

## SCSP WORKING TABLE III

### SEESAC SPEAKING NOTES - MAY 2005

#### SEESAC MISSION STATEMENT

*To further support the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan by building national and regional capacity to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and thus contribute to enhanced stability, security and development in South Eastern Europe.*

- ❑ SEESAC activities contained in separate 'Bullet Point' brief distributed by E Mail.
- ❑ SEESAC already engaged in Defence Conversion issues in terms of:
  - Advice on future stock levels necessary after Defence Strategy and Concept of Operations for new force identified. (BiH Defence Reform Committee is an example). SEESAC Matrix available for planning.
  - Project development and resource mobilization for destruction or demilitarization of surplus and redundant stocks. (Bulgaria 2003 for US State and UNDP, FYR Macedonia 2004 for UNDP, BiH 2004 for UNDP and DRC, SCG 2003 for US State, Albania 2003 and 2004 for UK and US State).
- ❑ SALW (Weapon) destruction is easy, SALW (Ammunition) is much more of a logistic and technical challenge.
- ❑ Destruction is necessary as:
  - Reduces risks of proliferation.
  - Enhances confidence and security building measures.
  - Reduces storage and security costs to government in mid to long term. (SEESAC is developing a matrix to estimate cost benefits of destruction v storage, available Aug 05).
  - Reduces explosive hazards to local communities. (36 known ammunition depot explosions in last four years, 4 known so far in 2005).
- ❑ Sale is not really an option for redundant and surplus stocks of weapons and ammunition due to; 1) market saturation; 2) quality issues in many cases; 3) high risks of diversion to 'grey' and 'black' markets; 4) many clients unlikely to be approved under requirements of EU Code of Conduct.



**SEESAC**

- ❑ Transparency is key to donor confidence and project planning. The stocks a country declares it wants to destroy may not necessarily be the stocks that it really needs to destroy. Beware 'cherry-picking'.
- ❑ Donors support weapons and ammunition destruction on security or humanitarian grounds. Priorities for destruction are different for each category. (See NGO/SEESAC Biting the Bullet Report 18 for more details, available on SEESAC website).
- ❑ Without transparency we cannot be nearly as effective at justifying projects to potential donors, in an area with very limited funding available. Ammunition destruction will have its political visibility raised at the forthcoming 2005 Bi-annual meeting of States under the UN SALW Programme of Action (July 2005 in New York).
- ❑ It is your country, your inherited problem - unless you are transparent with us we cannot be as effective in our help!
- ❑ Annual donor funding cycles and other operational commitments also mean that we need timely transparency if 'windows of opportunity' are not to be missed. Time wasted discussing release of 'sensitive' information from the partner nation means that other projects will gain funding at their expense. There are many ways of determining ammunition stockpiles, it is not really a secret how much you may have!
- ❑ Finally in terms of Defence Conversion, SEESAC has a capability to advise on land remediation of unexploded ordnance. This is currently outside our current mandate, but does relate closely to the EOD advice that we already provide. It is closely related to Mine Action (UXO clearance) and SEESAC's position to support SP initiatives in this area requires clarification. To date we have passed on all requests to UNMAS and not engaged in this particular issue.

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

Office: +381 11 344 6352

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)