



Republic of Macedonia

**National Report on the implementation of the
United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent,
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms
and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

Skopje, 27 May 2005

Executive Summary

The Government of Macedonia holds the view that combating and eradicating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects is fundamental to improved global, regional and national security as well as necessary social and economic development in the country. Macedonia fully supports the implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light weapons and was a top priority in Macedonia the last year.

The proliferation and widespread illicit use of SALW remains an important security concern in Macedonia despite the continued efforts of the Macedonian Government during the last two years.

The implementation of the UNPoA during the last year was mainly focused on the following issues:

- ❑ Drafting and adoption of a new law on weapons which is in line with international standards and that will make a more effective small arms control possible;
- ❑ The implementation of the law on weapons through confiscation, and destruction of the confiscated weapons;
- ❑ Continuous risk education and awareness programs;
- ❑ Development of a national SALW strategy and SALW national action plan which includes the formation of a national commission;
- ❑ Implementation of a grass root support element for the initiative through a Safer Community Development Initiative; and increased transparency towards the Non Governmental Sector;
- ❑ Implementation of a Border Management Strategy;
- ❑ Increased cooperation with neighboring countries and international organizations; and
- ❑ Building of increased institutional memory in the State Institutions.

The way ahead

Implementation of a series of interventions addressing specifically the problem of illicit small arms in the country:

- Further refining the legal framework on weapons possession. The sub legislations of the law on weapons are at this moment being developed and will be published before the 08 August 2005 in the Official Gazette.
- Continuation of activities to control illegal manufacture, possession and trafficking and stockpiling of illegal weapons.
- Continuous awareness raising on the risks of weapons own by citizens.
- Implementation of a SALW strategy and action plan, and the integration of this strategy in the border management strategy and action plan.
- Further updating and integration of the weapons registration software in order to better control the weapons present in the country, trade, transit, retransmit as tracing of weapons.
- Further implementing processes whereby the local communities, possibly through safer communities' plans and supportive measures, are assisted in identifying and overcoming the perceived needs for weapons and synchronization of the Safer Community Plans with Community Based Policing initiatives
- Further capacity development in the State Institutions on the SALW issue.

A.) National level

1. National coordination agency

A National Coordination Agency does not exist for the moment in Macedonia. Its tasks are for the moment implemented by the different sections of the MoI.

2. National point of contact

The National Focal Point is:

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Mr Spirovski was appointed in March 2004.

The National Focal Point liaises with other States and the International Community in Macedonia on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action and other Instruments concerning SALW, such as the OSCE document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. His activities include the exchange of information with other States on national practices on SALW. He is participating in the working group established to develop the SALW strategy and Action Plan.

Activities since 2003: Attended SEESAC regional steering committee meetings, UNDP and OSCE expert meeting.

3. Legislation, regulations, administrative procedures

1. **Note:** Macedonia has no operational production capacity of SALW for the moment.
2. The main focus on this report will be on the new law on weapons, which came in to force in January 2005 and its inter linkage to the other existing laws.

i) What national laws, regulations and administrative procedures exist to exercise effective control over SALW in the following areas? (II.2)

Law	Official Gazette of RM No:
1. Law on Weapons	RM 5/2005
2. Law on examination, marking of different fire arms and ammunition	SRM 37/73
3. Legal guide on examination of weapons	SRM 38/73
4. Legal guide of format of license, evidencing of weapons and ammunition, keeping and storing of weapons.	RM 41/72 and 19/76
5. Law of passing state borders and movement in the border area	Art 22 – Art 32, RM 36/92, 66/92, 12/93, 31/93, 11/94 and 19/04
6. Legal guide of executing control of passing state borders and movement in the border area and evidencing	RM 74/92

7. Legal guide of movement, stay, settlement and regime of hunting and fishing in the border area	RM 78/92
8. Law of production and trade in armed and military equipment	RM 54/92
9. Law on voluntary surrender and collection of fire arms, ammunition and explosive materials and legalization of firearms	RM 37/03 and 04/04
10. National program of increasing the general security through voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials.	RM 51/03
11. Decision on nomination of the president and the members of the Coordination Body to implement the law of voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials and legalization of firearms.	RM 42/03 and 04/04
12. Decision on nomination of the presidents and members of the local commissions for voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials, legalization of firearms, and the campaign for the public awareness campaign for realization of the National Program for increasing the general security through voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials.	RM 59/03
13. Decision of forming the commission for evaluation of the surrendered weapons	RM 14/04
14. Plan of the public awareness campaign for the realization of the National program of increasing the general security through voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials.	RM 59/03
15. Manual for the work of the Regional Commissions and the local commissions for receiving, evidencing and storing the voluntary surrendered weapons.	RM 59/03
16. Help directive for planning and implementing the National Program to increase the general security through voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials	RM 59/03
17. Guidance for the local commissions for the voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials and the promotion of the Plan of the public awareness campaign for the realization of the National program of increasing the general security through voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials.	RM 59/03
18. Decision for nomination of the president and the members of the commission for destruction of the surrendered firearms, ammunition and materials.	RM 78/03

Production

Production is prescribed in the following laws and directives:

- Law on Weapons
- Law of production and trade in arms and military equipment

Short elaboration:

Note:

- ❑ The law on weapons refers to weapons for civilian needs
- ❑ The law of production and trade in arms and military equipment refers to arms and military equipment for military use.

Registering of a production firm:

Production of weapons and ammunition may be carried out by a company on the basis of a prior approval to do so by the Government, provided it meets the following conditions:

- ❑ Suitable work environment and facilities for the storage of weapons and ammunition, appropriately trained personnel, for the production of weapons and ammunition, as well as technical and technological equipment and protection of the production of the weapons and ammunition.
- ❑ Proof of the provided quality control and effective marking

Authorization for the acceptance in the trade register as a trade company is handed out by the Ministry of Economy as the authorization for production of weapons and the Ministry of Interior hands out ammunition after previous opinion by the Ministry of Defence.

The Ministry of Economy holds the registry of the companies.

The production and trade in means of weapons and ammunition whose utilization has been banned in accordance with international conventions shall be banned in the Republic of Macedonia.

Production of weapons for civilian use: Law on weapons: Chapter V, article 46. Manufacture of weapons and ammunition and repair of weapons can be performed by trade companies with headquarters on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, which before the registry in the trade register of the Minister of Economy will receive an authorization for performing these activities.

The Ministry of Interior shall issue the authorization upon received opinion from the Ministry of Defence and previous authorization from the Ministry of Economy.

The request for issuing an authorization according to article 46 of this law shall be accompanied with a list of the founders of the trade company.

An authorization for manufacture of weapon and ammunition will be issued only if:

The submitter of the request, the founders of the trade company or the responsible person in the legal entity:

- a. meet the conditions set with article 9, paragraph 1, points 2 and 4;
 - b. are citizens of Republic of Macedonia;
 - c. at the moment of submission of the request have residency on the territory of Republic of Macedonia.
2. The legal entity has meet space and technical requirements for manufacture, repair and safe storage of the weapon and ammunition, fire protection, protection from explosives, pollution, theft or access of unauthorized personnel.

A commission formed by the Ministry of Interior shall assess the compliance with the conditions set in paragraph 2, point 2 of this article.

The trade company, which possesses an issued authorization according to article 46 of this law, shall be obliged to inform the authority in charge within 15 days after the

start of the manufacture of weapon and ammunition, i.e. repair of weapon.

The Minister of Interior with the Minister of Transport and Communications and the Minister of Economy shall prepare a detailed regulation regarding the minimal technical and security conditions, which must be met by the facilities for manufacture and repair, i.e. trade and storage of weapon and ammunition.

The authorization can be issued for manufacture and repair of all types of weapon and ammunition, acquired based on an authorization; or for certain types of weapon and ammunition.

The authorization shall cease to apply, if the trade company did not start with its activities within one year after the issuing of the authorization, or does not manufacture, repair, weapon and ammunition for one year.

The deadline can be prolonged for one more year, if new circumstances arise, which influences the normal organization of the manufacture and repair of all types of weapon and ammunition.

Trade companies, which perform repair of weapon, shall be obliged to accept only registered weapon for repair.

Trade companies shall be obliged to issue a certificate for every performed repair of weapon.

Physical entities, whose parts of weapon have been repaired, shall be obliged to submit the weapon to the authority in charge for test shootings of projectiles, within eight days from the day of the receipt of the repaired weapon.

Trade companies shall be obliged to provide a continuous physical and technical security of the premises in which they store weapon and ammunition.

Weapons for military use:

The term Arms and military equipment (AME):

- Operational and complete combat systems intended to meet the needs of the defence and security of the Republic of Macedonia and consisting of the basic units (aircrafts, vessels, tanks, guns, howitzers, mortars, pistols, rifles, etc...)
- Materials to be used by the basic units as well as other means of combat and non-combat use (engineering, and various electric and technical means, the means for radiological, biological, chemical and personal protection, logistic technical means, repair and maintenance means, materials for transport and storage of technical documentation and user manuals, etc.)

The term Arms and military equipment (AME) in the sense of the law of production and trade in arms and military equipment shall also mean research and development, mastering of new technologies for the production of goods, semi-finished goods, assemblies, parts, raw materials and reproduction materials and other technical means, modernization and outfitting of the facilities for the production, maintenance and repair of AME, as well as performance of other services.

Remarks: The Republic of Macedonia has no operational production capacity of SALW. The two production capacities that Macedonia has are not profitable and one of them is in a bankruptcy procedure (Suvenir) and Eurocomposite is in the stage of privatization.

Export

Export is prescribed in the following laws and directives:

- Law on foreign Trade.
- Law on weapons
- Law of production and trade in arms and military equipment

Short elaboration:

Trade companies with headquarters on the territory of Republic of Macedonia can perform trade with weapons, ammunition and weapon parts, if they have received before their registry in the trade registry an authorization for performing that activity.

The authority in charge shall issue the authorization

According to this Law, trade with weapon, ammunition and parts of weapon shall be defined as acquiring weapon, ammunition and weapon parts for sale, storage and maintenance of weapon and ammunition and their sale in retail and wholesale.

Trade companies shall be obliged to trade only with weapon and ammunition classified in the National Catalog and adequately marked.

Trade companies can sell weapon and ammunition only to physical and legal entities, which possess an authorization for acquiring a weapon.

Provisions shall respectfully apply to trade companies that trade with weapon and ammunition.

Trade companies can sell ammunition for weapon to physical entities, and ammunition to legal entities that secure people and property

Only weapon, ammunition, and parts of weapon, which are tested, marked according to the regulation for testing and marking of firearm can be let in circulation.

The storage for weapon and ammunition and the trade facilities for weapon and ammunition must meet the conditions for storing and keeping explosives, set with a law.

The Minister of Interior shall issue an authorization for wholesale trade of weapon and ammunition, import and export of weapon and ammunition for trade companies, to the physical and legal entities that possess an authorization for acquiring a weapon, for every arranged quantity of weapon and ammunition.

The request for issuing an authorization shall contain:

- Company and headquarters, i.e. personal name and address of the seller, buyer and producer;
- Type, brand, caliber and quantity of weapon and ammunition;
- Registry number of the prototype in the National Catalogue; and
- Contract or other document, which outlines the origin of the weapon and clearly shows the agreement of the seller and the buyer.

The authorization shall be issued with an expiry date of one year.

Remarks:

Import**Import is prescribed in the following laws and directives**

- Law on foreign Trade.
- Law on weapons
- Law of production and trade in arms and military equipment

Short elaboration: See above**Remarks:** None**Transit****Transit is prescribed in the following laws and directives:**

- Law on foreign Trade.
- Law on weapons
- Law of production and trade in arms and military equipment

Short elaboration: See above**Remarks:** None**Retransfer****Retransfer is prescribed in the following laws and directives:**

- Law on foreign Trade.
- Law on weapons
- Law of production and trade in arms and military equipment

Short elaboration: See above**Remarks:** None**Law on possession**

The new law of weapons went into force on 08 February 2005. The sub legislations to the law will be adopted within 6 months after the law comes into force.

The law contains the following issues:

Chapter 1: General provisions

Chapter 2: Acquisition and ownership of a weapon and ammunition

Chapter 3: Handling weapon and ammunition

Chapter 4: Termination and deprivation of the weapon license, license for possession and license for carrying a weapon

Chapter 5: Manufacture and repair with weapons

Chapter 6: Trade with weapons, ammunition and other parts

Chapter 7: Transportation of weapons

Chapter 8: Civil Rifle ranges

Chapter 9: Cross border transport of weapons and ammunition

Chapter 10: Citizens of the EU member States

Chapter 11: Evidence

Chapter 12: Monitoring

Chapter 13: Penal provisions

Chapter 14: Transitional and final provisions

The following sub legislations are developed:

1. National Catalog of weapons and ammunition that can be acquired, possessed, imported and exported after receiving a authorization
2. Medical examination
3. Minimal technical security regulations which has to be followed for practical handling by legal identities
4. Program for training for proper use, keeping and maintenance and the qualification exam
5. Guidelines for minimum technical security regulations to be implemented by trade firms
6. Guidelines for minimum technical security regulations to be implemented by shooting and hunting organizations at their ranges

7. European document

8. Graphic standards for all licenses and authorization

This Law stipulates the subject and field of its application. It does not apply to armament and military equipment; to weapons and ammunition purchased and used for the needs of the Ministry of Defense, the Army of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of the Interior, penitentiaries, and other state authorities and legal persons identified in specific regulations.

The Law stipulates that weapons and ammunition, as well as weapon parts may be acquired, possessed and carried only pursuant to the provisions referred to in the Law. These provisions clearly prescribe the conditions for possession and carriage of each type of weapons for legal and natural persons. The said provisions also stipulate that legal persons registered for sale of weapons and ammunition may sell weapons and ammunition only to legal persons and citizens who are in a possession of a license for acquisition of firearms and ammunition.

The Law defines the term of weapons and introduces the classification of firearms contained in Directive 91/477/EEC (short firearms, long firearms, automatic firearms, semi-automatic firearms, repeating firearms, and single-shot firearms).

Pursuant to the Directive 91/477/EEC, weapons have been classified in: prohibited firearms (Category A), firearms which may be purchased on the basis of authorization (Category B), firearms which may be purchased for the needs of hunting and sports, subject to authorization issued under mitigating circumstances (Category C), and firearms to be declared and for which authorization is issued (Category D).

With regard to the ammunition quantity, a distinction is made between the ammunition quantity intended for firearms with smoothbore barrels and non-smooth-bore barrels.

The text of the Law also stipulates the obligations of the owner or user of the firearm in regard to its handling and prohibits its carrying in public places.

The cases when weapon authorization or weapon possession authorization is withdrawn and annulled are explicitly identified, along with the provisions with regard to handling weapons and ammunition confiscated in criminal and misdemeanor procedures.

The issues regarding production, repair and circulation of weapons, ammunition and parts of weapons are systemized in relevant Chapters.

With regard to the transport of weapons and ammunition, the Law contains conditions concerning trade companies involved in transport of passengers and goods that may undertake transport of weapons as well as a provision providing that the regulations concerning explosive materials accordingly apply to the transport of ammunitions.

The Law also defines the conditions with regard to establishing and operation of civilian rifle ranges.

ii) What national measures exist to prevent the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of unmarked or inadequately marked SALW? How have these been implemented? (II.8)

There is no national institution for marking of weapon, and according to the Law on weapon the remarked and unmarked weapon will be taken away. The National Catalogue foresees which models of the weapon can be registered.

iii) Please describe how national laws, regulations and procedures that impact on the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects are made public. (II.23)

All laws in the Republic of Macedonia are made public through the publishing in the Official Gazette.

4. Law enforcement/criminalization

i) What national legislative or other measures exist to make the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of SALW criminal offences under domestic law? How have these measures been implemented? (II.3)

The law on weapons and its sub legislations addresses the above mentioned topics in all its aspects.

ii) Have those groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit SALW been identified, where applicable? What action has been taken under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals? (II.6)

There is continuous control on individuals and groups engaged in illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession as well as financing for acquisition. The suppression of illegal trafficking in weapons was realised through intensive actions to increase the efficiency in detection of these activities, especially the more grievous forms of these crimes. The Ministry of Interior established in January 2005 a special unit in the Organised Crime Sector for the fight against illegal trade, possession of SALW and explosive materials.

These actions resulted in 2004 in:

Criminal acts	214
Perpetrators	235
Weapons	1461
Military Style weapons	
Pistols	306
Revolvers	13
Rifles	33
Automatic/Semi Automatic Rifles	59
Assault Rifles	
Machine Guns	
Sporting Rifles	201
Hunting Rifles	127
Other types of weapons	721
Hand Grenades	314
Hand Held Rocket Launchers	5
Grenades for Rocket launchers	162
Anti Tank Mines	
Rounds of ammunition	11.313
Explosives	425,7kg.

iii) What national measures have been taken, including legal or administrative means, against activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations? (II.15)

The embargoes are agreed upon and recognized by decision of the government. There were no such cases registered during the last year.

5. Stockpile management and security

i) What national standards and procedures exist for the management and security of SALW stocks held by armed forces, police or other authorized bodies? (II.17)

When deciding on stockpile locations of explosives, weapons and ammunition, following elements are taken into consideration: distance from the motorways, populated areas, industrial objects, railway stations, lakes, dams, airports, as well as the quantity of explosives that is to be stored.

The regulation covering the stockpile security issues is prescribed in the Regulation on storage and handling with ammunition and in the technical manual on theft prevention of weapons and ammunition from the storing facilities. In order to obtain complete protection, physical and technical protection is prescribed (in the army with the army guard patrols) and appropriate fire protection and explosive protection measures are in place, with additional protection measures on the working site or intervention plans in a case of emergency. The doors of the storage facilities are protected with a metal grid and sealed accordingly, with an appropriate outdoor lighting system, guard service, additional protection fences and alarm system, which is not obligatory. Once the alarm system is in place it is checked regularly. There is no centralised system of monitoring in place. The weapons, parts of weapons and ammunition are stored separately. In the cases of reported losses or thefts, the law enforcement agencies are informed as well as the superior in command according to the chain of command in the army. Authorised personnel have access to the site in possession of a personal security clearance, and are capable and qualified in handling stockpiles. They are subject to regular training on related procedures, regulations and practices.

All the records are kept for unlimited period of time, and are subject to daily or periodically inspection. In case of emergency, a contingency plan is activated and this procedure is trained periodically. Rules on inspection to verify that storage fulfill the requirements prescribed by the internal regulations of the Ministry of Defence and the law of Defence. Protection of the transport route is made according to the Law on transportation of dangerous materials (Official Gazette nr 12/93) and is executed by armed escorts. Weapons and ammunition are stored separately.

Gearing up for NATO integration, the Macedonian Army is at this moment undergoing reforms as are the police forces taking over some duties from the Macedonian Army (Border brigade). The development of organization tables for the different peace time units and reserve units are part of this reform and will lead to a detailed calculation of surplus weapons, which Macedonia does not possess at the very moment.

ii) How often are stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies reviewed? (II.18)

All stocks are checked on a regular basis.

iii) How are those stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies that are surplus to requirements identified? (II.18)

No surplus calculation have been done till now.

6. Collection and disposal

i) Please give details of any national programmes that have been established and implemented for the responsible disposal of surplus stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies. (II.18)

No surplus calculation has been done at this very moment.

ii) Is destruction the means used to dispose of such stocks? (II.18)

The destruction procedures for these weapons will be the same as the ones implemented on the voluntary surrendered and confiscated ones.

iii) What national measures exist to safeguard such stocks prior to their disposal? (II.18)

The safeguarding of surplus, confiscated and found weapons is falling under the same directives as the weapons and ammunition owned by the State Institutions

iv) Subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph II.16 of the UN Programme of Action, are all confiscated, seized or collected SALW destroyed? (II.16)

The weapons seized, found and confiscated are following the procedures of the new law on weapons, which is compliant to the UNPoA. The destruction of that kind of weapons is implemented yearly. In 2005, there was already one destruction of confiscated weapons on 15 Feb 2005 where 2264 weapons were destroyed in a melting oven; another destruction is planned for the 09th of July 2005.

v) What methods has your country used to destroy surplus stocks of SALW designated for destruction? (If appropriate, please make reference to the report of the UN Secretary-General (S/2000/1092) of 15 November 2000.) (II.19)

The methods used for destruction of weapons are melting down in a steel oven. The methods for the destruction of ammunition up to .50: burning in a specially designed oven (kiln) and heavy ammunition and explosive materials are destroyed by open pit detonation.

vi) Please give details of any information on SALW confiscated or destroyed within your jurisdiction that is submitted to relevant regional and international organizations. (II.23)

All information concerning SALW confiscated and destroyed is made publicly available to the media, and reporting is done through the UNDP channels to SEESAC Belgrade, the Stability Pact and the UN Channels.

7. Export controls

i) Please describe the system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, used by your country for the transfer of all SALW. (II.11)

See above export – import and the new law on weapons

ii) Please describe the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures used by your country to ensure effective control over the export and transit of SALW. How are these measures implemented? (II.12)

- Laws on External Transfers (import, export, transit, and etc.) of these weapons in line with the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Export of 08.06.1998

External transfers (import, export, transit, and etc.) of weapons, ammunition, and explosive materials in the Republic of Macedonia are regulated through the following regulations: The Law on Weapons (Official Gazette of the RM No. 07/25)); the Law on Protection from Explosive Materials (Official Gazette of the SRM Nos. 4/78; 10/78; 51/88, and 36/90 and Official Gazette of the RM No 12/93, and 31/93); the Law on Crossing the State Border and Movement in the Border Zone (Official Gazette of the RM Nos. 36/92

and 12/93); the Law on Carriage of Dangerous Goods (Official Gazette of the SFRY Nos. 27/90 and 45/90 and the Official Gazette of the RM No. 12/93); the Law on Trade (Official Gazette of the RM No. 16/2004); the Decision on Allocation of Goods to Forms of Export and Import (Official Gazette of the RM No. 91/2004); the Rulebook on the Type of Transport of Dangerous Goods in Land Traffic (Official Gazette of the SFRY Nos. 82/90 and Official Gazette of the RM Nos. 12/93 and 31/93); the List of Explosive Materials to be Placed into Circulation (Official Gazette of the RM Nos. 64/98, 12/2000 and 46/2004). Having regard to the obligation of the Republic of Macedonia of 01.11.2004 upon the unilateral adoption of the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Export (adopted by the EU Council on 08.06.1998) to adopt and implement the criteria and principles contained in the Code, in the future our State will evaluate the requests for authorization regarding export of weapons and military equipment in line with the criteria established by the Code. Within the context of cooperation in the CFSP, The Republic of Macedonia adhered to the Statement of the Luxemburg Presidency at the Meeting for monitoring and marking small and light weapons and prevention illegal trade with small weapons (New York, 24.01. - 05.02.2005)

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Macedonia, within its competencies, regulates trade, i.e. import, export and transit of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials across the state border of the Republic of Macedonia. It makes decisions upon requests submitted by authorized legal persons through administrative procedure with regard to: trade of weapons and ammunition; trade of explosive materials; supply and transport of explosive materials; supply and transport of weapons and ammunition; matters connected with verification of new kinds of explosive materials.

Pursuant to the Customs Administration Law (Official Gazette of the RM No. 46/04) and Article 10 paragraph 1 Point 9 thereof, the Customs Directorate of the Republic of Macedonia is responsible for control over the export, import and transit of goods with regard to prescribed security measures. In case of small and light weapons for which appropriate measures are anticipated in the applicable laws, customs authorities with regard to these goods do not allow further customs procedure pending provision of prescribed authorization as an evidence that the goods is in line with anticipated legal conditions.

iii) Does your country use authenticated end-user certificates for this purpose? (II.12)

A document is issued but the format is not equal to an IIC (International Import Certificate)

iv) Does your country notify the original exporting State when re-exporting or retransferring previously imported SALW? (II.13)

No notification is done at this very moment

8. Brokering

i) What national legislation or administrative procedures exist to regulate the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering within national jurisdiction and control? (e.g. registration of brokers, licensing or authorization of brokering transactions and appropriate penalties) (II.14)

The law on Foreign trade. Every trading firm has to be registered in the trade register of the Ministry of Economy and an additional authorization has to be authorised by the Ministry of Interior after the previous opinion of the Ministry of Defense.

As part of the process of gradual adoption and introduction of the CFSP *acquis* into the national legislation, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia at its session of 01.11.2004 adopted a Decision on Unilateral Acceptance of the European Code of

Conduct on Arms Exports. In this context, the Republic of Macedonia, at the beginning of 2005, will start a procedure for acceding to the Common Position of the Council of Europe No. 2003/468/CFSP of 23.06.2003 on the Control of Arms Brokering.

To further improve the legal basis and enhance the legal mechanisms for implementation of internationally accepted obligations for application of sanctions, including arms embargoes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has initiated a procedure for amending relevant legislation in this domain.

9. Marking, record keeping and tracing

i) Does your country require licensed manufacturers of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each weapon as an integral part of the production process? (II.7)

Yes, according to the new law on weapons (article 53) and the law on marking and tracing from 1973.

ii) Is this marking unique? (II.7)

There are no production companies in Macedonia operational but the mark of Suvenir Samakov is unique (SMB)

iii) Does this marking identify the country of manufacture? (II.7)

Yes

iv) How does this marking otherwise allow concerned authorities to identify and trace the relevant weapon? (II.7)

The marking is according to general practise worldwide.

v) How long are records kept on the manufacture, holding and transfer of SALW under your jurisdiction? (II.9)

Records on manufacture, holding and transfer are kept for unlimited time

vi) What national measures exist for tracing SALW held and issued by the State? (II.10)

According to the new law every civilian owned weapons that will be possessed or sold in Macedonia will have to fire two bullets and two shells will be delivered together with the bullet to the Ministry of Interior.

When weapons owned by the State Institutions, a process of tracing is started between the MoI and the State Institutions.

Criminal Police gets information about weapons being traced or found abroad. When a weapon is found in Macedonia the criminal Police informs Interpol. When a weapon is stolen or lost the Criminal Police forwards a request to Interpol.

vii) Please give details of any steps taken by your country to cooperate in tracing illicit SALW, including the strengthening of mechanisms based on the exchange of relevant information. (III.11)

The exchange of information exists through Interpol.

10. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

i) Please describe any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes your country has developed and implemented, including the effective collection, control, storage and destruction of SALW. (II.21)

Since the reporting of 2004 there has been no DDR programmes in the country.

ii) Please describe how your country has addressed the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular the reunification with their family, their reintegration into civil society, and their appropriate rehabilitation. (II.22)

No special programs were developed

iii) Please describe any DDR programmes or activities that your country has supported. (II.30, 34)

None

11. Awareness-raising

i) Please describe any public awareness and confidence-building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed and implemented (including the public destruction of surplus weapons and the voluntary surrender of SALW). (II.20)

The Republic of Macedonia has in cooperation with UNDP SACIM (Small Arms Control in Macedonia) maintained the awareness raising level of last year through a continuous public awareness campaign directed at different selected target groups on national level. The focus of this year was rather to gain support for the initiative through the implementation of Safer Community plans in three pilot communities. Rural areas were in depth approached through activists.

The Ministry of Education was also involved in the drafting of a proposal for a national curriculum to increase the risk education in secondary and primary schools.

ii) Please describe any education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has encouraged. (II.41)

None

B.) Regional level

1. Legally binding instruments

i) Has your country been involved in negotiations for the conclusion of legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? (II.25)

Stability pact regional implementation plan.

ii) Where such instruments exist, please describe the steps your country has taken to ratify and fully implement them. (II.25)

2. Moratoria and action programmes

i) Please give details of any support your country has given moratoria or similar initiatives on the transfer and manufacture of SALW, and/or regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects (including cooperation with States concerned in the implementation of these initiatives). (II.26)

Macedonia has been cooperating with SEESAC and RACVIAC ZAGREB in order to develop regional micro disarmament standard developed out of the lessons learned from safer community development

Hosted OSCE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON 1 -2 JULY 2004, IMPLEMENTATION HANDBOOK ON SALW.

3. Regional Cooperation

i) Please describe any involvement your country has had in the establishment of subregional or regional mechanisms with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW across borders (in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies). (II.27)

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to encourage regional and subregional action on illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects in order to, as appropriate, introduce, adhere, implement or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures. (II.28)

C.) Global level

1. International instruments against terrorism and crime

i) What existing international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime has your country ratified or acceded to? (II.38)

Updated information since the previous reports:

Agreement	Date
OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition	November 2003
European Code of Arms export	01 November 2004
International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings	ratified 30.08.2004
International Convention for Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism	ratified 30.08.2004
UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	ratified 28.09.2004
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United	ratified 28.09.2004

Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	
Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	ratified 28.09.2004
Convention on Cyber Crime - Council of Europe	ratified 05.07.2004
European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism	ratified 15.07.2004
Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism	signed 15.05.2003

2. International cooperation and assistance

i) Please give details of any assistance, including technical and financial assistance, your country has provided for purposes of supporting the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects as contained in the UN Programme of Action. (III.3, 6, 10, 14)

None

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance mutual legal assistance and other forms of cooperation in order to assist investigations and prosecutions in relation to the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (III.13)

None

iii) Please give details of any assistance your country has provided to combat the illicit trade in SALW linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism. (III.15)

Cooperation with regional countries on illegal trafficking of drugs, women, weapons, etc. and the fight against organised crime. Macedonia is hosting the MARRI Center in Skopje.

iv) Please give details of your country's cooperation with Interpol for the purpose of identifying those groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (II.37)

Macedonia is reporting to Interpol on SALW tracing issues and organised crime.

v) Please give details of your country's use and support of Interpol's International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System database (including providing relevant information on the illicit trade in SALW). (III.9)

vi) Please give details of your country's cooperation with the UN system to ensure the effective implementation of arms embargoes decided by the UN Security Council in accordance with the UN Charter. (II.32)

The Republic of Macedonia applies the arms embargoes established by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, in accordance with the below described mechanism and has not thus far registered any case of violation of the international arms embargoes, introduced against different countries or regions, by sale of used or new weapons.

Guided by the commitment to support the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the Republic of Macedonia, upon invitation of the European Union, as of December 2003, has adopted and adhered to the Common Positions, Declarations, and Demarches of the European Union including those imposing sanctions and arms embargoes. In this regard, the Republic of Macedonia applies an embargo on arms, ammunition and military equipment against Sudan, in accordance with the Common Position 2004/31/DFSP.

The implementation of EU Common Positions or Joint Actions imposing arms embargoes is under the competence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finances/Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia.

In such cases, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following consultation with other competent bodies, submits a Report to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia with a Draft Decision, imposing obligations on the responsible bodies to undertake appropriate measures in order to implement the Decision. These decisions are published in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia*. Until the moment of adoption of the Decision by the Government, internationally accepted obligations for implementation of sanctions are applied based on an Operative Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the competent ministries.

Arms export controls are carried out in accordance with the Decision on the allocation of goods to forms of import and export (Official Gazette of the RM No. 91/04), based on a license issued either by the Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of the Interior, subject to the type and use of the armament.

Arms export licenses are issued following an Opinion from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Inspections of licenses issued by the competent Ministry/Ministries and comparison of the quantity and coincidence of goods reported for scrutiny against the issued license are pursued by the Customs Administration (the Customs stations). The Customs Administration applies the legally prescribed authorities throughout the customs area of responsibility, which encompass the territory, the territorial waters and the air space, as well as the state border of the Republic of Macedonia.

As part of the process of gradual adoption and introduction of the CFSP *acquis* into the national legislation, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia at its session of 01.11.2004 adopted a Decision on Unilateral Acceptance of the European Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. In this context, the Republic of Macedonia, at the beginning of 2005, will start a procedure for acceding to the Common Position of the Council of Europe No. 2003/468/CFSP of 23.06.2003 on the Control of Arms Brokering.

To further improve the legal basis and enhance the legal mechanisms for implementation of internationally accepted obligations for application of sanctions, including arms embargoes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has initiated a procedure for amending relevant legislation in this domain.

In the Republic of Macedonia no trade has been registered in new and used weapons with countries against which the EU maintains arms embargoes.

vii) Please describe any steps your country has taken in cooperation with other states, or regional or international organizations, to develop common understandings of the basic issues and the scope of the problems related to illicit brokering in SALW. (II.39)

None

3. Cooperation with civil society and NGOs

i) Please give details of cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations in activities related to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, at the national, regional and global levels. (II.20, 40, 41; III.2, 18)

There are several positive examples of NGOs working on SALW related issues: NGOs have been involved in public awareness raising programs, in safer community development and in the drafting of the law and its sub legislations.

The Republic of Macedonia hosts also the president of the SEENCA (South East European Network for Control of Arms).

4. Information exchange

i) Please describe any steps taken by your country to exchange information on national marking systems on SALW. (III.12)

The Republic of Macedonia is reporting to UN/DDA and OSCE on laws on national marking systems and other related issues.

ii) Please give details of any information on, inter alia, SALW confiscated or destroyed within national jurisdiction, or other relevant information such as illicit trade routes and techniques of acquisition, that your country has submitted to relevant regional and international organizations. (II.23)

The Republic of Macedonia has a close cooperation through SECI Regional Center on information sharing and in particular with Interpol, after the agreement and the presence of EUROPOL – Proxima in the country.

The Government signed in November 2002 a Memorandum of Police cooperation with United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) containing provisions on developing cooperation and information sharing on SALW related issues, in particular on illegal trafficking.

5. Training, capacity-building, research

i) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience and training among competent officials, including customs, police, intelligence and arms control officials, at the national, regional and global levels in order to combat the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (III.7)

ii) Please describe any regional and international programmes for specialist training on small arms stockpile management and security that your country has developed or supported. (III.8)

None

iii) Please give details of any action-oriented research aimed at facilitating greater awareness and better understanding of the nature and scope of the problems associated with the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed or supported. (III.18)

None