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Name
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

Headquarters
Istanbul, Turkey

Website
www.bsec-organization.org

Short description
BSEC aims to enhance mutual respect and confidence, dialogue, and cooperation among its member states in a spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness.

Membership
12 members (all UN member states)

RO members and the ATT
States parties: 50% (6 states)
Signatories: 25% (3 states)
Not yet joined: 25% (3 states)

Notes
BSEC was created in 1992 with 11 founding members. Its Permanent International Secretariat was established in 1994 and its charter, adopted in 1998, entered into force in 1999. Serbia and Montenegro became the 12th member state in 2004. (After Montenegro became independent in 2006, Serbia’s membership has continued.) BSEC has 17 observers and 16 sectoral dialogue partners, including 12 international organizations from Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe, as well as bodies and agencies throughout the UN system (45 entities in total).

Funding
BSEC members provide compulsory contributions to run its Secretariat, as well as voluntary contributions to its two project funds (BSEC Project Development Fund and BSEC Hellenic Development Fund). There is no special budget for small arms activities.

Name
Alexander Bakalov
Title: Executive Manager

PoA-related activities
Under its 1998 charter BSEC members agreed to work together to combat organized crime and the illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, and radioactive materials, among other things (art. 4). BSEC members have subsequently concluded numerous agreements and protocols to advance this agenda. The 1998 Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Crime (ACCC), which entered into force in 1999, makes explicit reference to cooperation in countering the ‘illicit trafficking in weapons’ and promotes the exchange of information among members to address this concern (arts. 1 and 2). The 2002 Additional Protocol to the ACCC established a ‘BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime’ (art. 1). The 2004 Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the ACCC committed states to exchange information on the ‘illicit trafficking of weapons, including ammunition’ (art. 5(g)) and to cooperate closely to prevent, disclose, and suppress both financial support for and delivery of weapons and ammunition (art. 6(f)). The Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms meets regularly.
to follow up on the implementation of the agreements and to foster regional cooperation in fighting organized crime. Since 2009 the Working Group has prepared annual reviews on transnational crime trends in the BSEC region, which serve as valuable tools for BSEC policy-makers.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

N/A

**Legally binding regional instruments**


**Other official documents of interest**

- Joint Statement Adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs/Public Order of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Member States (2002)
Name
European Union (EU)

Headquarters
Brussels, Belgium

Website
www.europa.eu
eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/salw

Short description
The EU is an economic and political partnership with the main objectives of promoting peace and the well-being of its people through common economic, foreign, security, and justice policies.

Membership
28 members (all UN member states)

Notes
The EU traces its origins from the European Economic Community, formed by six countries in 1958. The Maastricht Treaty established the EU under its current name in 1992. Since 2007 there have been 28 member states. Five countries are candidate or acceding countries.

Funding
The EU budget is funded by contributions from its 28 member states. The EU’s revenue is based on a combination of sources, including customs duties (on imports from outside the EU); a percentage (around 0.3 per cent) of states’ value added tax; a percentage (around 0.7 per cent) of member states’ gross national income; and other sources. The 2016 budget is EUR 155 billion (commitments) and EUR 144 billion (payments), enabling EUR 2.3 billion as a reserve for unforeseen needs, as stipulated under the expenditure framework (2014–20).

RO members and the ATT
- States parties: 96% (27 states)
- Signatories: 4% (1 state)
- Not yet joined: 0% (0 states)

Notes
Cyprus is a signatory.

PoA POC
Name: Lene L. Hove Rietveld
Title: Policy Officer and SALW Focal Contact Point, European External Action Service
☎ +32-2-584-88-72
✉ lene.hove@eeas.europa.eu
✉ +32-2-584-81-55
* Plus another 18 official EU languages

PoA-related activities
The EU adopted the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (1998), which was replaced in 2008 by the Council Common Position Defining Common Rules Governing the Control of Exports of Military Technology and Equipment (including small arms). In 2003 the EU Council also adopted the Common Position on the Control of Conventional Arms Brokering. The EU Council Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) ensures coordination among EU member states in their national implementation of the 2008 Common Position. The EU also publishes a regular annual report on member states’ arms exports to third countries. The EU Council Working Parties on Non-Proliferation (CONOP) and on Arms Control (COARM) each holds regular meetings on the issue of small arms and ammunition, including discussions of current and future projects. The European Commission adopted the European Agenda on Security in April 2015, together with a package of legislative measures to strengthen the control of firearms in the EU
in November of the same year. The EU is also an important donor to small arms programmes covering stockpile management, surplus weapons destruction, assistance on the control of small arms exports, training to improve border controls, action to counter illegal trafficking flows, and steps to confront the root causes of illegal demand for small arms.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

The EU funds PoA-related activities in several ROs, including the EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, the G5 Sahel, the ICC, RECSA, the RCC (SEESAC), and SICA (CASAC). It also regularly cooperates and consults with ASEAN, NATO, the OSCE, and others.

Legally binding regional instruments


Other official documents of interest

- European Agenda on Security (2015)
- Implementing the European Agenda on Security: EU Action Plan against Illicit Trafficking in and Use of Firearms and Explosives (2015)
Name
European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL)

Headquarters
Brussels, Belgium

Website
www.eurocontrol.int

Short description
EUROCONTROL is a civil–military air traffic management organization that helps its member states run safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly air traffic operations in a single European sky and addresses new related challenges facing the region.

Membership
41 members (all UN member states)

Notes
At its founding in 1960 EUROCONTROL had six members (see below). Its membership doubled between January 1965 and January 1991 (with the successive additions of Ireland, Portugal, Turkey, Malta, and Greece). The European Community signed an Accession Protocol in 2002. Membership reached 28 by the end of the 1990s and 41 in 2015. Georgia joined EUROCONTROL in January 2014 and Estonia, the organization’s most recent member, joined in January 2015.

Funding
The agency’s budget (EURO 695 million in 2016) is mainly financed (76 per cent) by contributions from members (for operational expenditure) and bank loans (capital expenditure). Annual contributions are determined by a formula that includes the GDP and air traffic route facility cost base of each member. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK contribute about 61 per cent of the total budget. (The Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre and the Central Route Charges Office are financed separately.)

RO members and the ATT
States parties: 85% (35 states)
Signatories: 10% (4 states)
Not yet joined: 5% (2 states)

Notes
Cyprus, Georgia, Turkey, and Ukraine are signatories. Armenia and Monaco have not yet joined.

PoA POC
Name: Anthony Leggat
Title: Senior Expert Airport Operations, Airport Slot Coordination Analysis
☎ +32-2-729-4744
✉ tony.leggat@eurocontrol.int
☎ +32-2-729-9004

PoA-related activities
EUROCONTROL stores and maintains data on all Instrument Flight Rules flights that take place within its airspace. The data covers flights from 1995 to the present day. EUROCONTROL also maintains its own aircraft database, which authorized users can access via a secure web login. Since 2011 it has had an agreement with the UN for questions relating to flights within its airspace. For example, a UN Security Council Panel of Experts examining possible UN sanctions violations may inquire about specific flight data. EUROCONTROL will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it can furnish the information requested. Since 2014 EUROCONTROL has had a similar agreement with the International Criminal Court.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs
EUROCONTROL is currently discussing the possibility of entering into an information sharing arrangement with the OSCE similar to the ones it has concluded with the UN and International Criminal Court (see above).
**Legally binding regional instruments**
- None

**Other official documents of interest**
- None

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**PoA-related programmes and initiatives**

**Current members**
- Albania, Armenia, Austria, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, **France**, Georgia, **Germany**, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, **Netherlands**, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, **UK**

**Bold** = founding member

**Former members**: None

**Membership pending**: None

Profile updated March 2016
**Name**
European Law Enforcement Agency (Europol)

**Headquarters**
The Hague, the Netherlands

**Website**
www.europol.europa.eu

**Short description**
Europol’s mission is to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among EU law enforcement authorities in preventing and combating serious international crime and terrorism, with the aim of achieving a safer Europe for all EU citizens.

**Membership**
28 members (all UN member states)

**Notes**
Europol members are aligned with the EU membership. The first steps towards establishing Europol can be traced back to the 1970s. Its role and scope evolved from then until the 1998 Maastricht Treaty, which established a convention. Europol became operational in 1999. Reforms introduced by a new legal framework in 2010 made Europol an EU agency.

**Funding**
Europol is financed from the EU budget and is subject to EU financial and staff regulations. After it became an EU agency, the European Parliament gained increased control over Europol activities and budget. Europol’s 2015 budget was EUR 94 million, an increase of EUR 12.5 million from 2014.

**Members and the ATT**
- States parties: 96% (27 states)
- Signatories: 4% (1 state)
- Not yet joined: 0% (0 states)

**Notes**
Cyprus is a signatory.

**PoA POC**
Name: N/A
Title: (Operations Department)
☎️ +31-70-302-5000
✉️ europol.europa.eu
☎️ +31-70-345-5896

**PoA-related activities**
Europol handles the exchange and analysis of criminal intelligence across the EU. It has a permanent connection with national units for the exchange of communications and criminal data, and supports around two million EU law enforcement officers through an extensive network of liaison officers posted at Europol HQ. A 2010 policy brief noted that firearms possession by organized crime groups and lower-level street gangs is rising. The brief recommended joint investigations, dedicated efforts to investigate and monitor firearm flows leaving South-east Europe to the EU, and detailed recording of the quantity and types of illegal firearms seized in operations, as well as those recovered in interdictions of multi-commodity shipments. Operation Shovel (2010) focused on an Ireland-based organized crime group trafficking drugs and weapons across Europe. Europol provided analysis and assistance to detect and disrupt the group’s income flows. In 2004 Europol was authorized to access INTERPOL’s encrypted communications system (I-24/7) and databases. INTERPOL also opened a
liaison office at Europol HQ in 2007. In 2013 Europol conducted an in-depth analysis of major crimes in the EU. The results guided the priorities of the Council of Justice and home affairs/interior ministers for 2013–17, which placed firearms use and smuggling among their priorities. In turn, this led to the European Multi-disciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT). In 2014 Europol established a focal point to support investigations of firearms trafficking in and to the EU, and via the internet (open and dark web). A South-east Europe Firearms Expert Group and Network was created. The EU’s Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions of 8 October 2015 called for a review of the legal framework and increased action against firearms trafficking, leading to an Action Plan (December 2015) for stricter monitoring and control of illicit possession in and to the EU.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs
Europol is an observer of AMERIPOL.

Legally binding regional instruments
- As an EU agency, all EU legally binding instruments apply to Europol.

Other official documents of interest

Current members
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK

Bold = founding member

Former members: None

Membership pending: Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey

Profile updated March 2016
Regional Organizations and the PoA Handbook

**Name**
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

**Headquarters**
Brussels, Belgium

**Website**
www.nato.int
www.msiac.nato.int
salw.hq.nato.int

**Short description**
NATO is a political and military alliance. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

**Membership**
28 members (all UN member states)

**Funding**
Assessed contributions its civil and military budgets as well as the Security Investment Programme. Dues from four members—France, Germany, the UK, and the US—cover more than half of this total. NATO funds projects related to small arms and ammunition destruction and disposal, PSSM, and mine action. These activities have received EUR 75 million in support over the past 15 years from 25 Allies (all but Albania, Croatia, and Portugal), 13 partners (Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Macedonia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and Switzerland), and the EU.

**Notes**
When it was founded in 1949 NATO had 12 member countries (or ‘Allies’, as NATO refers to them). Between 1952 and 2009 its membership expanded six times. Macedonia and Montenegro participate in NATO’s Membership Action Plan: a prelude to becoming an Ally, but not a guarantee of accession. NATO has several partnership programmes: the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council/Partnership for Peace (EAPC/PFP) with 22 nations, the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) with 7 nations, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) with 4 nations, and Partners across the Globe with 8 nations with which NATO has concluded security agreements.

**PoA POC**
Name: Jacques Baud
Title: Head, SALW Office, Arms Control and Coordination Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division

**PoA-related activities**
NATO addressed PoA concerns prior to 2001. Examples include a manual on safely storing military ammunition and explosives (first produced in 1997 and most recently revised in 2015) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action (SALW/MA) established in 1999 to coordinate Trust Fund activities. The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA, formerly NAMSA) is NATO’s implementing agency for SALW/MA programmes. Subsequent to the PoA, the NATO Trust Fund was expanded to support three PoA-related activities: 1) the destruction of surplus small arms and munitions; 2) PSSM of this material; and 3) retraining and resettlement of military personnel. NATO has also conducted a weapons collection and destruction programmes in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. NSPA has implemented 20 NATO Trust Fund projects in 11 countries, providing technical and managerial expertise. MSIAC collates data on accidents involving munitions, sharing information and analysis...
with the Allies that fund this initiative, and providing best-practice guidance on transport and storage to all 28 Allies and 41 partners. The NATO School offers three courses on small-arms-related issues. In 2011 NATO’s 50-member EAPC initiated a structured information exchange (SIE) on ongoing small arms projects to aid cooperation and prevent the duplication of efforts. In 2013 the SIE was developed into a web-based platform for EAPC nations, and in 2016 this platform was made publicly accessible.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

NATO co-hosted a conference with the OSCE in 2008 on ROs and the PoA. Since 2010 NATO has held regular staff talks with the EU and OSCE (and the UN) to coordinate their small-arms-related projects. They participated actively in the SIE.

**Legally binding regional instruments**

- None

**Other official documents of interest**

- AASTP-5 NATO Guidelines for the Storage, Maintenance and Transport of Ammunition on Deployed Missions or Operations (2012)
**Regional Organizations and the PoA**

**Handbook**

**Name**
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

**Headquarters**
Vienna, Austria

**Website**
www.osce.org

**Short description**
The OSCE addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism, and economic and environmental activities.

**Membership**
57 members (56 UN member states)

**Notes**
The OSCE’s predecessor, the CSCE, was established in 1975 after 35 states signed the Helsinki Final Act. Its original purpose was to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. In response to the changes in the post-cold war era, the organization became the OSCE in 1994. The Holy See is the only non-UN member state. It also has 11 Partners for Cooperation who can observe meetings and share special or formal relations with the OSCE: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, South Korea, Thailand, and Tunisia.

**Funding**
OSCE has two scales of assessed contributions (for institutions and field operations). Most of the budget funding goes to field activities. In 2016 the unified budget was EUR 141 million. Many key initiatives and projects are funded through extra-budgetary. On small arms destruction and stockpile management security alone, states pledged over EUR 30 million in extra-budgetary contributions during the period 2005–15, with the US being the largest donor.

**PoA POC**
Name: Maria Brandstetter
Title: Confidence- and Security-Building Measures Officer, Conflict Prevention Centre
Phone: +43-1-514-36-6737
Email: Maria.Brandstetter@osce.org
Phone: +43-1-514-36-6996

**PoA-related activities**
The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000, reissued 2012) is a binding agreement in which OSCE members agreed to norms, principles, and measures to control each stage in a weapon’s life: production, transfer, storage, collection or seizure, and destruction. In 2004 a series of export control-related decisions were adopted. The OSCE collects, analyses, and archives the regular information exchanges on the legislative aspects of small arms control, including export policy and brokering controls, as well as annual information on small arms that were imported, exported, and destroyed during the previous year. In 2014 it produced a best practice guide to improve the quality of information exchange. The OSCE also provides for licensing and customs agencies and capacity building on tracing illicit SALW; legislative assistance for destruction and PSSM; and practical assistance on destruction and stockpile management. Over 40 requests from 18 participating states have been addressed since 2003, for which...
more than EUR 32 million were contributed. (Since 2014 the OSCE has been especially active in assisting Ukraine on small arms, land mines, and ERW issues.) The OSCE Border Management Staff College regularly addresses issues related to integrated border management, including small arms. The OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation routinely engages civil society to brief its participating states on their activities, and developed a best-practice handbook.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

The OSCE emphasizes regional cooperation. It meets regularly with other organizations to coordinate projects and activities. In 2011 the OSCE harmonized its SALW reporting template for providing national reports with that of the UN. (Further work is ongoing on synchronizing both reporting systems online).

**Legally binding regional instruments**
- None

**Other official documents of interest**
- OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000, revised 2012)
- Voluntary Guidelines for Compiling National Reports on SALW Exports from/Imports to other Participating States during the Previous Calendar Year (2014)
Name
RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation

Headquarters
Zagreb (Bestovje), Croatia

Website
www.racviac.org

Short description
RACVIAC fosters dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South-east Europe, targeting three overarching themes: a cooperative security environment, with a focus on arms control; SSR; and international and regional cooperation with a focus on Euro-Atlantic integration.

Membership
8 members (all UN member states)

Notes
RACVIAC was established in October 2000, within the framework of the Stability Pact (see RCC entry). In 2007 it became the Centre for Security Cooperation. The Multinational Advisory Group (MAG), its decision-making body, is made up of its members, 14 associate members, and 7 observers. Associate members are Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the RF, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. Observers are Canada, Greece, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the US. Greece, which changed its status from member to observer in 2012, has subsequently expressed its desire to again be a member. From 2014 Kosovo was invited to participate on a permanent basis, at all levels, and on equal terms in all activities and meetings of RACVIAC and the MAG.

Funding
RACVIAC’s budget, which is divided into two parts (operating and programme) is approximately EUR 600,000. Members primarily finance the operating budget. Associate members, international partners, and other donors cover a large part of the programme budget through general or marked contributions.

RO members and the ATT
 States parties: 88% (7 states)
 Signatories: 12% (1 state)
 Not yet joined: 0% (0 states)

Notes
Albania, BiH, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia are states parties. Turkey is a signatory.

PoA POC
Name: Branko Lozancic
Title: Public Affairs Officer
☎ +385-1-3330-861
mailto:blozancic@racviac.org; info@racviac.org
☎ +385-1-3330-809

PoA-related activities
RACVIAC organizes and hosts seminars, workshops, courses, symposiums, conferences, and meetings on regional security issues, among them SSR, confidence-building measures, arms control, physical stockpile management, organized crime, and dual-use items. These activities are open to its members, associates, and observers, as well as other countries, international organizations, and institutions. For example, RACVIAC organizes an annual Arms Control Symposium. Over the past five years more than 150 officials from the region participated in these events. In 2015 RACVIAC hosted a three-day PSSM workshop. The event brought together numerous professionals and experts in the field, including SALW experts from the military and national MoDs, and commanders of storage sites, giving them an opportunity to exchange information and experiences. RACVIAC, as chair of the Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) Initiative, organized the Eighth RASR Initiative Workshop, held in Split, Croatia, in May 2015. RACVIAC hopes to host a special session on PSSM-related activities in support of the RASR Initiative in 2016.
PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

RACVIAC cooperates with the EU and NATO. RACVIAC also regularly cooperates with the RCC, SEESAC, and a number of other regional organizations and initiatives. It is a member of the RASR Initiative Steering Committee (and chaired the committee in 2015). RACVIAC also cooperates regularly with the OSCE.

Legally binding regional instruments

- None

Other official documents of interest

- Terms of Reference for the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) for RACVIAC (2015)
- Agreement on RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation (2010)
Name
Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

Headquarters
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Website
www.rcc.int
www.seesac.org

Short description
The RCC promotes regional cooperation in South-east Europe (SEE) under the political guidance of the SEECP. Areas of work include economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and home affairs, security cooperation, and gender mainstreaming.

Membership
46 members
(31 UN member states)

Notes
The RCC was officially launched in 2008 at the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP, as successor to the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (established in 1999). The Stability Pact initially had eight signatories from the region: Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, and Slovenia. The RCC currently has 46 ‘participants’—the RCC term for member countries, organizations, and international financial institutions participating in its work—of which 25 comprise the RCC Board (formed by participants who help fund the organization). A number of changes in membership occurred in 2013: a Kosovo government representative replaced UNMIK, SELEC withdrew, and two EU bodies now participate in RCC meetings (DG NEAR and EEAS).

Funding
The European Commission supplies about 60 per cent of the RCC Secretariat’s budget, regional states about 30 per cent, and the rest comes from other sources. The EU, Norway, the Swedish Armed Forces, the US State Department, and UNDP fund most of SEESAC’s current PoA-relevant projects.

PoA POC
Name: Marinko Raos
Title: Senior Advisor on Security Policy Issues
☎ +387-33-561-705
✉ marinko.raos@rcc.int
*turkish, italian, Macedonian, and Slovenian

PoA-related activities
In May 2002 the RCC (then the Stability Pact) and UNDP launched SEESAC to be the regional focal point for small arms non-proliferation issues through the Regional Implementation Plan (RIP). The SEE Regional Implementation Plan for Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001, revised 2006 and 2014) is one of the main achievements of the Stability Pact/RCC. SEESAC is RCC’s technical POC for the small arms work of members on all PoA-related matters. SEESAC has developed a series of Regional Micro-disarmament Standards and Guidelines, which contributed to the development of ISACS. SEESAC supports coordination; capacity development; resource mobilization; technical tool development; project implementation; research; and information management. It works to increase stockpile security through infrastructure and capacity improvements; reduction via SALW and ammunition destruction; improved marking, tracing, and registration; increased SALW awareness through campaigns and SALW collections; increased transparency and control of arms transfers;

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

SEESAC serves on the RASR Initiative Steering Committee and works closely with NSPA and RACVIAC (together with ITF and the Small Arms Survey).

**Legally binding regional instruments**

- None

**Other official documents of interest**

- Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism leading to Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in South East Europe (SEE CVE-FTF Platform) (2015)
- South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan for Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (2014);
- Regional Cooperation Council Strategy and Work Programme 2014 – 2016;
- Regional Micro-disarmament Standards on the subjects of: National Commissions; Legislation; Export Documentation; Marking and Tracing; Management; Accounting; Monitoring; Verification; Collection; Destruction Planning; Destruction; Storage; Ammunition Storage; Accident Investigations; Ammunition Management; EOD Clearance of Ammunition Depot Explosions; EOD Support; Border Controls; SALW Survey; Safer Community Plans; Development of Awareness Programmes; Children; Gender; Education.
Name
South-east European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC)

Headquarters
Bucharest, Romania

Website
www.selec.org

Short description
SELEC supports and enhances coordination among member states to prevent and combat crime where such crime involves or appears to involve an element of trans-border activity.

Membership
12 members
(all UN member states)

Notes
The Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime (SECI Centre), SELEC’s predecessor, was established in 1996 to focus on regional cooperation among the countries of South-east Europe. SELEC replaced SECI in 2011. Slovenia withdrew its membership in January 2013. There are currently 17 observer states, 5 observer organizations, and 2 permanent advisers: INTERPOL and the WCO. US and Italian liaison officers are based at SELEC headquarters.

Funding
Articles 35 and 36 of the SELEC Convention state that the SELEC budget shall be established on an annual basis, based on contributions from member states and other external sources. The contribution is based on an assessed percentage. Observer states generally provide modest contributions. The United States has provided about USD 15 million in direct grants and equipment since 1996. Small-arms-related activities come under the Anti-Terrorism Task Force and are financed by the core budget.

RO members and the ATT
States parties: 92%
(11 states)
Signatories: 8%
(1 state)
Not yet joined: 0%
(0 states)

Notes
Turkey is a signatory.

PoA POC
Name: Ervin Dervina
Title: Albanian Police Liaison Officer, Manager for Small Arms and Light Weapons
☎ +40-21-303-6027
✉ edervina@selec.org
☎ +40-21-303-6036

PoA-related activities
The SELEC Convention entered into force upon the ninth ratification of the Agreement on Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Trans-border Crime (2011). All members have since ratified it. SELEC supports crime prevention activities; facilitates exchanges of information, criminal intelligence, and requests for operational assistance; establishes, operates, and maintains a computerized information system; notifies and informs NFPs of connections between suspects, criminals, or crimes; collects, analyses, and disseminates information and criminal intelligence; provides strategic analysis to produce relevant threat assessments; acts as a depository of good practice in law enforcement methods and techniques; and implements multinational training and conferences. It also promotes joint planning and action on trans-border crime. Eight task forces implement its operational activities. Small arms fall under one of three sub-groups of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, established in 2003 and coordinated by Albania. Five states participated in Operation Ploughshares (2002), which produced data on the trafficking of 493 small
arms and just under 20,000 rounds of ammunition. Eight members participated in Operation Safe Place (2004), which seized 3,423 small arms, 400,000 rounds of ammunition, and more than 30,000 artillery shells, and identified individuals and groups engaged in the illegal trade, transfer, and possession of small arms. Both exercises led to improved reporting on small arms trafficking and data for analyzing trafficking patterns. SELEC (with US support) organized a law enforcement workshop on MANPADS in 2013. SELEC’s Anti-Terrorism Task Force continues to investigate small arms and ammunition seized during various operations of its members.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

SELEC has concluded agreements and MoUs with several RO partners, including the OSCE, RCC and SEESAC. (SELEC also works with several regional and UN bodies, including the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.)

**Legally binding regional instruments**

- Convention of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre: Agreement on Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Trans-border Crime (2009)

**Other official documents of interest**

- None

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PoA-related programmes and initiatives

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