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Center for Policy Studies in Russia



ПИР-ЦЕНТР
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The aim of this Bulletin is to provide a regular update on small arms issues in Russia, Former Soviet Union and internationally in order to inform initiatives aimed at combating the proliferation of uncontrolled SALW.

*We hope that you will find these bulletins useful and we welcome any contributions and feedback. Any enquiries, information or suggestions for features or publications for review should be e-mailed to **Elena Franklin** (London) at:*

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TABLE OF CONTENT

<u>INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES</u>	3
<i>PROMOTING EFFECTIVE GLOBAL ACTION ON SMALL ARMS: PRIORITIES FOR THE 2006 UN REVIEW CONFERENCE</i>	3
<u>NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES (RUSSIA/FSU)</u>	5
<i>MOSCOW CALLS FOR COOPERATION ON CONTROL OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARMS</i>	5
<i>THE DUMA DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAS DISCUSSED THE LEGISLATION IN THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL COOPERATION SECTOR</i>	6
<u>NATIONAL NGO'S ACTIVITIES</u>	8
<i>RECENT ACTIVITIES</i>	8
<i>FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES</i>	9
<u>PRODUCTION / TRADE</u>	10
<i>RUSSIAN 2005 ARMS EXPORTS HIT RECORD \$6.1 BLN - OFFICIAL</i>	10
<i>RUSSIAN FACTORY TO DEMONSTRATE NEW SMALL ARMS AT WEAPONS SHOW IN INDIA</i>	10

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

PROMOTING EFFECTIVE GLOBAL ACTION ON SMALL ARMS: PRIORITIES FOR THE 2006 UN REVIEW CONFERENCE

Safeworld, February, 2006

Summary

The first Review Conference for the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects is due to take place in July 2006. This is a major international event. It provides the first formal international opportunity to review and strengthen the UN Programme of Action (PoA) since it was agreed in July 2001. This is important. Trafficking, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) contributes to massive suffering and insecurity across the world each year.

This Report identifies and examines key priorities for the 2006 Review Conference for the PoA. The 2006 Review Conference should:

- Review progress made towards implementing the PoA;
- Consider further agreements and measures to strengthen and promote implementation of the PoA;
- Consider further commitments and programmes that may be needed for effective international action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

In principle, the 2006 Review Conference could aim to revise and strengthen the existing PoA document itself. However, this approach poses risks to the good as well as the weak parts of the existing agreement. So the best approach is instead to focus on negotiating a strong new Review Conference “Outcome Document”, to supplement and strengthen the existing unrevised 2001 PoA agreement. There is emerging consensus amongst States in favour of the latter approach, which we endorse in this Report.

Decisions on the PoA have so far been taken by consensus. This approach strengthens that status and respect for the politically-binding international norms and programmes established, and helps to promote wide international commitment to the process. However, this does not mean that a “lowest common denominator” approach is acceptable. A few “sceptical” governments may be tempted to use consensus rules to exert veto power, and to frustrate the will of the vast majority of countries on some issues. This would be unreasonable. Every effort should be taken to take proper account of the concerns and preferences of all states. But sceptical governments should in the final analysis be prepared to allow progress on proposals that command very wide support, even if they remain doubtful of their benefits.

The 2006 Review Conference needs to review progress and take the decisions required to substantially enhance implementation and develop the PoA. These goals are important. An effective 2006 Review Conference will help to save many lives. The 2006 Conference

has a full agenda, and time is short. Careful and intensive preparations are needed between January and June 2006 if it is to be a success.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES (RUSSIA/FSU)

MOSCOW CALLS FOR COOPERATION ON CONTROL OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARMS

<http://www.bakutoday.net/view.php?d=16094>, 5 February, 2006

This is a partner post from Civil Georgia <http://www.civil.ge/eng/>

Russian Foreign Ministry expressed hope on February 4 that a recovery of an armed man-portable anti-aircraft missile system «IGLA» near the South Ossetian conflict zone will trigger Tbilisi to cooperate more closely with partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States on (CIS) on control and non-proliferation of portable anti-aircraft missile systems

According to the Georgian Interior Ministry IGLA anti-aircraft missile system was found on February 2 in Kareli district of Shida Kartli region. Defense Minister Irakli Okruashvili alleged that the weapon was meant to down President Saakashvili's helicopter.

“We have invited Georgia for several times already to cooperate on the issues related with illegal trafficking of portable anti-aircraft missile systems on the CIS space. Unfortunately, our proposals did not trigger [the Georgian sides] interest. In particular, the Georgian side has not yet undertaken any measures on implementation of September 29, 2003 decision of Council of Heads of CIS States on control of portable anti-aircraft missile systems of “IGLA” and “STRELA” types. Tbilisi has not yet reacted on a draft of multithread agreement in frames of CIS on exchange of information on purchase and sale of portable anti-aircraft missiles,” the Russian Foreign Ministry stated.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also noted that the Georgian side did not send its representatives at the meeting of experts from the CIS countries last year to discuss control and non-proliferation of portable anti-aircraft missile systems.

THE DUMA DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAS DISCUSSED THE LEGISLATION IN THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL COOPERATION SECTOR

Defense and security, 30 December, 2005

IT'S NOT AN EASY UNDERTAKING TO SELL WEAPONS

Alexander Vitkovsky, Parlamentskaya Gazeta, 28 December, 2005

The latest meeting of the Duma defense committee concerned the prospects of improving the legislation in the military-technical cooperation sector.

(...)

The international arms market is very dynamic, and rivalry is very tough. Customers' preferences change. Warplanes accounted for the major part of sales before 2005 (62% of arms exports in 2004). This year naval hardware is first - over 50% of sales.

Experts say that Russia has reached the maximum level of arms exports this year. This is why it should seek new ways to develop the system of military-technical cooperation. The legislation must play the leading role in this sector.

The Duma should determine the new status, role and place of the intermediary in the system of military-technical cooperation. A state-run corporation is the most optimal form. (...)

The creation of such corporation should be determined by a federal law, which would reflect all aspects of its activities. The Federation Council has already prepared its proposals. The bill on the Rosoboronexport corporation has been approved by the working group established by the president.

In addition, lawmakers must improve the efficiency of all mechanisms of military-technical cooperation. First and foremost, this concerns the law on military-technical cooperation, which was passed in 1998. It's high time for the Duma to revise some provisions of this law.

In addition, Russia needs the law on leasing of military products. At present, the Russian laws ban such transactions. However, many partners are interested in such form of cooperation. Practically all African and many Asian partners cannot pay for up-to-date weapons, and leasing would let them buy expensive military hardware from Russia. This would let Russia expand to new markets.

In addition, lawmakers need to improve the federal law on state-run and

municipal unitary enterprises and the law on rivalry.

It's very important to solve visa problems at legislative levels. It's a paradox that the law does not let Russia meet its commitments to train foreign cadets if the duration of their education exceeds 12 months. For instance, foreign crews of warships need to leave Russia once a year in order to receive new visas and return to Russia.

The same concerns the Customs Code. It will take 52 months to reconstruct the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft-carrier, which was sold to India. This is twice longer than the law permits. The Duma defense committee supported plans to make amendments to the Customs Code in connection with this contract.

There are collisions with the tax legislation when foreign customers supply goods in exchange for military hardware. This problem could be solved by means of amendments to article 165 of the Tax Code.

(...) The committee established a working group, which will prepare proposals concerning all these issues.

NATIONAL NGO'S ACTIVITIES

RECENT ACTIVITIES

On 27th February – 3^d March 2006 Saferworld and the PIR Center organised three events in St.Petersburg as part of a joint project on Building Civil Society Capacity to Engage with Government to Tackle SALW.

The week started with 2 rounds of lectures at the St Petersburg State University, at the Dept of International Relations. Both lectures were very well attended and enjoyed a sustained attention of the students. Presentations were made by Vadim Kozyulin (PIR-Center), Bernardo (SW) and Elena Franklin (SW). They covered a range of topics from the role of civil society through SALW definitions to arms export controls and the ATT initiative.

Day 2 focused on the round table meeting with local experts, which was co-hosted by the ST Petersburg European University:

- Mikhail Mikhailovich Rodionov, a professor of St.Petersburg University, a retired policeman of 30 years professional experience, but also an expert associated with “Citizen’s Watch”, an NGO working on law-enforcement reform
- Andrey Mikhailovich Evdokimov - Chief editor of a journal “Defence and Security”.

They managed to present a personal but interesting view on local aspects of misuse of arms, as well as stir a discussion and interest. The promotion of responsible behaviour and adherence to international standards by Russia were promoted on the other side of the table by Vadim Kozyulin and Bernardo Mariani. The meeting enjoyed an exceptionally high attendance of journalists, including radio and two TV stations.

The remaining part of the week was dedicated to the civil society training on SALW. All participants were local, mostly academics, some with a substantial experience in related issues and a degree of involvement with local NGOs. Two sets of interesting plans for future activities on SALW were designed by participants and SW and PIR-Center discussed options for involving them in further research.

The overall rating by the participants was very high both in terms of methods as well as the content.

For more information please visit the SALW Resource Centre website:

http://www.pircenter.org/cgi-bin/pimews/news.cgi?CategoryID=1&TypeInfo=128&Template=iso_news_e&L=1

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

On 20-22 April 2006, the Center for Political Studies in Russia (PIR-Center) will hold an International Conference in the Context of Russia's G8 Presidency «G8 Global Security Agenda: Challenges & Interests. Towards the St. Petersburg Summit» in Moscow

In mid May 2006, the Center for Political Studies in Russia (PIR Center) and Saferworld will organize a public meeting and a training workshop for civil society organisation in Vladivostok.

The public meeting will be attended by representatives of local authorities, media, NGOs, academics and interested members of the public. It will introduce the joint PIR Center/Saferworld project activities in Russia within the framework of the EC funded programme 'Building civil society capacity to tackle small arms issues in Russia'. The meeting will also discuss the level of threat to community safety created by small arms and light weapons possession and transfers in and around the Far East region and the potential for local civil society to engage in small arms control activities.

Following the public meeting, the PIR Center and Saferworld will hold a three-day training workshop on small arms control for civil society representatives from the Vladivostok region.

The workshop will develop ideas and a shared understanding of small arms control issues that are relevant to Russia and will allow participants to learn more about international initiatives in the field of small arms control, and to consider whether and how these experiences are relevant to Russia, with particular attention to the Far East region.

For details about these activities, please contact Elena Franklin at efranklin@saferworld.org.uk, or Anastasia Laguta at laguta@pircenter.org)

PRODUCTION / TRADE

RUSSIAN 2005 ARMS EXPORTS HIT RECORD \$6.1 BLN - OFFICIAL

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20060209/43444103.html>

RIA Novosti, 9 February, 2006

Russian arms exports in 2005 reached \$6.1 bln hitting a record high in recent times, a senior official said Thursday.

Mikhail Dmitriyev, the head of the Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation, said: «The figure for Russia's exports in 2005 was highest for the past few years. The final figure is \$6.126 billion».

Dmitriyev said orders for military-related hardware had reached the Soviet-era level of \$23 billion in the past few years rising from \$15-\$16 billion.

«The portfolio of orders usually stood at \$15-\$16 billion [in recent years], but it is growing all the time and currently stands at \$23 billion», Dmitriyev said.

According to Dmitriyev, Russia's state-controlled arms exporter, Rosoboronexport, accounts for 85% of a total country's arms exports, with the Sukhoi aircraft holding, and aerospace corporations MiG, and Salut accounting for the remaining 15%.

Dmitriyev said Russia's exports of spare parts and instruments had increased five-fold to \$300 million due to an increase in the number of Russian enterprises working on international markets. «We expect this figure to reach \$400 million next year,» he said, adding that this was an unprecedented figure.

According to Dmitriyev the agency is re-orienting its strategy toward «the maintenance of [Russian-made] hardware abroad, [by] opening new service and maintenance centers, and joint ventures to deal with this problem».

Dmitriyev said the agency was seeking new maintenance projects in the Southeast Asia (Vietnam and China), Africa (Ethiopia and Algiers), the Middle East and South America.

RUSSIAN FACTORY TO DEMONSTRATE NEW SMALL ARMS AT WEAPONS SHOW IN INDIA

Russia & CIS Military Newswire, January 18, 2006

The Izhmash Consortium is going to demonstrate new exports versions of its small arms at DEFEXPO INDIA 2006 to be held in New Delhi from January 31 to February 3, 2006.

It is going to be the third time the consortium shows its exhibits as part of the joint Russian exposition. It will demonstrate a long model line of its small arms, including AK series assault rifles, SVD and SVDS sniper rifles, AN-94 Nikonov assault rifle, Bizon sub-machine gun, and hunting weapons, namely Saiga-12S, Saiga-M3 and Saiga-MK

carbines, reads the press release of the consortium received by Interfax-Military News Agency Wednesday.

According to it, Izhmash has successfully implemented a number of important contracts with India in the past few years, and is going to expand the relations in future.

«Hunting semiautomatic weapons are expected to be in demand for service with the Indian police and security forces,» reads the press release.

Defexpo India is among the most important arms shows in Asia. It is organized under the auspices of the Indian government and Defense Ministry once every two years. Weapons for the land forces and navy are usually demonstrated at the show.

Over 400 companies from 25 countries are expected to take part in the arms show in India this year.

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The opinions expressed by the authors in this bulletin do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial team.

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