



AR/047

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## SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR47

### REGIONAL SEMINAR ON RENEWING THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SALW AND PROGRESS TOWARDS EU ACCESSION

<b>SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA</b>	<b>FA 3 - Management Information</b>
<b>SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>SG 1 - Capacity Building SG 2 - Co-ordination Measures SG 3 - Information Management and Exchange</b>

During 07 - 10 March 2005, SEESAC and the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) co-hosted a regional seminar on renewing the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA)<sup>1</sup> and progress towards EU accession. The governments of all countries participating in the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan on SALW were represented at the meeting. Civil society was also strongly represented, with delegates in attendance from the IANSA Secretariat in London, Saferworld, and the South Eastern Europe Network for the Control of Arms (SEENCA).

The seminar had two aims: 1) to develop a regional position on the future of the UN PoA, with a view to presenting it to the Second Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) in New York during July 2005; and 2) to develop the understanding of the place of small arms and light weapons (SALW) control criteria within the process of EU Accession.

In relation to the UN Programme of Action, as a key region both in terms of impacts of small arms and initiatives to control them, the South Eastern Europe (SEE) region is particularly well placed to play a leading role in the future direction pursued by the global community in controlling small arms. The seminar therefore examined the strengths and weaknesses of the current UN process by developing a statement detailing ways in which the UN PoA compares with the approach taken in the countries of SEE. The discussions were wide ranging and increased the insight of all participants regarding the degree of progress amongst regional states, and the likely future of SALW control issues at the level of intergovernmental policy. At the end of the second day of the seminar, participants agreed on a draft statement, looking at progress in the region in implementing the UN PoA since the last BMS, and outlining the envisaged priorities of regional governments on this issue. For the thematic discussions, which will take place at the second BMS, further suggestions were also formulated as to how the UN PoA could be modified, expanded, and refreshed to reflect changing needs when it is formally reviewed in 2006.

If the draft statement gains approval from the Foreign Ministries of the governments of South Eastern Europe, it will be presented by a designated regional governmental representative to the BMS.

In relation to the EU accession process, the third day of the conference gave an overview to participants of the part SALW control issues will play in the process of candidacy for EU membership and eventual accession by South East European countries. After the Mission of the European Commission in Zagreb had introduced the broad framework of accession, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute offered a detailed presentation on laws, agreements and implementation measures related to SALW with which acceding countries are expected to comply. The Governments of Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of

<sup>1</sup> UN Document A/CONF.192.15



Macedonia and Romania made presentations on action that they have taken or plan to take in order to fulfil EU Accession requirements.

For further information on this event please contact Diman Dimov, Deputy Team Leader SEESAC, by telephone on (+381) (11) 344 6353 or by email at [diman.dimov@undp.org](mailto:diman.dimov@undp.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Wilkinson', is positioned above the contact information for the SEESAC Team Leader.

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

Office: +381 11 344 6353  
Mobile: +381 63 217 350  
Fax: +381 11 344 6356  
E Mail: [adrian.wilkinson@undp.org](mailto:adrian.wilkinson@undp.org)  
URL: [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org)