



Centre for Security Cooperation

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

SALW/CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENT WORKSHOP
“Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual Use Goods and Conventional Weapons through Information Sharing”

in cooperation with
OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Austria

Dates

24-27 October 2011

Venue

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia.

Background

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)-conventional weapons pose significant hazards to people, the environment and the security of countries. Intra-agency, inter-agency and international information sharing and co-operation are cornerstones of the OSCE efforts to enhance multi-dimensional border security and management regimes. Linking these efforts to particular agencies within a nation and to neighbouring nations strengthens these desired initiatives. For this reason RACVIAC, in cooperation with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, is organizing a workshop on this concept for the South East Europe region which is expected to bring together the officials of the customs services and strategic goods licensing authorities to examine the criticality of knowing each other and the commonality of their duties when processing movements of small arms and light weapons and the commodities which have been designated by their national authorities as “dual-use” or controlled goods. The participating States of the OSCE all have legitimate trade transactions involving the movement of conventional weapons and dual-use goods. Under the requirements of UNSCR 1540 these nations must monitor, license, and control the export and import of strategic controlled commodities. Therefore, reporting and accountability are important factors that should be continually addressed. In order to be most effective the multiple agencies of a government that are responsible for the actions should share information in the timeliest fashion, with least restriction.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to provide participants with extensive knowledge on the best practices in use within the region, and to raise awareness of the types of Conventional Weapons movements that can be expected in transit to and from neighbouring countries.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Provide a concrete follow-up to the January 2011 Workshop on OSCE Efforts to Implement UNSCR 1540 by offering practitioners the possibility to exchange best practices and benefit from each others' experience in addressing the strategic trade complexities from the facilitation, enforcement and risk analysis perspectives;
- Promote the guidance and intent of Forum for Security Co-operation Decision No. 7/09, titled Decision on best practice guide on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 on Export Controls and Transshipment;
- Promote the full implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (2000) to fight the trafficking of illicit SALW through enhanced co-operation and information sharing of customs agencies at the regional level;
- Meet the commitments of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (MC/DEC 02/05) by offering technical experts the opportunity to discuss the necessary sharing of information on all levels of the strategic trade / dual-use corridors so as to establish effective intra-agency, inter-agency and international co-operation;
- Share OSCE participating States expertise on processes, information sharing and accountability as they pertain to the movement of controlled small arms, light weapons and dual-use goods along and among the trade/transport pathways;
- Strengthen the co-operation between OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in dealing with transnational threats and strategic trade issues.



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- Participants** The workshop is expected to attract participants - technical practitioners - from (but not limited to): Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Turkey, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovenia. Each country will be invited to send four (4) participants as following: one customs service risk analyst, one customs service field supervisory senior level inspector, and two licensing officials from the issuing office (1) and associated technical advisory group (1) if such a group is in use by national authorities. For all the above-mentioned national representatives RACVIAC and OSCE will cover all the travel expenses, accommodation, transportation and meals. Additionally, participants from other interested governmental organizations or other countries are welcome to attend the workshop at their own travel expense. Lecturers will represent the OSCE, regional Verification Centres and international organizations with focus on SALW/CW in the SEE region.
- Methodology** The capacity-building workshop comprising introductory topical presentations, facilitated discussions and national presentations will last 3 full working days at venues yet to be determined in the SEE region. All the workshop-related materials will be distributed in a CD form at the end of the workshop. The working language will be English. STANAG – 3332 level or equivalent knowledge of English is required.
- Point of Contact** Lieutenant Colonel Konstantinos ALEXOPOULOS, Tel.: 00 385 1 333 0 822, Fax: 00 385 1 333 0 829; E-mail address: kalexopoulos@racviac.org; web: www.racviac.org

** Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.*