



CENTRE FOR SECURITY
COOPERATION



CROATIAN CUSTOMS DIRECTORATE



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗА ВНАТРЕШНИ РАБОТИ
РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE FORMER
YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*

Seminar on Marking and Tracing as Control Measures to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

Zagreb, 15 - 17 October 2008

Co-organized with the
Croatian Customs Directorate and Ministry of Interior
of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia *

[RACVIAC](#) - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION in close collaboration with the [Croatian Customs Directorate](#) and [Ministry of Interior](#) of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* conducted the seminar on Marking and Tracing as Control Measures to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Zagreb, Croatia during the period of 15th - 17th October 2008.



Seminar participants

This seminar served as a training forum directed mainly towards sharing experiences and lessons learned, new methods, techniques and ideas by those involved in preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms and ammunition in the Southeast European countries, as well as towards identifying means and ways as how to improve and harmonize the processes of curbing the smuggling of the SALW in each country, and encouraging regional cooperation.

The seminar gathered thirty-four participants with knowledge and experience in the field of SALW from fifteen countries, representing relevant ministries, agencies and institutions directly involved in the process of the preventing and combating the trafficking in SALW. During the two-day seminar the multinational participants and experts provided insight into regional problem of

SALW trafficking, regional and international techniques and methods, approaches and practices, norms and standards implemented and used in preventing and combating the smuggling of the guns and ammunitions. Subsequently, all the participants discussed the positive and negative sides of the existing systems in each country.



Points of contacts for future networking

Mr. **Ilhan Berkol**, Head of Small Arms Project, International Group for Piece Research (GRIP), BE, i.berkol@grip.org;
Mr. **Dominik Kozary**, Expert Assistant, Croatian Customs Directorate, dominik.kozary@carina.hr
Mr. **Dusko Ivanov**, State Counselor - National focal point for SALW, Ministry of Interior, MK, dusko.ivanov@moi.gov.mk
Ms. **Liljana Vodencarska**, Solution Architect, Pexim, MK, liljana@pexim.com.mk;
Lieutenant colonel **Pascal Jeanmougin**, Deputy head of SALW and DDR office, French Verification Agency / Unité Française de Vérification, salwddr.ufv@inet.air.defense.gouv.fr;
Colonel (RUS). **Yury Padun**, Arms Control Implementation Officer the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, RF, Yury.Padun@osce.org;
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Sergeant **Billy Telfer**, Inspector/Export, Joint Arms Control Implementation Group, UK, opsso3@jacig.raf.mod.uk
Mr. **Diman Dimov**, Head of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)
Colonel **Mihailo Mladenović**, Chief of Defense Conversion Cell, RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION, mmladenovic@racviac.org;
LTC **Grigore Chirica**, Seminar Director, RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION, gchirica@racviac.org

Seminar Opening



2nd from left: Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, Director of [RACVIAC](#) opened the Seminar on Thursday, 16th October, by welcoming all seminar participants very heartily and stressing various new challenges that the international community was to confront nowadays. He emphasised that those challenges could only be addressed through our concerted efforts, deeply appreciating the proponents of this Seminar.



Mr. Ivan Nađ – welcome address

In his keynote speech, Mr. Ivan Nađ, the Deputy of General Director, Croatian Customs Directorate stated the important role of every country's customs in the process of monitoring, control and detection of smuggling small arms and light weapons. In that regard, he emphasised that the real success could only be achieved on the basis of multilateral approach, through regional or even international cooperation. He paid tribute to RACVIAC for its efforts in facilitating the activities on such challenging topics. In his closing remarks, Mr. Nađ reiterated that Croatian Customs Directorate was always glad to participate and assist RACVIAC in the field of small arms and light weapons.

Plenary Sessions

(Visit www.racviac.org for presentations)

The first day of the seminar was directed towards a more theoretical approach and was fully covered by presentations reflecting the main tools and mechanisms, which are used in dealing with preventing the trafficking of SALW, such as marking and tracing, arms and ammunitions registration system as well as relevant documents and legal instruments. The plenary sessions ensured a successful interaction between the participants, lecturers and experts. It was obvious that all participants shared a common understanding of the principles, methods and techniques, which are used to prevent and combat trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Ilhan Berkol delivered a keynote presentation on the UN Tracing Instrument and the state of its implementation. He also outlined the guidelines on marking SALW and ammunition, which he had developed for the UN Firearms Protocol that would be published soon.



Keynote presentation: Mr. Ilhan Berkol

He also mentioned recently released OSCE Best Practices Guides on ammunition. Mr. Berkol pointed out the Brazilian approach to ammunition marking as an example of good practice. As for the regional approach to curbing the illicit trafficking of SALW, he emphasized that States should adopt marking, registration and tracing practices according to the existing instruments and their guidelines. He advised officials involved in that field to push decision makers to develop and reinforce laws to implement existing global and regional instruments.



SALW Registration System - Mr. Duško Ivanov

Mr. Duško Ivanov, State Counselor - National focal point for SALW, Ministry of Interior (MK) and Ms. Liljana Vodenicarska, Solution Architect, Pexim Solutions (MK), have introduced the participants with another area of concern in the field of SALW – the Centralized Registration System. The region is seeking the ways to implement a regional Centralized Registration System and the module of MK was taken as an option. This topic provoked a very active discussion related to the registration of the guns, ammunitions and licenses. It appeared to be a topic of the request, to be developed in more detailed forms in the future.

International Institutions – main contributors

A great part of the plenary sessions was dedicated to the international approach and experience in eradicating the trafficking in SALW.

Mr. Yury Padun, the Arms Control Implementation Officer, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as an



OSCE Speaker: Colonel (RUS) Yury Padun

expert with great regional experience in the field of SALW, introduced the participants with the approach of the Organization for Security Co-operation in Europe. He presented on organization's instruments, methods, tools and practical approach, as well as compliance of those with the real results on the field. The presentation on marking and tracing methods and techniques, delivered by Lieutenant Colonel Pascal Jeanmougin, Deputy Head of SALW and DDR Office, French Verification Agency / Unité Française de Vérification (FR), provoked a lively and intense discussion and questions and answers session, thus proving once again that basic marking process is an indispensable and essential tool in combating the arms and ammunition smuggling. The examples, methods and techniques presented, served as a vector to assess the need of such field, not only regionally, but also internationally. As for the regional cooperation in the field of SALW Mr. Jeanmougin mentioned that the constant update of the existing instruments and mechanisms, methods and techniques was the key to the success.

Through practice to the experience

The second day of the seminar was training directed and dedicated mainly to introducing the participants with the Croatian approach to the trafficking in small arms and light weapons. It was organized and conducted at the Croatian Customs Boarder crossing point Bregana. The Bregana leadership, Stjepan Stilinović Head of the Border Crossing Point (Customs), Andrej Rainović Head of the Division (Police) and Željko Bistrović Head of the Shift (Customs) introduced the participants with the unit history. They provided the statistics and the overall information about their day-to-day duties and activities. During this part, the participants were very actively engaged in asking questions. The answers provided were directed mainly to the practical part and experience exchange, covering a full range of the issues related to the SALW such as smuggling, marking, tracing, legal instruments, stockpile management, import, export and a lot of other issues related to the arms and ammunition proliferation.

Summary and recommendations

(Participants, lecturers and experts)

The consolidated findings from the participants, lecturers and experts of the seminar are as follows:

Over 70% of the participants expressed a strong interest in more practical approach to the SALW proliferation process and stricter restrictions when purchasing arms and ammunitions, thus we should consider inviting the representatives from the regional or international weapons manufacturing firms, agencies and factories to participate in the SALW seminars as to contribute to the search of possible solutions. Participants requested to explore national approaches in the field of SALW in more detail in the future.

The need for the constant update of the new regulations and documents, best practices and legislations, is considered as the buffer tool in trafficking of the SALW. Detailed info on the legal framework, documents and UN tracing instruments was requested as well.

Countries should seek for the harmonization of regional standards in the field of SALW, then for implementing a regional legislative control of the SALW and exchange of experience, as well as the creation of a regional SALW information database.

There was also another very important "must" stressed - countries should raise people's awareness of the dangers related to the SALW as well as the possible effects of destroying SALW on human health and environment. There is an urgent need for developing stockpiles management expertise regional assessment.

Experts Suggestions

Key findings from the guest expert faculty are as follows: For a more positive outcome, the next activities should be organized in close cooperation and interaction with the institutions and agencies with the capacity and capability building in the field of small arms and light weapons. All the activities must be conducted on the quality not on quantity basis.

The activities have to be developed in stages and directed towards the well-assessed and balanced theoretical and practical approach, based on demand policy.

A diverse activity methodology is to be applied (group work, experience exchange through exercises modelling, examples of regional concepts, displaying the best practices etc).

Member countries are requested to pay closer attention to the selection of the personnel and participants according to their background, experience and position with the relevant ministries, institutions or agencies, dealing with SALW.

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