



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
B U L G A R I A  
T O T H E U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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**17 May 2006**

**The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and has the honor to submit the National Report of the Republic of Bulgaria on the implementation of the 2001 UN Program 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 the GA resolution 60/81 entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”.**

**The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.**

**Department for Disarmament Affairs  
United Nations  
New York**

**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 60/81 The Illicit Trade in Small  
Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects)**

### **Implementation at the national level**

No new legislation was adopted. Information on legislative measures as provided in 2002 and 2003 national reports still applies.

Through an amendment of regulation on establishing the list of countries to which Bulgaria applies restrictions or embargos on its arms exports, the 1998 European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports was included as an annex to the regulation. Bulgaria has aligned itself with the criteria and principles of the Code and has been following them since 3 August 1998, and as of 25 October 2005 the Code is included as a part of the secondary legislation governing the trade in arms.

### ***Marking and record-keeping***

No changes have been introduced in the marking and record-keeping systems. Information provided in previous reports 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, caliber 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.

### ***Export Control System***

No changes have been introduced in the export control system for this reporting period. Information provided in previous reports still applies.

### **Bulgarian Contribution at the regional and global levels**

#### **United Nations**

In 2005 Bulgaria participated in:

- the Open-Ended Working Group mandated to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons (January 2005 and June 2005)
- the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (July 2005)
- Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference to Review Progress Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the

## Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

At the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly **Bulgaria co-sponsored** the following GA resolutions and decisions related to SALW:

**60/44** “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”

**60/71** “Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them”

**60/74** “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”

**60/77** “Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS)”

**60/82** “Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms”

**60/94** “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”

**60/226** “Transparency in armaments”

**60/519** “International Instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons”

It also **supported** the following:

**60/68** “Addressing the humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation”

**60/69** “National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology”

**60/75** “Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels”

**60/81** “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”

### OSCE

As a Participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Bulgaria takes part in all initiatives undertaken by the OSCE related to SALW.

In 2002 the Council of Ministers adopted a decision for the approval of the **2000 OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons**. Bulgaria strictly fulfills its political commitments stemming from it.

Bulgaria supported the adoption of Decision No.8/05 “Further Efforts to Implement the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition” (6 December 2005)

On 3 May 2006 Bulgaria assumed the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation. The preparation for the upcoming Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is one of the main priorities of the Bulgarian chairmanship.

### **Regional cooperation**

- At the end of June 2005 the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the Center for the Study of Democracy, organized a seminar ***“Towards NATO and EU Accession: Effective Export Control Legislation - Lessons Learned”***. The objective of the seminar was to contribute to the process of bringing the export control legislation in line with the EU and NATO requirements and strengthening the mechanisms for its implementation through sharing the experience Bulgaria has gained in this sphere through the preparation process for NATO and EU membership. It was organized for experts from the countries participating in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the FY Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Romania).

More information on the seminar can be obtained at: <http://www.csd.bg/artShow.php?id=6095>.

- 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 7 588 to the Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro for the completion of the project. The destruction was completed on 28 February 2006.

- A seminar entitled **“Export Control of Dual-Use Items and Arms: Industry Outreach”** will take place on 22 – 23 May 2006 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The 2006 Sofia seminar is 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. Additional outreach activities are planned to take place during the current year. The seminar will offer 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.

### **Participation of Bulgaria in SALW –related seminars and conferences**

- *Strengthening European Action on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*, a conference organized by UNIDIR (7-8 December 2005, Brussels)
- *MANPADS -Effective International Measures to Reduce the Threat*, a seminar organized by Israel (5-6 April 2006, Jerusalem)
- *SALW export controls*, a seminar organized by “Oxfam”, “Saferworld”, and “Amnesty International” 20 April 2006, Brussels)

### **National Point of Contact**

As per decision of the Council of Ministers of 2002, the national point of contact for the implementation of the *UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* is the director of NATO and International Security Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

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