

Report

On implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Executive Summary

In 2008, Estonia submitted to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations a report on the implementation of the PoA and on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects. Since then there have been only minor changes in legal texts regulating SALW. This report only complements and updates information provided in previous national report.

A.) National level

1. National coordination agency

Estonia does not have a national coordination agency responsible for policy guidance, research and monitoring of SALW issues. The Police and Border Guard Board is responsible for general supervision of small arms and light weapons; it maintains registers and archives containing the data on small arms and light weapons and enforce legislation against illicit trade in SALW. Estonian Tax and Customs Board supervise compliance in its respective areas of competence.

2. National point of contact

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Department of International Organisations and Security Policy

Division of Arms and Strategic Goods Control

Islandi väljak 1

15049 Tallinn

Estonia

Tel: +372 637 7100

Fax: +372 637 7199

e-mail: armscontrol@mfa.ee

The National Point of Contact is located in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The National POC liaises with other States on the implementation of all instruments concerning SALW. Its activities include the exchange of information with other States on national practices and systems for SALW.

3. Legislation, regulations, administrative procedures

i) What national laws, regulations and administrative procedures exist to exercise effective control over SALW in the following areas? (II.2)

- Production
- Export
- import
- transit
- retransfer

National Laws, Regulations and Decrees		
<i>Area:</i>	<i>Law/ Regulation/ Decree</i>	<i>Date</i>
Production	Title of the law in the original language <i>Relvaseadus</i> <i>Lõhkematerjaliseadus</i>	<i>Passed 13 June 2001</i> <i>Took effect 31 March 2002</i> <i>Amended 26 March 2009</i> <i>Passed 24 March 2004</i> <i>Took effect 1 May 2004</i> <i>Amended 4 January 2010</i>
	Title of the law in English translation (and short form) <i>The Weapons Act</i> <i>The Explosive Substances Act</i>	

Short description explaining how the law, either alone or in combination with other national measures, ensures that effective control is exercised over SALW in the area of production.

*Production of SALW is regulated under **Weapons Act** which entered into force on 31 March 2002 and was amended on 26 March 2009 in order to be in line with the European Union regulation on arms trade and to clarify the right of foreigners to own weapons.*

The Weapons Act establishes the legal bases and procedures for the handling of weapons and ammunition; the grant of permission for weapons and ammunition to be used for civilian purposes; the use of weapons and ammunition for civilian purposes and the removal of weapons and ammunition from civilian use; the requirements for firing ranges and field firing ranges; and the bases and procedures for the exercise of state supervision in such areas. The handling of weapons and ammunition is defined in this Act as the manufacture, sale, acquisition, owning, possession, storage, carrying, conveying, transport, import, export, transit, transfer, succession, finding and destruction of weapons and ammunition, and the repair, conversion, dismantling and rental of weapons and the rendering of weapons incapable of firing.

Weapons Act does not cover exports of civilian small arms to countries other than Member States of European Union. These exports are still regulated by Strategic Goods Act.

According to the Weapons Act, an activity licence is required for manufacture and sale of weapons, essential components of firearms, ammunitions and laser sights; storage of weapons and ammunition as a service. Accordig to this Act the weapons, essential components of firearms, ammunition and laser sights shall be manufactured according to the specifications indicated on the activity licence. Activity licences are issued, amended, extended, suspended and revoked by the Police and Border Guard Board. The standard format for activity licences are established by a regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs. Licences are issued by Police prefecture.

*In addition to the provisions of the Weapons Act, the **Explosive Substances Act**, which entered into force on 1 May 2004 and was amended on 4 January 2010 in order to be in compliance with the relevant EU Directive 2007/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, provides requirements for the handling of explosive substances and pyrotechnic articles intended for civilian purposes. This Act does not apply to explosive substances and pyrotechnic articles in the possession of the Defences Forces, Police, Border Guard, Rescue Service Administration and educational institutions for national defence. This Act applies to ammunition containing explosive substances and pyrotechnic articles specified in the Weapons Act with regard to the industrial production thereof.*

In our view, the legislation is comprehensive, defines clearly the requirements and

Reporting Template

	Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X80039&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=1%F5hkematerjaliseadus	
Export	Title of the law in the original language <i>Strateegilise kauba seadus</i>	<i>Passed 17 December 2003</i> <i>Took effect 5 February 2004</i>
Import		
Transit	<i>Relvaseadus</i>	<i>Passed 13 June 2001</i> <i>Took effect 31 March 2002</i> <i>Amended 26 March 2009</i>
Retransfer	Title of the law in English translation (and short form) <i>The Strategic Goods Act</i> <i>Weapons Act</i>	

<p>As above (... in the area of export)</p> <p><i>Export, import, transit and retransfer of SALW is licenced under the Strategic Goods Act and Weapons Act. The Strategic Goods Act regulates the export of dual-use goods and transit thereof through Estonia, the import, export and transit of military goods, the export of services related to military goods (includes brokering), and end-use control of strategic goods. The Act prohibits the export and transit of military goods to countries subject to relevant sanctions binding on Estonia which are established by an institution specified in the International Sanctions Act, regardless of special authorization; the diversion from their intended destination of goods subject to state supervisory control over the import and end-use of strategic goods without the written permission, and re-export of such goods without special authorization by Strategic Goods Commission; the export and transit of weapons of mass destruction, any materials, hardware, software and technology used for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction, and the export and transit of antipersonnel mines, and services related thereto regardless of their country of destination; the import, export and transit of goods used to commit human rights violations and the provision of services related thereto regardless of their country of destination, unless such goods are displayed as objects of historical value in a museum; the export and transit of other strategic goods, the import of other military goods and services prohibited by international agreements, binding on Estonia.</i></p> <p><i>The Weapons Act establishes the basic requirements for the transporting of SALW from third countries to Estonia or for the conveyance of SALW to third countries, respectively. Weapons and ammunition may be imported as goods for release for free circulation on the basis of the special permit specified in this Act by persons holding an activity licence for the manufacture or sale of weapons, essential components of firearms, ammunitions or laser sights, or for conversion or repair of weapons.</i></p> <p><i>In our view, the legislation is comprehensive, defines clearly the requirements and restrictions, role of the government authorities, sanctions etc. The government authorities in charge of control of SALW regularly monitor and evaluate the relevance of the current legislation. The outdated and irrelevant provisions are identified and amended.</i></p>
<p>Web link</p> <p>http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X80013K1&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=strateegilise+kau+seadus</p> <p>http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p>

Reporting Template

Administrative Procedures		
<i>Area:</i>	<i>Administrative Procedures</i>	<i>In place since</i>
Production	<p>Legal basis for the procedure</p> <p>As above (... in the area of production) <i>An activity licence is mandatory for manufacture and sale of weapons, essential components of firearms, ammunition, and laser sights. Activity licences are issued, amended, extended, suspended and revoked by the Police Board. The Police Board shall decide on the issue of or refusal to issue an activity licence within thirty days after receipt of all the required documents. The standard format for activity licences are established by a regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs. An activity licence shall be issued for a period of one up to five years or for the time it takes to perform a temporary duty or task if the amount of time taken to perform the duty or task is less than one year. The holder of an activity licence is required to inform the Police Board in writing of any changes in the data, documents or structure thereof within five working days as of the date of occurrence of such changes.</i></p> <p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=relvaseadus</p>	2004
Export Import	<p>Legal basis for the procedure</p> <p><i>Licensing authority established under the Strategic Goods Act by a regulation of the Government of the Republic.</i></p>	5 February 2004

<p>Transit Retransfer</p>	<p>As above (... in the area of export) <i>In order to obtain an Individual Import Licence, Export Licence or a Transit Permission, a standard format application and documents meeting the requirements shall be submitted to the Strategic Goods Commission. This commission includes representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Security Police Board, the Police Board and the Tax and Customs Board and operates within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The commission may involve representatives of other administrative agencies and other specialists in the performance of its functions. The Minister of Foreign Affairs or an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who is a member of the Commission and designated by the Minister chairs the commission. This commission makes the decisions concerning the issue of or refusal to issue a licence or certificate or permission, as well as to extend or revoke those licences and certificates.</i></p>
	<p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X80013K1&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=strateegilise+kauba+seadus http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X80034&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=strateegilise+kauba+komisjon</p>

ii) What national measures exist to prevent the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of unmarked or inadequately marked SALW? How have these been implemented? (II.8)

According to the Weapons Act, firearms which do not have the manufacturer's marking are prohibited for civilian purposes. A person engaging in the manufacture of weapons or essential components of firearms is required to mark a firearm or an essential component of a firearm with a marking according to the requirements in such a manner that the removal of the marking would be technically complicated or impossible. All weapons are entered into the relevant weapons register book. Violation of the procedures for keeping records and registration of weapons is punishable under the Weapons Act.

The Governmental regulation no 397 of 2002 “Marking Requirements for Firearms and Essential Components of Firearms” states that all weapons in civil circulation that are not marked should be marked by Police Board.

iii) Please describe how national laws, regulations and procedures that impact on the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects are made public. (II.23)

National laws, regulations and procedures are made public through a State Gazette (Riigiteataja) which is published both in the traditional paper format and electronically on the Internet. The advantage of the so-called E-State Gazette is its publication of consolidated texts of

legislative acts. This allows users to move in time from the previous draft of the consolidated text to the next and vice versa. It's user friendly and free of charge, too.

4. Law enforcement/criminalization

- i) What national legislative or other measures exist to make the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of SALW criminal offences under domestic law? How have these measures been implemented? (II.3)

***Penal Code**, entered into force 1 September 2002, establishes penal measures for illicit import and export of prohibited firearms or ammunition without a mandatory document or without an entry in the state register across the frontier of the Community customs territory or a state border; unlawful handling of firearms or essential components thereof or ammunition; unlawful handling of firearms prohibited for civilian use or essential components thereof or ammunition; negligent storage of firearms.*

*According to **Weapons Act**, the punishable acts are: violation of the requirements for the carrying, storage, conveying, manufacture, conversion, repair, sale, rental or transport of weapons, essential components of firearms or ammunition, or violation of other requirements for the handling of weapons, essential components of firearms or ammunition, or violation of the procedure for keeping records and registration of weapons, essential components of firearms or ammunition; failure to hand over weapons or ammunition to the police authorities within the prescribed term by a person whose acquisition permit or weapons permit has expired, has been suspended or revoked, or failure to hand over weapons or ammunition to the owner thereof within the prescribed term by a person whose parallel weapons permit has expired, has been suspended or revoked; failure to return an expired, suspended or revoked acquisition permit, weapons permit or parallel weapons permit to the police authorities or the owner within the prescribed term; the carrying of weapons or ammunition while intoxicated or under the influence of narcotic, psychotropic or psycho toxic substances; the carrying of weapons or ammunition at a public event by a person who does not perform his or her duties of employment or service at the event; violation of the procedure for the issue of weapons permits, parallel weapons permits, permits to carry weapons or weapons collection permits by an official issuing such permits.*

National criminal offences relating to illicit SALW		
Area:	<i>Law / other measure</i>	<i>Date</i>

Reporting Template

Manufacture	Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i>	<i>Passed 6 June 2001 Took effect 1 September 2002 Amended 15 April 2008</i>
	<i>Relvaseadus</i>	<i>Passed 13 June 2001 Took effect 31 March 2002 Amended 26 March 2009</i>
	Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Penal Code</i> <i>The Weapons Act</i>	
	<p><i>According to the Penal Code § 372, economic activities in a field subject to a special prohibition, or activities without an activity licence, other licence, registration or through an unapproved enterprise in a field where such activity licence, other licence, registration or approval of enterprises is required, are punishable by a fine of up to 300 fine units or detention. If committed by an official taking advantage of his or her official position, or by a group, is punishable by 2 to 10 years' imprisonment. If committed by a legal person, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.</i></p> <p><i>According to the Weapons Act § 89, violation of the requirements for the carrying, storage, conveying, manufacture, conversion, repair, sale, rental or transport of weapons, essential components of firearms or ammunition, or violation of other requirements for the handling of weapons, essential components of firearms or ammunition, or violation of the procedure for keeping records and registration of weapons, essential components of firearms or ammunition is punishable by a fine of up to 300 fine units or by detention. If committed by a legal person, is punishable by a fine of up to 50 000 kroons.</i></p> <p><i>Web link</i> http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p>	
Possession	Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i>	
	Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Penal Code</i> <i>The Weapons Act</i>	

Reporting Template

	<p>Short description, including details of penalties <i>According to the Penal Code § 418, unlawful handling of firearms or essential components thereof or ammunition, except for the unlawful handling of small quantities of cartridges, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment. If committed by a group, it is punishable by pecuniary punishment or up to 5 years' imprisonment. If committed by a criminal organisation, it is punishable by 2 to 10 years' imprisonment. If committed by a legal person, it is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.</i> <i>According to the same Act § 418, unlawful handling of firearms prohibited for civilian use or essential components thereof or ammunition, except for the unlawful handling of small quantities of cartridges, is punishable by one up to 5 years' imprisonment.</i> <i>Unlawful manufacture, possession, acquisition, transfer, marketing or other unlawful handling of explosive substances is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 5 years' imprisonment.</i> <i>Under same Act § 419, negligent storage of firearms, if this causes health damage to another person or results in a criminal offence committed by using such firearm, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment.</i></p>								
	<p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p>								
<p>Stockpiling</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 886 1157 984"> <p>Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1167 886 1474 984"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="363 984 1474 1089"> <p>Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Penal Code</i> <i>The Weapons Act</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="363 1089 1474 1138"> <p>Short description, including details of penalties</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="363 1138 1474 1203"> <p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i></p>		<p>Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Penal Code</i> <i>The Weapons Act</i></p>		<p>Short description, including details of penalties</p>		<p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p>	
<p>Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i></p>									
<p>Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Penal Code</i> <i>The Weapons Act</i></p>									
<p>Short description, including details of penalties</p>									
<p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p>									
<p>Trade</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1211 1157 1305"> <p>Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1167 1211 1474 1305"></td> </tr> </table>	<p>Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i></p>							
<p>Title in original language <i>Karistusseadustik</i> <i>Relvaseadus</i></p>									

	<p>Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Penal Code</i> <i>The Weapons Act</i></p>
	<p>Short description, including details of penalties <i>According to the Penal Code § 392, carriage of prohibited goods, or radioactive substances, explosive substances, strategic goods, firearms or ammunition without a mandatory document or without an entry in the state register across the frontier of the Community customs territory or a state border is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 5 years' imprisonment.</i></p>
	<p>Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X40091K6&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Weapons+Act</p>

ii) Have those groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit SALW been identified, where applicable? What action has been taken under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals? (II.6)

Police authorities in Estonia are responsible for criminal investigation of illicit trade in SALW. No organized groups on illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession as well as financing for acquisition has been identified. The criminal actions identified have been committed by private citizens not engaging in an organized crime. The cases identified have been prosecuted and penalized according to Penal Code or Weapons Act.

iii) What national measures have been taken, including legal or administrative means, against activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations? (II.15)

*The arms embargos imposed by the United Nations Security Council as well as by the Council of the European Union, are implemented at the national level by virtue of the **International Sanctions Act**, which entered into force on January 2003. This act regulates the internal application of international sanctions where the imposition of international sanctions has been decided by:*

- 1) the United Nations Security Council,*
- 2) the Council of the European Union,*
- 3) other international organisation, or*
- 4) the Government of the Republic at its own initiative.*

National measures for the enforcement of UN Security Council arms embargoes		
<i>Area:</i>	<i>Legal means</i>	<i>Date</i> 2 January 2003
Enforcement of UN arms embargoes	Law: Title/provision in original language <i>Rahvusvahelise sanktsiooni seadus</i>	
	Title/provision in English translation (and short form) <i>The International Sanctions Act</i>	
	Short description of the functions of the law/provision <i>This act establishes a more precise legal basis for enacting measures necessary for the adoption of international sanctions, thereby making it easier for Estonia to fulfil its international obligations.</i>	
	Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X70011K1&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=international+sanctions+act	

National measures for the enforcement of UN Security Council arms embargoes		
<i>Area:</i>	<i>Administrative means</i>	<i>In place since</i>
Enforcement of UN arms embargoes	Short description of the procedure(s) used to prevent/punish violations <i>According to the International Sanctions Act § 93, violation of measures necessary for application of international sanction is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 5 years' imprisonment. If committed by a legal person, it is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.</i>	
	Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X30068K8&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Penal+Code	

5. Stockpile management and security

i) What national standards and procedures exist for the management and security of SALW stocks held by armed forces, police or other authorized bodies? (II.17)

*In the handling and holding of SALW held by armed forces, guidance is taken from Regulation No 17 of 2009 of the Minister of Defence „**Procedure for handling military weapons and for exportation and importation of battle equipment**”.*

*In the handling and holding of SALW held by Police Board, guidance is taken from Weapons Act and regulation No 7 of 2009 of the Minister of Interior “**Types of civil weapons, and handling and transfer of essential parts, components and ammunition of service weapons**”.*

National standards and procedures for stockpile management and security		
<i>Group:</i>	<i>Standards / procedures</i>	<i>Date</i>
Armed forces	Name and briefly describe <i>The document „Procedure for handling military weapons and for exportation and importation of battle equipment” provides for the stockpiling, holding, bearing, forwarding, conveyance, importation and exportation, alienation, manufacturing and destruction of armaments or for the remaking, repairing, demolition or disabling of military weapons.</i>	<i>Passed 25 March 2003 Took effect 6 April 2003 Amended 1 January 2009</i>
	Web link http://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=13170904	
Police	Name and briefly describe <i>The document “Types of civil weapons, and handling and transfer of essential parts, components and ammunition of service weapons, defines the types of civil weapons and stipulates the conditions of holding these weapons.</i>	<i>Passed 22 March 2002 Took effect 1 June 2002 Amended 30 January 2009</i>
	Web link http://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=13125936	
Other authorized bodies	Name and briefly describe	
	Web link	

ii) How often are stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies reviewed? (II.18)

By armed forces, inventory is conducted once a year to check the existence of weapons as to their amount and number. In addition to that, sporadic check is performed, in the course of which the existence, the conditions of holding, maintenance and being in order of weapons is checked. By Police and Boarder Guard Board, the inventory is conducted at least once a year.

iii) How are those stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies that are surplus to requirements identified? (II.18)

In holding the stocks of SALW by armed forces, guidance is taken from Regulation No 17 of 2009 of the Minister of Defence „Procedure for handling military weapons and for exportation and importation of battle equipment”.

Service weapons that are not used anymore are held and stored in the armoury of Police Board’s logistics department. Police Board will maintain them in the armoury until the commission of experts decides their fate. As a rule, these weapons are subject to destruction.

6. Collection and disposal

i) Please give details of any national programmes that have been established and implemented for the responsible disposal of surplus stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies. (II.18)

The Estonian Defence Forces and Police and Boarder Guard Board have no special program for the disposal of surplus stocks of SALW.

ii) Is destruction the means used to dispose of such stocks? (II.18)

Destruction is a measure for the disposal of surplus stocks of SALW.

iii) What national measures exist to safeguard such stocks prior to their disposal? (II.18)

For the destruction of SALW a relevant commission has been formed to plan, conduct and record the destruction of SALW.

iv) Subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph II.16 of the UN Programme of Action, are all confiscated, seized or collected SALW destroyed? (II.16)

SALW are confiscated by the police. From foreign operations confiscated arms have been brought and disabled, being now used as exhibits. Weapons that have historical or cultural value are not subject of destruction. These weapons are conserved in weapons collection.

v) What methods has your country used to destroy surplus stocks of SALW designated for destruction? (If appropriate, please make reference to the report of the UN Secretary-General (S/2000/1092) of 15 November 2000.) (II.19)

Surplus stocks of SALW are destroyed by melting or by being crushed under a suitable press in a manner which precludes the further use of the weapons as a whole and of any of its components.

vi) Please give details of any information on SALW confiscated or destroyed within your jurisdiction that is submitted to relevant regional and international organizations. (II.23)

Information on the quantities of confiscated and destroyed SALW is submitted annually to the UN and to the OSCE. The total number of firearms destroyed every year is roughly 1000. Police authorities are linked to the National Schengen Information System (NSIS) database for stolen and lost weapons.

7. Export controls

i) Please describe the system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, used by your country for the transfer of all SALW. (II.11)

A license shall be required for import, export and transit of firearms, their essential parts and components and ammunition. Licences are issued according to 1) Strategic Goods Act 2) Weapons Act and 3) the regulation of the Government of the Republic of Estonia.

1) The current export control legislation and procedures are compatible with EU regulations, the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports and with international export control and non-proliferation regimes.

There is a Strategic Goods Commission established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a licensing body which is composed of the representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Security Police Board, Estonian Tax and Customs Board, and Estonian Law Enforcement Board. MFA has a leading and coordinating role, also final word to say on issuing or denying the license.

Strategic Goods Commission decisions regarding the export of military goods are made in accordance with the provisions of the Strategic Goods Act as well as the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports adopted by the European Council on 8 June 1998 and such arrangements as may be agreed subsequently. Strategic Goods Act stipulates the following:

The commission shall refuse to issue a license, if:

1) the goods are subject to following restrictions:

Reporting Template

- *the export and transit of military goods to countries subject to relevant sanctions binding on Estonia which are established by an institution specified in International Sanctions Act, regardless of valid licenses;*
 - *the export and transit of weapons of mass destruction, any materials, hardware, software and technology used for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction, and the export and transit of antipersonnel mines, and services related thereto regardless of their country of destination;*
 - *the import, export and transit of goods used to commit human rights violations and the provision of services related thereto regardless of their country of destination, unless such goods are displayed as objects of historical value in a museum;*
 - *the export and transit of other strategic goods, the import of other military goods, and services prohibited by international agreements binding on Estonia.*
- 2) *there is information that the goods will be used to commit human rights violations in the country of destination;*
 - 3) *there is information that the goods will be used to endanger national, regional or international security, including for terrorist acts;*
 - 4) *there is information that, in the country of destination, the goods will be diverted from their original destination or re-exported under conditions endangering security;*
 - 5) *the import, export or transit of goods or services is in conflict with the international obligations of Estonia.*

The commission may refuse to issue a license, if:

- 1) *the import, export or transit of strategic goods or services endangers or may endanger the interests or security of Estonia;*
- 2) *false information or documents with elements of falsification were knowingly submitted upon application for the license;*
- 3) *within five years before the decision to issue the license, the applicant has violated legislation relating to the import, export and transit of strategic goods or a precept issued on the basis thereof;*
- 4) *within five years before the decision to issue the license, the applicant has violated an international sanction;*
- 5) *criminal proceedings have commenced concerning the applicant;*
- 6) *the import, export or transit of strategic goods or services endangers or may endanger the interests or security of a state which is an ally to Estonia;*
- 7) *strategic goods are going to be transported to a region where there is an armed conflict or danger of an armed conflict;*
- 8) *the export of goods to the country of destination or end-user is in conflict with the guidelines of any organization for export control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction of which Estonia is a member;*
- 9) *there is information that strategic goods produced in the country of destination using know-how or technology exported from Estonia may be exported from that country or diverted from their original destination into the country under conditions endangering security;*
- 10) *other significant reasons exist.*

A license may not be applied for in cases where Estonia has entered into an agreement with an international organization or the country of consignment or destination of the goods for the organization of the export or transit of military goods or the provision of services.

Reporting Template

In the case of services related to military goods, service providers who operate within the framework of a military or humanitarian mission pursuant to a decision of the Ministry of Defense, the Rescue Board, the Police Board, the Security Police Board or the Border Guard Administration shall be exempt from the obligation to apply for a license.

Licenses for temporary export are issued for repair, demonstration and exhibition purposes. The maximum period allowed is one year. A standard condition for a temporary license is that return of the exported goods shall be documented by the Customs services.

Estonia uses electronic programme called Tracker for processing of licences.

2) According to Estonian Weapons Act import, export and transit licences of civil weapons, their essential parts, components and ammunition are issued by the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board. Weapons and ammunition may be imported as goods for release for free circulation on the basis of the import license by persons holding an activity license for sale of weapons. Only firearms and cartridges which have been issued the type approval may be imported to our country, on the condition that the models of the weapons to be imported have been entered in the register of civilian weapons. A record of all imported weapons is being kept by the police authorities.

Simplified procedures have been adopted within European Union for temporary import/export for such purposes as hunting, sport shooting and exhibition. Any person is welcome to Estonia for hunting without any prior consent from Estonian Police if he/she has an European Firearms Pass for a C or D category hunting weapon and a written invitation from our native citizen.

Before issuing an export or transit permission it is verified that the importing State has issued an import licence. The information contained in the export licence is provided in advance to the import State. Information exchange between the appropriate authorities is in place upon the European Community transfers.

The export and import license contains information that, includes the place and the date on issuance, the date of expiration, the country of export, the country of import, the final recipient, a description and the quantity of the firearms, their essential parts, components and ammunition and, whenever there is transit, the countries of transit.

3) According to the regulations of the Government of the Republic:

- an Import Licence of military goods for Estonian defence purposes or temporary export of military items for use by Estonian defence forces in international military missions, is issued by the Minister of Defence;*
- an Import Licence of service weapons is issued by Minister of Interior.*

ii) Please describe the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures used by your country to ensure effective control over the export and transit of SALW. How are these measures implemented? (II.12)

Main legislative act that stipulates regulations and administrative procedures on export and transit of SALW is Strategic Goods Act passed on 17 December 2003 and entered into force 5 February 2004.

Secondary legislation consists of the following:

- 1. Government order no 26 concerning Statute of the Strategic Goods Commission from 29. January 2004;*
- 2. Government order no 60 concerning Statute of State Register of Brokers of Military Goods from 9. March 2004;*
- 3. Government order no 61 Establishing the Terms and Procedure for the Application for, Issue and Revocation of Import Licenses, Export Licenses, Transit Permissions, General Export Authorization User Certificates and End-Use Control Documents from 9 March 2004.*

National laws, regulations and administrative procedures used to ensure effective control over SALW export and transit		
<i>Area:</i>	<i>Laws / regulations / procedures</i>	<i>Date</i>
Export	Title in the original language <i>Strateegilise kauba seadus</i>	5 February 2004
	Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Strategic Goods Act</i>	
	Describe how the law is designed to ensure control over SALW export. Explain how it is implemented in actual practice. <i>A license shall be required for export of firearms, their essential parts and components and ammunition. The above mentioned measures are implemented by Strategic Goods Commission through their day to day control and enforcement.</i>	
	Web link http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/document.asp?ptyyp=RT&q2=strateegilise+kauba+seadus&order=TA&tyyp=X&query=&display=1&nupp=Otsi%21	
Transit	Title in the original language <i>Strateegilise kauba seadus</i>	
	Title in English translation (and short form) <i>Strategic Goods Act</i>	

	<p>Describe how the law is designed to ensure control over SALW transit. Explain how it is implemented in actual practice.</p> <p><i>A license shall be required for transit of firearms, their essential parts and components and ammunition. The above mentioned measures are implemented by Strategic Goods Commission through their day to day control and enforcement</i></p>
	<p>Web link <i>Item as above</i></p>

iii) Does your country use authenticated end-user certificates for this purpose? (II.12)

Strategic Goods Commission requires End User Certificate or similar document on every weapons export transaction. Strategic Goods Commission may also require Delivery Verification Certificate.

iv) Does your country notify the original exporting State when re-exporting or retransferring previously imported SALW? (II.13)

The Strategic Goods Commission notifies the original exporting State about re-exporting or retransfer of previously imported SALW if that was the condition set by the original exporting county in the End Use Certificate, or, if the destination country of the re-export transaction is considered sensitive in terms of the criteria set in EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.

8. Brokering

i) What national legislation or administrative procedures exist to regulate the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering within national jurisdiction and control? (e.g. registration of brokers, licensing or authorization of brokering transactions and appropriate penalties) (II.14)

Arms brokering is strictly controlled in Estonia. The area of arms brokering is regulated by Strategic Goods Act which takes into account all the brokering controls principles that are agreed in UN, OSCE, European Union, and international export control regimes. The provisions on brokering in Strategic Goods Act are equally applicable for all the goods in Estonian Military Goods List (based on EU CML).

Following, see the excerpt from Estonian Strategic Goods Act (2004) on the provisions regulating arms brokering:

Brokering Control:

Chapter 1

General Provisions

§ 3. Services related to military goods

(1) For the purposes of this Act, “services related to military goods” (hereinafter services) means the provision of benefits or transfer of rights related to military goods and not specified in subsection 2 (2) of this Act in the course of business activities, including brokering and technical assistance.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, “brokering” means:

1) the provision or making available of information, practical assistance or funds with a view to arranging or negotiating the arrangement of transactions relating to military goods that involve the transfer of goods from a foreign country to any other foreign country;

2) the acquisition of military goods located in a foreign country with a view to transferring the goods to another foreign country.

(3) The marketing of goods of Estonian origin located in Estonia shall not be deemed to be brokering.

(4) For the purposes of this Act, “technical assistance” means any technical support related to development, manufacture, assembly, testing, repairs, transport or maintenance of military goods, or any other relevant service, and may take forms such as written or oral instruction, training, transmission of working knowledge or skills or consulting services.

Chapter 5

Brokering

§ 38. Broker

For the purposes of this Act, "broker" means a person engaged in brokering as specified in subsection 3 (2) of this Act who receives financial or other gains therefrom.

§ 39. Prerequisites for brokering

(1) A broker may engage in brokering after having been entered in the state register of brokers of military goods (hereinafter register).

(2) A person entered in the register only has the right to engage in the brokering of military goods indicated in the register entry. For each brokering transaction, an individual license shall be applied for.

(3) A person need not be entered in the register if the person is already entered in a register intended for monitoring brokers in a country participating in all export control regimes. Such person shall apply for an individual license for each brokering transaction.

§ 40. Application for entry in register

(1) In order to be entered in the register, a standard format application and documents meeting the requirements shall be submitted to the commission. An application shall be signed by an applicant who is a natural person personally or by the legal representative of an applicant who is a legal person.

(2) The format of applications for entry in the register shall be established by a regulation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(3) The terms and procedure for the application for entry in the register, entry in the register, amendment of a register entry and deletion from the register and the list of documents and information to be submitted upon application for entry in the register shall be established by a regulation of the Government of the Republic.

§ 41. Entry in register and grounds for refusal to enter person in register

(1) The commission shall make a decision to enter a person in the register or refuse to enter a person in the register.

(2) The commission may refuse to enter a person in the register if:

1) false information or documents with elements of falsification were knowingly submitted upon application for entry in the register;

- 2) *within five years before the decision to enter the person in the register, the applicant has violated legislation relating to the import, export and transit of strategic goods or a precept issued on the basis thereof;*
- 3) *within five years before the decision to enter the person in the register, the applicant has violated an international sanction;*
- 4) *criminal proceedings have commenced concerning the applicant;*
- 5) *other good reasons exist.*

§ 42. Amendment of register entry

(1) In order to amend a register entry, a written application shall be submitted to the commission. The commission may request additional documents if necessary.

(2) The commission may refuse to amend a register entry on the grounds specified in clauses 41 (2) 1), 4) and 5) of this Act.

§ 43. Deletion from register

A broker shall be deleted from the register:

- 1) *at the request of the person entered in the register;*
- 2) *if new facts become evident which, had they been known or existed at the time of reviewing the application for entry in the register, would have resulted in a refusal to enter the person in the register;*
- 3) *if the person entered in the register fails to comply with legislation relating to the import, export and transit of strategic goods;*
- 4) *if the person entered in the register violates an international sanction;*
- 5) *a legal person entered in the register is dissolved or a natural person entered in the register dies.*

9. Marking, record keeping and tracing

i) Does your country require licensed manufacturers of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each weapon as an integral part of the production process? (II.7)

The requirements for the marking of firearms and essential components of firearms are established by a regulation of the Government of the Republic. According to this regulation, a person engaging in the manufacture of weapons or essential components of firearms is required to mark a firearm or an essential component of a firearm with a marking according to the requirements in such a manner that the removal of the marking would be technically complicated or impossible. The markings consists of the name of the manufacturer or an internationally recognizable (licensed) identification, the original serial number and calibre designation, the country code (EST), in the case of newly manufactured firearms, and the type of firearm or a generally recognizable identification. This Regulation also provides specifications with respect to the place to be stamped or etched.

ii) Is this marking unique? (II.7)

All arms have unique markings.

iii) Does this marking identify the country of manufacture? (II.7)

The marking includes the name of the manufacturer, as well the country code (EST), in the case of newly manufactured firearms.

iv) How does this marking otherwise allow concerned authorities to identify and trace the relevant weapon? (II.7)

All weapons the use of which is permitted for civilian purposes and all weapons in collections of weapons and cartridges shall be entered in the register of service and civilian weapons. A weapon shall be entered in the register of service and civilian weapons upon its import into Estonia or its delivery from its Estonian producer to the person in Estonia who ordered the weapon and upon each registration of the weapon in the name of the owner or possessor thereof.

Person who manufactures or sells weapons, essential components of firearms, laser sights and ammunition on the basis of an activity licence is required to keep separate records of the weapons, essential components of firearms, laser sights and ammunition. Records shall be kept in a weapons ledger bound with string and sealed with the seal of the police prefecture. The standard format for weapons ledgers are established by a regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs. Weapons, essential components of firearms, laser sights and ammunition manufactured or acquired with the aim of being sold shall be specified on one side of a weapons ledger, and weapons, essential components of firearms, laser sights and ammunition sold shall be specified on the other side of the ledger. Weapons ledgers shall be preserved for five years as of the date of the last entry being made in the ledger.

Military weapons shall be entered in the state register of military weapons (hereinafter register of military weapons) which shall be established and the statutes of which shall be approved by the Government of the Republic on the proposal of the Minister of Defence pursuant to the procedure established by the Databases Act.

Service weapons shall be entered in the state register of service and civilian weapons which shall be established and the statutes of which shall be approved by the Government of the Republic on the proposal of the Minister of Internal Affairs pursuant to the procedure established by the Databases Act.

v) How long are records kept on the manufacture, holding and transfer of SALW under your jurisdiction? (II.9)

Service and civilian weapons records are kept for 10 years as of the date of the last entry being made in the ledger. Military weapons records are preserved for 10 years as of the date of the last entry being made in the ledger.

vi) What national measures exist for tracing SALW held and issued by the State? (II.10)

All armaments of the police are registered and marked.

vii) Please give details of any steps taken by your country to cooperate in tracing illicit SALW, including the strengthening of mechanisms based on the exchange of relevant information. (III.11)

In 2008, the Estonian authorities took part in the International Police Operation DILIGENCE. One of the purposes of the operation was to detect the illicit trafficking in SALW.

10. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

i) Please describe any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes your country has developed and implemented, including the effective collection, control, storage and destruction of SALW. (II.21)

Police prefectures organise illegal weapons and ammunition disposal campaigns from citizens every year. The aim of these campaigns is to reduce the amount of illegal weapons and ammunitions and to raise the security of society. All collected and seized weapons are destroyed.

ii) Please describe how your country has addressed the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular the reunification with their family, their reintegration into civil society, and their appropriate rehabilitation. (II.22)

The Republic of Estonia signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in July 2003. Estonia pays special attention to the issues related to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

iii) Please describe any DDR programmes or activities that your country has supported. (II.30, 34)

Estonia has supported DDR activities indirectly through the European Union.

11. Awareness-raising

i) Please describe any public awareness and confidence-building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed and implemented (including the public destruction of surplus weapons and the voluntary surrender of SALW). (II.20)

- *Strategic Goods Commission keeps and updates the Website of [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (section on export controls)*
- *Seminars are held at least once a year*
- *Information provided by Customs and Tax Board and Strategic Goods Commission for those that try to deliver their goods across borders*
- *Newspaper articles on export controls and regulations*

ii) Please describe any education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has encouraged. (II.41)

No particular public awareness or confidence building programmes have been developed.

B.) Regional level

1. Legally binding instruments

i) Has your country been involved in negotiations for the conclusion of legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? (II.25)

Estonia has participated, either by directly drafting or by providing comments, in the elaboration of instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects within the EU, UN, OSCE, NATO and Wassenaar Arrangement. Estonia strongly supports negotiations on international Arms Trade Treaty. Estonia intends to actively participate in the work of the ATT Open Ended Working Group.

ii) Where such instruments exist, please describe the steps your country has taken to ratify and fully implement them. (II.25)

Existing instruments on SALW are taken into account when the relevant legal acts are revised.

2. Moratoria and action programmes

i) Please give details of any support your country has given moratoria or similar initiatives on the transfer and manufacture of SALW, and/or regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects (including cooperation with States concerned in the implementation of these initiatives). (II.26)

As a member of the European Union, Estonia has supported the ECOWAS moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and supported the efforts of the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Program to transform the Moratorium into a legally binding instrument.

3. Regional Cooperation

i) Please describe any involvement your country has had in the establishment of subregional or regional mechanisms with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW across borders (in

particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies). (II.27)

Estonia participates in the Nordic-Baltic export control related initiatives. A police cooperation agreement is signed between Estonia and Schleswig-Holstein in order to strengthen cooperation in the fights against crime in the Baltic Sea region and to combat, inter alia, the illegal trade in weapons and explosives. The cooperation in fighting against international terrorism, drug and arms trade is developed between Estonia and Russia.

Estonia is an active member of the EU's COARM Working Group.

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to encourage regional and subregional action on illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects in order to, as appropriate, introduce, adhere, implement or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures. (II.28)

Estonia has supported all the actions EU has undertaken to encourage regional and subregional action on illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

C.) Global level

1. International instruments against terrorism and crime

i) What existing international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime has your country ratified or acceded to? (II.38)

The Government of Estonia condemns terrorism in whatever form it may present itself and seeks actively to counteract all forms of terrorism-related phenomena. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan of Action for combating terrorism, adopted on the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bucharest in 2001, and as a partial fulfilment of the goals set, Estonia has become party to all 12 international anti-terrorist conventions and protocols which have been declared of primary importance by the United Nations.

Estonia has also signed and is preparing to ratify the following conventions:

- *the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, opened for signature in New York on 14 September 2005;*
- *the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, opened for signature on 16 May 2005.*

Additionally, Estonia is a party to the following conventions:

Reporting Template

- *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified by the Estonian Parliament on 4 December 2002;*
- *European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and its amending Protocol, ratified by the Estonian Parliament on 6 April 2005;*
- *Convention based on Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention) and its additional protocols, ratified by the Estonian Parliament on 26 January 2005.*

2. International cooperation and assistance

i) Please give details of any assistance, including technical and financial assistance, your country has provided for purposes of supporting the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects as contained in the UN Programme of Action. (III.3, 6, 10, 14)

The Estonian Foreign Ministry has allocated 100,000 kroons for the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs' extra-budgetary fund to help prevent the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in Latin American and the Caribbean Sea nations. The contribution of the Estonian Foreign Ministry went towards helping organize an UN-arranged seminar on increasing capabilities for the prevention of small arms and light weapons trade in Latin America and the Caribbean Sea nations.

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance mutual legal assistance and other forms of cooperation in order to assist investigations and prosecutions in relation to the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (III.13)

Estonia has ratified the European Convention of 20 April 1959 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and concluded numerous bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters

iii) Please give details of any assistance your country has provided to combat the illicit trade in SALW linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism. (III.15)

Estonia has supported all the action EU has undertaken to combat the illicit trade in SALW linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

iv) Please give details of your country's cooperation with Interpol for the purpose of identifying those groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (II.37)

N/A

v) Please give details of your country's use and support of Interpol's International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System database (including providing relevant information on the illicit trade in SALW). (III.9)

The Police and Border Guard Board has access to Interpol's International Weapons and Explosive Tracking System database. Estonia has not had the opportunity to use this database so far.

vi) Please give details of your country's cooperation with the UN system to ensure the effective implementation of arms embargoes decided by the UN Security Council in accordance with the UN Charter. (II.32)

See para 4 iiii above. The UN arms embargoes are implemented nationally. Estonia has not directly supported the UN system on implementation, but has done so indirectly through the European Union.

vii) Please describe any steps your country has taken in cooperation with other states, or regional or international organizations, to develop common understandings of the basic issues and the scope of the problems related to illicit brokering in SALW. (II.39)

At the 64th UNGA, Estonia co-sponsored the following adopted resolutions which are relevant to SALW: "Assistance to states for curbing illicit traffic in SALW and collecting them", res 63/66; "Transparency in armaments", res 63/69; "The Illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects", res 63/22; "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus", res 63/61.

3. Cooperation with civil society and NGOs

i) Please give details of cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations in activities related to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, at the national, regional and global levels. (II.20, 40, 41; III.2, 18)

The cooperation between the states bodies and non-governmental organizations in Estonia has increased significantly in the past several years. The State Chancellery launched in 2007 a initiative "Participate portal" www.osale.ee. The portal allows civil society groups and individuals to post comments about the ongoing consultation processes, while the ministries can provide the public with draft laws, background materials as well as post polls. In the future, the users will also get the opportunity to initiate legislation and comment on the needs and shortcomings in the society that can currently be done through another portal, "Today I decide." The cooperation has not been focused on SALW so far.

4. Information exchange

i) Please describe any steps taken by your country to exchange information on national marking systems on SALW. (III.12)

Estonia has submitted the required information on national marking systems on weapons and firearms in accordance with the OSCE Document on SALW. The information on international transfers on SALW is provided annually to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

ii) Please give details of any information on, inter alia, SALW confiscated or destroyed within national jurisdiction, or other relevant information such as illicit trade routes and techniques of acquisition, that your country has submitted to relevant regional and international organizations. (II.23)

To date, no such information has been recorded in Estonia.

5. Training, capacity-building, research

i) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience and training among competent officials, including customs, police, intelligence and arms control officials, at the national, regional and global levels in order to combat the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (III.7)

Whereas illicit SALW cases in Estonia are rare, no particular initiatives on exchanges of experiences and training have been undertaken. However, last year in November, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the US Department of Energy organized a seminar for entrepreneurs, academics and scientists and customs officers on strategic goods circulation, closely linked to SALW issues. The objective of the seminar was to raise awareness on practical and legal aspects of strategic goods circulation among local entities involved. Participants were updated on the existing legislation and procedures of arms control in the Republic of Estonia. Estonia has also developed a network of cooperation with neighboring countries to share experience and exchange views on exports control.

ii) Please describe any regional and international programmes for specialist training on small arms stockpile management and security that your country has developed or supported. (III.8)

No such programmes have been developed.

iii) Please give details of any action-oriented research aimed at facilitating greater awareness and better understanding of the nature and scope of the problems associated with the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed or supported. (III.18)

As a Member State of the European Union, Estonia has supported action-oriented research through the EU.