

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**  
**SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF SALW COMMISSIONS**  
**24-25 JUNE, JAHORINA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a pleasure for me today to address this regional forum and I would like to congratulate this important initiative of SEESAC, which will no doubt increase the regional cooperation and knowledge sharing in the area of arms control.

As it has been also informed during the first regional meeting of the SALW S held in Belgrade, Albania has currently no Commission on SALW and the ongoing activities for policy implementation, control and disposal of small arms and light weapons are carried out by the respective agencies and departments at the relevant Ministries such as Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, the National Agency on Exports Control, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc.

Recognizing though the need for an inter-ministerial body, which can ensure proper and effective coordination and implementation of the activities covering Small Arms and Light Weapons and upon strong recommendation from SEESAC we are currently working with the juridical departments of the main ministries for the establishment of such coordination body in Albania and the representation level. The Establishment of a SALW Commission in Albania is also a commitment that Albania has undertaken in framework of the UN Programme of Action.

In addition to these efforts, the Government of Albania is currently making a revision of its Arms Law, which is currently waiting for approval by the Council of Ministers.

- The law is being prepared to be in compliance with the amended Directive 91/477/EEC
- The law foresees the arms categorization in 4 categories, by prohibiting the use of automatic arms for the private companies and entities.
- The law sanctions the private ownership of arms.
- Provides clear definitions for the arms tracing and control.
- Enhanced administrative and other sanctions for the arms control.

The approval of the law will be followed by bylaws and standard procedures on the use, registration and control of the arms possessed by private companies, procedures for licensing, controlling and security of the arms of individuals and juridical entities.

An important aspect of the State Police work is the management of legal and illegal or collected and found small arms and light weapons. As to date the weapons registration has been made manually, and considering that there are about 150,000 weapons registered by the police, it makes the process long, difficult and at times incorrect.

In 2012 the State Police started the electronic registration for the arms management at national level including the border crossing points by registering every weapon entering or exiting the territory of the Republic of Albania. In order to complete this, we have requested financial assistance for the provision of the required hardware equipment and we would like to thank SEESAC and the EU for their financial support in this regard.

Last but not least, I would like to emphasize that the Government of Albania is strongly committed to the regional initiatives aiming the exchange of information, knowledge and expertise in this area and we welcome the cooperation with other colleagues in the region in order to achieve synergies and enhance the control of small arms and light weapons.

Thank you.