Partners in dealing with the problems of security and defence, in 2006 Bulgaria participated in 9 of the 10 current NATO/PFP Trust Fund Projects. Five of these projects were dedicated to the collection and destruction of SALW:

1. Trust Fund Serbia and Montenegro II for destruction of 1,320,620 APLs in Serbia and Montenegro: 30,000 euro.
2. Trust Fund Ukraine II for destruction of munitions, SALW and MANPADS in Ukraine: 25,000 euro.
3. Trust Fund for destruction of SALW and MANPADS in Kazakhstan: 10,226 euro.
4. Trust Fund Albania II for destruction of munitions for SALW in Albania: 25,000 euro.
5. Trust Fund for clearance of 569 hectares of contaminated land and disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Azerbaijan: 15,000 euro.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Defence has submitted the information that the tasks of Bulgarian Armed Forces, participating in peacekeeping operations in 2006, have not included collection and destruction of SALW.

Participation in the work of international and regional organisations

In 2006 Bulgaria cosponsored the UNGA resolution 61/89 “*Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms*”, sharing the view that it is in the common interest of the International community to put in place an effective Arms Control Treaty that would establish legally binding principles of trade in conventional weapons.

In accordance with the OSCE Document on SALW, on June 28, 2006 Bulgaria has provided its annual information on SALW exports and imports for the year 2005.

In 2006 Bulgaria assumed the Chairmanship's responsibilities of the Forum for Security Cooperation of the OSCE. The Bulgarian Chairmanship of the FSC organized a Special Meeting on SALW (Vienna, 17th May 2006). The meeting paved the ground for the preparation of the OSCE/FSC contribution to the UN Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 26 June - 7 July 2006.). Furthermore, the Chairman of the FSC delivered a report to the UN Review Conference on the implementation of the OSCE Document of SALW and related project activities in different OSCE participating States.

In 2006 Bulgaria participated in a number of international conferences, courses, seminars and meetings related to the SALW problems, organized by the UN, OSCE, EU, NATO and other international and regional organizations.

Among them the key event in 2006 was the First Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (New York, 25 June – 7 July 2006).

Bulgaria participated, as well, in the First Session of the UN Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in SALW (Geneva, 27 November - 1 December 2006).

With regard to the area of the export control on SALW (incl. MANPADS) the Republic of Bulgaria respects fully all its international engagements/obligations deriving from its participation and/or membership in all international export control regimes and international Organizations, in particularly UN and/or OSCE embargoes and/or WA commitments.

Bulgarian experts participated actively in the seminar organized by Israel on MANPADS -Effective International Measures to Reduce the Threat (Jerusalem, 56 April 2006) and the seminar organized by “Oxfam”, “Saferworld” and “Amnesty International” on SALW export controls (Brussels, 20 April 2006).

Experts from the Customs Agency attended the Workshop on brokering activities, organized by RACVIAC, OSCE, Germany, The Netherlands and Norway (Zagreb, 29 – 30 March 2006).

In 2006 the Ministry of Interior together with the US Trade Department contributed to the elaboration of a Law Enforcement Training Course in view of improving the implementation of the provisions of the existing legislation on export control of arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

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