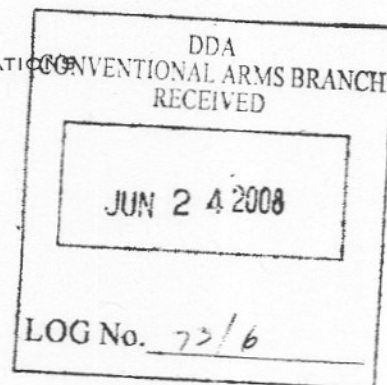




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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat – Office of Disarmament Affairs and with reference to the latter’s Note ODA/02-2008/SALW-BMS, dated 28 January 2008, has the honour to inform the above mentioned Office that the matter of tracking down the illegal trafficking of SALW in Greece is within the scope of duties of the Ministry of Interior. The answer of the said Ministry reads as follows.

The target set for this year , in the framework of anti - crime policy, was to increase the confiscations of illegally possessed and traded SALW, through the elaboration of specialized-targeted action plans, by the competent Police Authorities.

- a. Our efforts focused on two directions:
 - (1) control of legal trade in arms, throughout all its stages (import, trade, possession, use);
 - (2) intensification of controls, in cooperation with competent authorities, aiming at tracking and confiscating illegally imported, traded, possessed and used Small Arms and Light Weapons.

MEASURES FOR CONTROLLING THE LEGAL TRADE IN SALW:

- The Ministry of Interior runs an electronic database, which is the National Central Authority for information sharing and is able to directly receive and forward information on all legally traded and possessed weapons. Such a database is constantly updated to include any changes in possession status.
- All investigated weapons are also entered into this database if they are to be- confiscated or used as evidence in criminal proceedings – whether they are lost, stolen, embezzled, tracked – aiming at their identification in case they are tracked down.

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This database provides the itinerary of each arm / weapon, from its importation up to its final legal holder (arms records).

Furthermore, this database facilitates SALW information exchange with other authorities in and out of Greece.

- A minimum number of controls has been established for each month in every enterprise that is legally active in arms trade. Control data are cross checked with data entered in the electronic database kept in our Office.
- The provisions of the applicable Law 2168/1993 and the Ministerial Decisions rendered by its authority are strictly observed. These regulations constitute the major regulatory framework of our country, governing the issues of arms and weapons. This Law has been harmonized with Directive 91/477/EEC and the SCHENGEN Convention. In some cases, this regulatory framework includes even stricter provisions (article 15 of Law 2168/1993 and article 272 of the Criminal Code, as amended by Law 2928/2001).
- Legal trade in Small Arms and Weapons in our country (import – export – trade and transit) requires a special license by the competent authority, according to the provisions of Law 2168/1993.
- There is excellent cooperation with other investigating authorities of our country (port and customs authorities, Body for the Prosecution of Economic Crimes) as well as with Military Authorities, while information is shared with the competent authorities of the countries wherefrom arms and weapons are imported in or transported to Greece.

MEASURES FOR CONTROLLING THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN SALW:

Since bilateral cooperation at regional and international level is deemed to be indispensable for the prevention and suppression of illegal trade in arms and weapons from one country to another, Greece has entered into transnational agreements of police cooperation with its neighboring countries and is participating in international – regional and bilateral Organizations (Adriatic – Ionian Initiative, SECI EUROPOL – INTERPOL).

- Vehicles and persons entering our country are checked in the established entrance points.
 - Constant controls are carried out in our land and sea borders (in cooperation with port authorities) to prevent illegal imports of weapons by persons who enter Greece illegally.
 - Any disclosed cases are thoroughly investigated, to detect and dismantle networks that may be active in the illegal trade in weapons and arms.
 - Special measures are taken in areas with intense problems of trading, possession and use of arms, in cooperation with local communities and bodies.
- b. At this stage, a procedure is going on concerning the amendment of some provisions of the basic National Legislation on arms to the direction of introducing certain new regulations, such as the provision on the recording of persons who act as mediators in arms transactions (brokers –

brokerage) and the determination of specific activities which shall become the subject of control and licensing.

- c. In the framework of the representation of Greece in International and Regional Organizations and Initiatives, our Officers have participated in 2006 and are currently participating during this year, in meetings and seminars, where Small Arms and Light Weapons issues have been and are being discussed.

One of the Officers of National Police Force is also participating in the meetings of the Working Group of the EU Council, namely in the Technical Harmonization Committee, in relation to the amendment of Directive 91/477/EEC on the control of acquisition and possession of weapons and its adjustment to the provisions of article 10, UN Protocol.

- d. In terms of marking, one should bare in mind the following:

- In Greece there are no companies that produce weapons and arms for commercial use, save for one State Company which produces arms for the Ministry of National Defense.

- With regard to the determination of the Producer Country, the Ministry of Interior is in agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in supporting the NATO STANAG 1059 marking system of the Atlantic Alliance.

1. As for the contact point, this remains as is with no changes.
2. We attach hereto a table with arms/weapons confiscated by the Hellenic Police in 2007, either as items or means of crime commission or tracked as illegally possessed. Such arms / weapons serve as evidence of the legal proceedings and the competent courts shall decide upon their fate, at the hearing of each case, according to article 16 of Law 2168/1993.

The confiscated arms – weapons are:

186 automatic riffles,

404 pistols,

141 handguns,

696 shotguns

bringing the total number of SALW to 1427.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat, Office of Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration



New York , 19 June 2008