

7

Options for the future

*The EU welcomes the conclusion of the election process in Albania, which has resulted in the first peaceful transfer of power since the fall of Communism. The Union congratulates the Government of Prime Minister Berisha on its appointment by the new Parliament. It calls on the new Parliament and the new Government to advance Albania's progress towards EU integration by beginning work without delay and with genuine commitment on a clear and strong reform agenda.*⁶⁴⁵

This Survey report is an important element of a longer and more complex process which aims to assist the Government of Albania in identifying problems related to small arms and light weapons proliferation and misuse and exploring their relationship with broader areas of concern including community safety, sustainable development and increasing access to decision making and justice for the civilian population. It is anticipated that this report will act as an important guide for the development of strategies and actions to be implemented by the Government of Albania – with its civil society and international partners – to address these problems. It does not however seek to outline specific recommendations for change. These are contained in a separate but associated document which outlines areas in which it is recommended that the Government takes action and suggests a series of specific steps that could act as an initial framework for change. Although it does not represent official Albanian Government Policy this second document has been developed in consultation with key ministries in Albania including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the very specific recommendations contained in this associated document there are a series of priority areas for change that can be drawn from the experiences of other states that have embarked on similar processes. These priority areas provide the fundamentals of an effective approach to tackling the negative impacts of SALW proliferation and misuse in Albania.

Establishing the rule of law. It is essential that whatever the Government decides to do on this issue that changes are clearly codified in legislation and accompanying regulations. Decisions on a range of important issues including reducing the numbers of illicit SALW in circulation, regulation of private security provision, regulation of arms exports and institutionalising inter-ministerial co-operation to name just four areas must be grounded in the rule of law. It would seem that failure to provide a strong legal footing for future action will lead to confusion and contest over its legitimacy and scope

⁶⁴⁵ "Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding the formation of a new government of Albania", 12060/2/05 REV 2 (Presse 227), Brussels, 15 September 2005, < <http://europa.eu.int> >

Enhancing coordination and co-operation between and within the different government departments. Effective SALW control is a multifaceted and very complicated exercise, which requires collaboration and coordinated input from many different stakeholders. In the past attempts to address specific problems in Albania have suffered not from a lack of effort or commitment but from poor coordination and co-operation. The establishment of a national coordination body to guide the development and implementation of strategies to address SALW challenges is an essential step in the efforts of any state. Coordination and co-operation does not mean that all stakeholders should be involved at all levels in every activity. Leadership is essential for effective coordinated action, as is the willingness of some to step aside for others to take the lead when their function indicates that they are best suited to the job.

Developing a national strategy for SALW control in its entirety. SALW control requires action on many issues and at a range of different levels. Dealing with one aspect of the problem may in fact exacerbate the negative impact of others. Addressing all elements of the SALW control puzzle together and in a comprehensive manner is essential to successful implementation of specific, targeted projects and programmes. During the development of a national SALW control strategy, all those with a stake in the issue should be involved. In countries with a developed approach to SALW control the following are amongst those most often included: representatives from police, customs, military, foreign affairs, civilian licensing, transfer licensing, health, education, local government, tourism, economy, emergency planning, the office of the prime minister, civil society and the civilian population.

Tackling SALW as part of a broader reform programme. The SALW situation will never be stabilised effectively without tackling corruption, addressing outstanding social issues including solving long running property disputes and resolving tensions linked to poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, poor pay for Government employees and a lack of trust in the police and other state institutions. As well as the development of specific plans for addressing SALW, it is also important that SALW control be incorporated into broader reform, poverty alleviation and development strategies.

Encouraging more effective donor coordination. Addressing Albania's SALW challenges is a collaborative process that should of course be led by the Government. However, for this process to work, it is important that the Government receives appropriate support from its international partners. The development of a co-ordinated SALW control strategy that is owned by the Government and implemented with rigour and purpose will demonstrate intent to potential supporters and assist them in providing coordinated and effective support.

Demonstrating the political will to tackle SALW and security problems. A policy of denying the existence of the problems or de-prioritising action to address them will not make them go away. It will also not persuade the EU and other potential partners that there is no longer a problem. The experiences of other states that have both recently acceded to the EU or that are due to accede in the near future is clear – publicly identifying and tackling arms control challenges are hallmarks of a positive and confident Government that can act as a serious and committed member of the European family.

APPENDIX 1: Table of SALW transfers compiled from documentation on MEICO transfers⁶⁴⁶

Date	Transaction type	Stated destination	Stated end-use	Stated end-use(r)	SALW type	Cost (US\$)	Quantity
05 Sep 1992	Export	Slovenia	-	-	Grenades 120 mm	800,000	10,000 units
					Grenades 82 mm	60,000	1,000 units
					Ammunition 7.62 mm	450,000	5 millions
02 Dec 1992	Export	Slovenia	-	-	T.N.T	298,000	400 T
					K.A – 47	5,200	40 T
					Ammunition 7.62 mm	6,300	70,000 T
16 Dec 1992	Export	Macedonia	-	-	N/A	35,000	US\$ 7,000,000
25 May 1993	Export	Canada/US	-	-	Weapons & ammunitions – N/A	360,000	-
25 May 1993	Export	Canada/US	-	-	Weapons & ammunitions – N/A	643,356.78	-
22 Sep 1993	Export	Digna, Swakin (Indonesian buyer)	-	-	Cartridge Belts 12.7 mm	800,000	1,000,000 units
					RBJ7 40 mm	110,000	1,000 units
					Cartridge Belts 7.72 mm	2,790,170	37,000,000 units
22 Sep 1993	Export	US	-	-	Russian guns SKS	13,200	600 units
12 Oct 1994	Export	Sudan	-	-	Submachine-gun AK-47	425,000	5,000 units
					Ammunition 7.62x39	1,100,000	20,000,000 units
					Basis RBG-7	210,000	300 units
					Cartridges-cases RBG-7 40mm	300,000	5,000 units
					Defensive grenades	60,000	20,000 units
					Offensive grenades	60,000	20,000 units
					TNT	12,000	10 T
04 Nov 1994	Export	N/A (US buyer)	-	-	Russian guns SKS	*1728	24 units
					Russian guns	*1587	23 units
					Chinese guns	30	1 unit
04 Jan 1995	Export	Turkey	-	-	Ammunition 7.62mm	136,000	2,000,000 units
02 Feb 1995	Export	Dubai	-	-	Ammunition 7.62x39	65,000	1,000,000 units
15 Feb 1995	Export	Azerbaijan	-	-	Ammunition 7.62x39	1,800,000	40,000,000 units
30 Jun 1995	Export	Turkey	-	-	Ammunition 7.62x39	630,000	10,000,000 units
					Ammunition 7.92x54	204,000	3,000,000 units
					Ammunition 7.92	120,000	2,000,000 units
					Hand-grenades	360,000	80,000 units
30 Jun 1995	Export	Turkey	-	-	Gunpowder	85,400	7 T
					Ammunition	140,000	2,000,000 units
					Ammunition 7.92mm	140,000	2,000,000 units
					Hexogen	5,200	1 T
					Hexanol	4,200	1 T
					Cartridges 7.62mm	74	10,000 units
Cartridges 12.7mm	400	20,000 units					
26 Jul 1995	Export	Afghanistan	-	-	Ammunition 6.72x39mm	325,000	5,000,000 units
					Cartridge-cases for mortars 120mm	350,000	5,000 units
					Ammunition 14.5mm	150,000	150,000 units
					Ammunition RPG-7	20,000	500 units
15 Apr 2000	Export	Tirana, Albania	-	-	German machine-guns 9mm MP 40	5,600	80 units
					Machine-guns 7.622 mm MG 34	17,500	100 units
					Austrian machine-guns 8 mm	255	1 unit
16 Aug 2000	Export	Kosovo	-	-	Fuse wire	48	120 units
					Cartridges KD8	29	96 units
					Detonating cord	28,336	30,800 units
					Electrical caps	432	850 units
					Ammonite fl 60mm	45,144	6.5 T
					Plastic explosive materials D3	204,000	12 T
18 Aug 2000	Export	USA or Canada	-	-	Specified in Annex A N/A	1,707,100	-

⁶⁴⁶ Summary of information contained in MEICO's report on all official Albanian arms transfers between 1992 and 2004. This report is a compilation of commercial contracts processed by MEICO during this period. In most cases no independent corroboration on specifics such as stated destinations or end-use is readily available.

Date	Transaction type	Stated destination	Stated end-use	Stated end-use(r)	SALW type	Cost (US\$)	Quantity
18 Feb 2001	Export	Germany	–	Military Import-Export Company Sauer	German weapons, various Russian weapons Swords for ceremonial use Austrian automatic weapons Sub-machine guns and Machine guns	48,505	–
15 Jul 2002	Export	Germany	To be de-activated	Military Import-Export Company Sauer	Machine guns, various Austrian submachine guns 8mm German submachine guns 9mm	53,300	
10 Aug 2002	Export	USA	–	–	Italian ammunition 6.5mm English ammunition 7.7mm German ammunition 7.92mm Albanian ammunition 7.62x54mm	3,630 11,060 33,380 150,000	242,000 units 550,000 units 1,669,000 units 5,000,000 units
11 Oct 2002	Export	–	–	–	Specified in Annex 1 N/A	440,200	–
03 Apr 2003	Import	Albania	–	–	Ammunition 7.62x54Rmm	420,000	2,000,000 units
03 Apr 2003	Export	Israel	–	Verona Commodities Ltd Israel	Ammunition 7.62x39mm Ammunition 9x19mm Mortar rounds 82mm	168,000 60,000 –	3,000,000 units 1,000,000 units 8 units
Jun 2003	Export	Knoxville, USA	–	–	Sportive semi-automatic gun	647.6	1 unit
20 Aug 2003	Export	UK	–	“Imperial Defense Services” Ltd	Cartridge belts 7.62x54mm (Albanian production of '70-'80) Cartridge belts 7.62x54mm (Russian production 1950–60) Cartridge belts 7.71x56mm (USA-British production) Machine-guns 7.62x54mm (with all the other parts) Anti-tank guns 14.5mm (one cartridge) Anti-tank guns 14.5mm (with 5 cartridge belts) Cartridge belts 14.5x54mm (German & Czech production)	75,000 60,000 14,000 14,000 5,000 500 6,000	3,000,000 units 3,000,000 units 553,000 units 200 units 100 units 10 units 300,000 units
17 May 2004	Export	Germany	–	Sauer Military, Germany	German guns 7.92mm (different types in bad condition) Machine guns (different types in bad condition) Submachine guns 7.92x57mm Model MG 34 (in bad condition) Submachine guns 8mm Shvarsloser (in bad condition) Submachine guns 7.62mm MAXIM 34 (in normal condition) Machine guns 7.62mm PPSH-41 (in normal condition) Submachine guns Bren (in bad condition)	2,000 56,000 6,000 5,000 7,000 6,750 24,500	100 units 70 units 120 units 100 units 100 units 150 units 350 units

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List of key interviewees

1. Doug Adams, Deputy Head of PAMECA
2. Flori Ademaj, National Security Officer, OSCE
3. Illir Aliaj, former IWPR contributor
4. John Anderson, NAMSA
5. Anon, investigative journalist

6. Edmond Bahiti, Head of Sector for Illegal Trafficking
7. Artan Bajraktari, Head of Central Interpol Office
8. Ramazan Beka, Movement for Disarmament
9. Kostaq Beluri, Director of the Fight against Organised Crime and Witness Protection
10. Sali Berisha, head of Democratic Party
11. Roland Bimo, Secretary General of Albanian MFA
12. Richard Bone, Organised Crime Officer, PAMECA
13. Rodrigue Boulay, Technical Adviser, NAMSA
14. Phil Cox, Defence Attache at the British Embassy
15. James Deeney, Organised Crime Initiative Team Coordinator, CAM-A
16. Artan Didi, Director of Directorate for Order and Public Security
17. Fatmir Disha, head of operational division of Directorate of Customs
18. Lawrence Doczy, UNDP Security Sector Reform Programme
19. Namik Dokle, Deputy Prime Minister
20. Borut Erzen, International Advisers Border Management, PAMECA
21. Eglatina Gjermeni, Gender Alliance for Development Centre
22. Rasim Gjoka, Executive Director, Albanian Foundation “Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes”
23. Todi Grazhdani, Directorate for Community Policing and Weapons Collection
24. Spartak Gumaj, Head of Anti-trafficking Sector, Directorate of Fight Against Organised Crime
25. Arben Hanelli, Head of Sector for Border Services
26. Nikos Hatzis International Advisers Border Management, PAMECA
27. Bruce Hintz, ICITAP at US Embassy
28. Shaun Hollenbaugh, Naval Attache US Embassy
29. Bajram Ibraj, General Director of the State Police
30. Rebani Jaupi, Director of Directorate against Terrorist Acts
31. Lek Kashnjeti, MOI armoury
32. Petro Koçi, former Minister of Public Order (Oct. 97–Mar. 98) and Socialist Party Member of Parliament for Fier
33. Genci Kojdhelli, Advisor to the Minister of Public Order
34. Arben Kotobelli, Project Supervisor, NAMSA
35. Rima Koyler, Political Officer, US Embassy
36. MOD officials
37. Fami Neziri, Arms Control Sector, MOD
38. Ahmet Osmani, National Demilitarisation Centre
39. Adlej Pici, ISO
40. Ylli Pinari, General Director of MEICO
41. Joe Preston, British Embassy
42. Albert Rakipi, Albanian Institute for International Affairs
43. Bujar Ramaj, Albania Centre for the Study of Organised Crime and Mafia
44. Ardjan Robja, General Director, Republic of Albanian Ministry of Defence Explosives Plant, ULP Mjebes, Elbasan
45. Giovanni Santoro, Head of Italian Interforce Police Liaison Office
46. Dashamir Shehu, former head of the parliamentary Defence committee
47. Armand Skapi, Head of UN Department, Albanian MFA
48. Elton Skendaj, Director of Peace and Disarmament Education Centre
49. Kenn Underwood, EOD Solutions Ltd
50. Adrian Wilkinson, Team Leader, SEESAC
51. Erion Velliaj, director of Mjaft
52. Illirjan Zaimi, Head of Sector, Sector for Community Policing and Arms Collection

Regional Case Study Interviewees

Berat

1. Aleksander Baci, member of Berat Chamber of Commerce
2. Koco Dafa, Head of Berat Anti-trafficking unit
3. Alfred Kanani, Head of Public Order, Berat Police Commissariat

4. Memli Kasapi, Director of Polican Military Factory
5. Ymer Kordha, Director of External Affairs for Berat Regional Council
6. Arben Konomi, Doctor at Berat Emergency Department, Hospital
7. Lorenc Panganica, Director of Police, Berat
8. Anastas Pjetri, Director of Secondary School

Fier

9. Sali Caushaj, Armament Specialist for the Fier Police Directorate
10. Erjon Cela, Deputy General Prosecutor, General Prosecutor's Office, Fier District Court
11. Ilir Dano, Head of the Fier Regional Council
12. Bajram Gashi, Director of the Education Department, Fier Prefecture
13. Ali Hajdini, Chief Inspector, Fier Police Directorate
14. Agim Hysenaj, Weapons Collection Specialist, Fier Police Directorate
15. Fredi Jorgagji, Deputy Director of the Private High School "Flatrat e Dijes" and Helsinki Committee Correspondent for Fier
16. Iqmet Kononeci, Inspector, Administration of the Fier Prefecture
17. Qydret Kadija, Prosecutor, Fier District Court
18. Robert Metaj, Head of the Surgery Department, Fier Hospital
19. Rajmonda Stefa, Prefect of Fier
20. Marsida Xhafellari, Judge in Fier District Court
21. Hamza Xhaferraj, Head of the Law and Order Department, Fier Police Directorate
22. Baftjar Zeqo, Mayor of Fier

Gjirokastra

23. Besnik Alimema, Head of Weapons Collection Section, Gjirokastra Regional Police Directorate
24. Aristotel Gushi, Surgeon, Gjirokastra Hospital
25. Alfred Kondi, Head of Anti-Trafficking Unit, Gjirokastra Regional Police Directorate
26. Skender Muca, Deputy Chairperson, Gjirokastra Chamber of Commerce
27. Sokol Saho, Director of Gjirokastra Regional Police Directorate
28. Foto Soko, Director of Civil Emergency Office, Gjirokastra Prefecture
29. Thoma Voda, Director of "Koto Hoxhi" High School, Gjirokastra

Kukes

30. Avdulla Domi, Deputy Chairperson, Kukes Chamber of Commerce
31. Besnik Hallaci, Secretary General of the Kukes Prefecture
32. Jonuz Kola, Director of a victims association, Kukes
33. Dritan Musa, Head of Anti-trafficking unit, Kukes Regional Police Directorate
34. Bashkim Ngjeci, Secretary General of the Kukes Regional Council
35. Mark Nufi, Director of Kukes Hospital
36. Shkelqim Pepkola, Head of Kukes Police Commissariat
37. Violeta Sinani, Director of Secondary School, Kukes
38. Ylli Tafili, Director of Kukes Regional Police Directorate

Shkodra

39. Erzen Cera, Head of the Crime Department, Shkodra Police Directorate
40. Pellumb Dani, Head of the Emergency Department, Shkodra Prefecture
41. Gani Dega, Head of Disarmament, Shkodra Police Directorate
42. Gjergj Gjoni, Head of the Armament Department, Shkodra Police Directorate
43. Artan Haxhi, Mayor of Shkodra
44. Qamil Lluka, Deputy Director of the Shkodra Police Directorate
45. Simon Prendi, UNDP
46. Kol Shiroka, Human Resources Director, Education Directorate, Shkodra Prefecture
47. Sokol Syllkja, School Director, High School 'Yordan Misja', Shkodra

Tirana

48. Asllan Domi, Tirana Police Directorate
49. Ilir Sula, Deputy Director, Tirana Police Directorate
50. Luan Hajce, Weapons Collection Chief, Tirana Police Directorate
51. Edlira Haxhiymeri, Prefect, Prefecture of Tirana

52. Agron Kamza, Law and Order Department, Head of Police Commissariat
53. Haxhi Sulaj, Office for Civil Emergencies, Weapons and Security Inspector, Prefecture of Tirana
54. Jorgo Lako, General Secretary, Hunters' Association 'Kujtim Pano'
55. Hajredin Kurti, Emergency, Order and Defence Head, Tirana Prefecture
56. Muhaedin Basha, Armament Department Chief, Tirana Police Directorate
57. Hazir Sadria, Director of Police, Rinas Airport
58. Perlat Rexhepi, Anti Trafficking Department Chief, Tirana Police Directorate
59. Fatmir Bezati, Ministry of Education
60. Alban Nelaj, Head, Albanian Student Government
61. Artan Broci, Judge, Tirana District Court

Other Field Trips

Weapons Collection Ceremony, Tirana Police Commissariat No. 1, 26 April 2005

Field trip to Elbasan – Mengel military base; Mirak ammunition depot; ULP Mjebes destruction facility, 27 July 2005