



**EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
USA STATE DEPARTMENT
SEESAC**

Monday, 06 February 2006, Belgrade

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SEMINAR ON ANNUAL ARMS EXPORTS REPORTING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
07 February 2006, 09:00h, HYATT REGENCY HOTEL BELGRADE**

The European Union (EU), US Export Control and Border Security Programme (EXBS) and South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) have the pleasure of inviting you to the opening of the Seminar on Annual Arms Export Reporting, to be held on Tuesday, 07 February 2006 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 09:00 – 10:00.

The Seminar will be opened by Assistant Minister of International Economic Relations of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, Ms. Ljiljana Antonovic; Head of Delegation of European Commission in Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Josep Lloveras; Austrian Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, H.E. Mr. Gerhard Jandl and Head of SEESAC, Mr. Adrian Wilkinson.

The purpose of this two-day working session is for the governments in the region to agree to a standardised reporting framework that is in compliance with the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports. Topics such as arms exports portfolios, licensing procedures, reporting and implementation mechanisms will be discussed.

Head of Delegation of European Commission to Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Josep Lloveras;

“ Within the Western Balkans the impact of uncontrolled spread and illicit possession of Small arms constitute a major threat to social and economic development. Specifically, they contribute to the existence of criminal elements and organized crime, which has a negative influence on social and economic development. Recent national and sub-regional Small Arms and Light Weapon Surveys conducted clearly indicate that large numbers of illegal weapons are still present in the countries of the region, and that the development of integrated, holistic national Small Arms control strategies are necessary to counter this significant threat.

Compliance with relevant EU/EC legislation and agreements is highly desirable for the nations of the Western Balkans as they move towards further European integration. “

**For more information on the event, please contact SEESAC Communication Officer,
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