



# SEESAC

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

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## SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT 11

### SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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| SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA      | FA 3 - Management Information<br>FA 4 - SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy |
| SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY | SG 3 – Information Management and Exchange Activities                              |

#### Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 14 July 2003.

The first issue of the South Eastern Europe SALW Quarterly Newsletter has been edited and produced by SEESAC. The Newsletter is available now in electronic (pdf) format from the SEESAC web site ([www.seesac.org/newsletter.html](http://www.seesac.org/newsletter.html)). A circulation of 500 hard copies will be sent to all stakeholder nations in the region, UN country offices, international organisations, NGOs and the media.

This first issue provides input from international organisations, representatives of stakeholder governments, SALW project managers and civil society. It also contains an overview from the Stability Pact perspective, a contribution on the promotion of best practices within the OSCE, information about RACVIAC and SECI activities, as well as Saferworld and the Szeged Small Arms Process. Valuable contributions at the operational level are provided from the Support to Security Sector Reform (SSSR) Project in Albania, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Illicit SALW Control (ISAC) Programme in Kosovo and the SACIM Project in Macedonia. Data about recent weapons destruction is provided, as well as a feature about future options for destruction of surplus ammunitions stockpiles.

SEESAC hopes that SALW stakeholders will provide feed-back on this issue and provide more contributions for the next issue, which is due in December 2003.

Volume 1, Issue 1, June 2003.

## CLEARINGGUNS

The South Eastern Europe SALW Quarterly Newsletter

### SALW in South Eastern Europe - an Overview

Stewart Henderson, Director, Working Table III, Stability Pact

A multitude of studies conducted over the past decade show conclusively that the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continues to pose a major threat to regional peace and security. Small arms have become valuable commodities for illicit trafficking by organised crime. We know that as legitimate tools of national self-defence, they cannot be simply banned or prohibited. Innovative and effective ways must be found to control and restrict the flow of SALW, and attention needs to be directed at the nature of the flows of these weapons and not only on the weapons themselves. These are the hard facts that make the following remedial approaches necessary:

- The legal flows of small and light weapons must be strictly controlled;
- The illicit trafficking of small arms must be prevented; and
- The surplus weapons left over in post conflict zones must be expunged and if possible destroyed.

Only by addressing all the aspects of the problem can South Eastern Europe (SEE) reduce the glut of existing weapons available for circulation and curtail the actual flows of weapons into areas of conflict and tension.

In the 13 months since its inauguration, SEESAC has become a recognised leading actor in the field of combating the threat of uncontrolled and excess SALW in SEE.

At the national level, governments, with the assistance of SEESAC, should therefore:

- Put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of SALW within their areas of jurisdiction, and over the export, import, transit and retransfer of such weapons, including the use of authenticated end-user certificates;
- Identify groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as trafficking for acquisition, of illicit SALW and take action under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals;

And at the regional level, the Stability Pact and SEESAC, will:

- Encourage negotiations with the aim of concluding relevant legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, curbing and curtailing the illicit trade, and where they do exist to ratify and fully implement them;
- Encourage the strengthening and establishing of mechanisms or similar initiatives in affected areas or sub-regions on the transfer and manufacture of SALW;
- Establish mechanisms, in particular trans-border customs co-operation and networks for information-sharing among law-enforcement, border and customs control agencies;
- Encourage the development of measures to enhance transparency and thereby help combat the illicit trade in SALW.

SEESAC has made a very good start to address the national and regional issues.

Stewart Henderson, Director, Working Table III, Stability Pact



**Adrian Wilkinson**  
**SEESAC Team Leader**

Office: +381 11 444 2902

Mobile: +381 63 217 350

Fax: +381 11 454 351

E Mail: [adrian.wilkinson@undp.org](mailto:adrian.wilkinson@undp.org)

URL: [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org)