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Major Upgrades Enhance Security of SALW and Ammunition Storage in Serbia

Security of SALW and ammunition has been enhanced with USD 248,000 upgrades of the Serbian Ministry of Interior Platičevo SALW and ammunition storage. The ceremony to hand over the works and mark the completion of the infrastructure improvements was held on 8 December 2016 at the site.

Funded by the European Union (EU), the storage security upgrades worth USD 160,000 were implemented under Component 1 of the EU Support of SEESAC Disarmament and Arms Control Activities in South East Europe (EUSAC) project. Complementary funding for construction works of additional USD 88,000 provided by the Government of the United States – Department of State, Political – Military Affairs Bureau, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, enabled further comprehensive infrastructure intervention.

Director of the Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Vladimir Rebić, unveiled the completed works during the handover ceremony also attended by the, Head of the Political Section in the EU Delegation to Serbia Ms. Noora Hayrinen, Political Officer in the Embassy of the United States to Serbia Mr. Jon Bowermaster, and UNDP SEESAC Senior Programme Coordinator Ms. Bojana Balon.

Executed strictly in line with international standards, the upgrades included: full-perimeter fencing and lighting, new security entrance gates, access control to the four storage buildings above ground, and one earth-covered magazine, security doors with locks and windows for two storage buildings above ground, electrical installation upgrade for the entire location, installation of exterior/outdoor lighting, installation of full-perimeter video surveillance, waterproofing the earth covered magazine, as well as Installation of smoke detectors.

The upgrades serve to enhance the security of the Platičevo SALW and ammunition storage location, leading to more efficient management of stockpiles and contributing to a holistic approach to SALW control. Effective management reduces the risk of loss of stocks, and consequently the illicit proliferation of SALW. Finally, improved stockpile management can also contribute to a more efficient identification of surplus weapons and ammunition, and it can help define future procurement requirements.

ABOUT EUSAC

EUSAC builds directly upon SEESAC's decade-long SALW Control work, particularly achievements made through the previous EU-funded SALW Control project, conducted during the 2010-2012 period under the Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP. The project was designed in close cooperation with national authorities and work on the following five interrelated streams of activities:

- Increased security of stockpiles: through the renovation and security improvements to storages of arms and ammunition.
- Stockpile reduction: through the destruction of surplus arms and ammunition held in storages.
- Improved marking, tracing and registration of SALW: through the provision of support to the establishment or enhancement of existing weapons registration and record-keeping systems.
- Improved regional cooperation on awareness raising, information sharing and knowledge transfer: through the facilitation of regional cooperation between national institutions tasked with arms control.
- Implementation of collection and awareness raising campaigns.

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