

31 October 2006

SACICG ACTIVITY REPORT

**INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR:
LICENSING THE FOREIGN TRADE IN ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

Podgorica, Montenegro
26 October 2006

As part of its continuing efforts to enhance the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the Republic of Montenegro, the SACICG Project and the Ministry of International Economic Relations (MIER) organized an introductory seminar on the licensing of the foreign trade in weapons and military equipment for ministry officials of the Government of Montenegro. The aim of the activity was to build the capacity and increase the expertise of the government authorities responsible for controlling the trade in arms, military equipment and dual-use goods in accordance with European Union and international best practice.



The seminar gathered a Panel of Experts including representatives from the Swedish and German authorities responsible for licensing the export of controlled goods, as well as experts from the United States Export and Border Security project and the SIPRI Arms Transfer and Nonproliferation projects. Local experts from the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro presented the former State Union law, which serves as the basis for the current legal framework for export controls in the Republic of Montenegro. In addition to the current legal framework, other topics of the Seminar included: international and regional arms embargos, control regimes, transparency measures in the arms trade, and EU best practice for controlling the trade in controlled goods.

With the proclamation of independence on 03 June 2006, the Government of Montenegro for the first time assumed full responsibility for the licensing of foreign trade in weapons and military equipment. By building the capacity of the new institutions to license the foreign trade in conventional weapons and military equipment in accordance with international best practice, the UNDP in Montenegro is meeting an immediate need of the Government of Montenegro and assisting the government to comply with regional and international standards necessary for the future accession to the European Union.

Reflecting the importance of this issue to the Government of Montenegro, the Minister for International Economic Relations and EU Integration, Mrs. Gordana Djurovic, and the UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro, Mr. Garret Tankosic-Kelly, were on hand to open the Seminar and take questions from the press.

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