EUROPE

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N o r w a y

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R u s s i a n
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Slovakia

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Italy

BH

Serbia

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Marino

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See

Portugal

Spain

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Greece

Malta

Section contents

BSEC	Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CU	Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation
EU	European Union
EUROCONTROL	European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation
Europol	European Law Enforcement Agency
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RACVIAC	RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center

Name

Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

Headquarters

Istanbul, Turkey

Web site

www.bsec-organization.org

Short description

BSEC is a regional inter-governmental economic cooperation organization aimed at enhancing mutual respect and confidence, dialogue, and cooperation among its member states in a spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness.

Membership

12 members
(all UN member states)

Notes

BSEC was created in 1992 by 11 founding members. Its Permanent International Secretariat was established in 1994 and its charter, adopted in 1998, entered into force in 1999. Serbia and Montenegro became the 12th member state in 2004. (After Montenegro became independent in 2006, Serbia's membership has continued.) BSEC has 17 observers and 16 sectoral dialogue partners that include countries and organizations from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Funding

BSEC members provide compulsory contributions to run its Secretariat, and voluntary contributions to its two project funds (BSEC Project Development Fund and BSEC Hellenic Development Fund).

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

BSEC members represent:

- 4 of 9 CIS members (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and the Russian Federation are CIS members)
- 3 of 27 EU members (Bulgaria, Greece, and Romania are EU members)
- 4 of 4 GUAM members
- 6 of 10 RACVIAC members (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey are BSEC members)
- 7 of 13 SELEC members (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey are BSEC members)

PoA POC

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PoA-related activities

Under its 1998 charter (which entered into force in 1999), BSEC members agreed to work together to, among other things, combat organized crime and the illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, and radioactive materials (Article 4). BSEC members' interior ministers have subsequently concluded numerous agreements and protocols to move this agenda forward. The 1998 Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Crime (which entered into force in 1999) makes explicit reference to cooperation to counter the 'illicit trafficking in weapons' and promotes the exchange of information among its members to address this concern (Articles 1 and 2). The 2002 Additional Protocol to the BSEC Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Crime established a 'BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime' (Article 1). The 2004 Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the above-mentioned agreement committed states to exchange information on 'illicit trafficking of weapons, including ammunition' (Article 5, para. g) and to cooperate closely to prevent, disclose, and suppress financial support for and delivery of weapons and ammuni-

tion (Article 6, para. f). The Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime in Particular in Its Organized Forms meets regularly to follow up on the implementation of the previously mentioned BSEC agreements and to foster regional cooperation in fighting organized crime. The working group has been preparing annual reviews on transnational crime trends in the BSEC region starting from 2009, which serve as valuable tools for BSEC policy-makers.
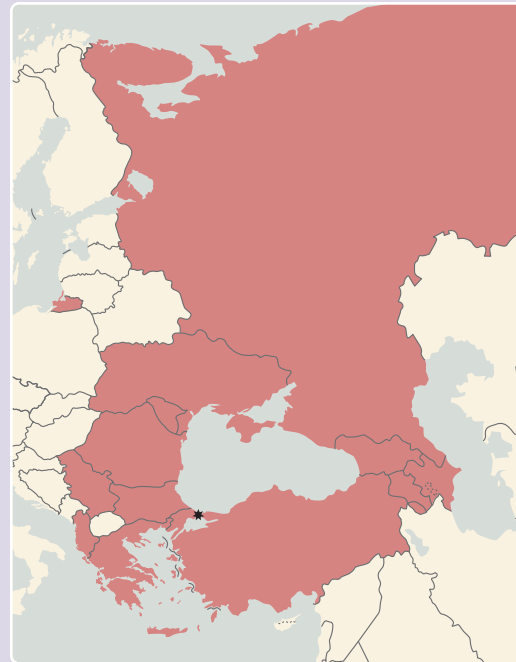
PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

None

Legally binding regional instruments

- Charter of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (1998)
- Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms (1998)
- Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms (2002)
- Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms (2004)

Other official documents of interest

- Joint Statement Adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs/Public Order of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Member States (2002)
- Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Strengthening Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism (2006)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

- **Current members***
  Albania, **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan**, **Bulgaria**, **Georgia**, **Greece**, **Moldova**, **Romania**, **Russian Federation**, Serbia, **Turkey**, **Ukraine**

  Bold: founding member
- **Former members:** None
- **Membership pending:** Kyrgyzstan

* Information accurate as of 21 June 2012

Name

Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (CU)

Headquarters

Moscow, Russian Federation

Web site

www.tsouz.ru

Short description

The CU is a free-trade alliance among three former Soviet republics to harmonize customs rules, establish common external tariffs, and create a common economic space.

Membership

3 members
(all UN member states)

Notes

Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Ruessian Federation established the CU in October 2007. They envisage it as an initial step towards creating an EU-type Eurasian union. Kyrgyzstan applied for membership in April 2011 and is expected to join in 2013.

Funding

CU member states provide annual funding to pay for the salaries and expenses of the CU Commission, the organization's regulatory body (expected to be replaced by the Eurasian Economic Commission in the second half of 2012). In 2011 the commission's budget was about USD 14.8 million, with the Russian Federation contributing 57 per cent and the other two countries paying 21.5 per cent each. No funds are allocated for specific PoA-related activities.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

CU members represent:

- 3 of 9 CIS members
- 3 of 7 CSTO members
- 3 of 6 EurAsEC members
- 2 of 6 SCO members (Belarus is not a SCO member)

PoA POC

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PoA-related activities

In November 2009 the CU adopted a common list of small arms, their parts, and ammunition whose export, import, or transit are banned or restricted in the CU's territory. The 'ban' list includes civilian firearms designed for automatic fire and firearms disguised as other objects, among other items. The 'restriction' list includes service and civilian firearms, which require export/import licences or transit permits from the relevant national authorities of CU member states. The CU entered into force on 1 January 2010 and in September 2010 heads of law enforcement units of member states' customs services held a working meeting in Moscow as part of their efforts to intensify inter-agency cooperation in the fight against violations of the customs regulations. During the meeting the participants approved the Action Plan for 2010–11, which included specific activities at the CU's borders to prevent, detect, and intercept smuggling channels, and laid down the coordination procedures among their units. Currently, in an effort to harmonize their export control rules

and procedures, and effectively control transfers of goods and technologies subject to export controls, including weapons and military equipment, the CU member states are discussing the draft of an agreement on the common order of export control.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

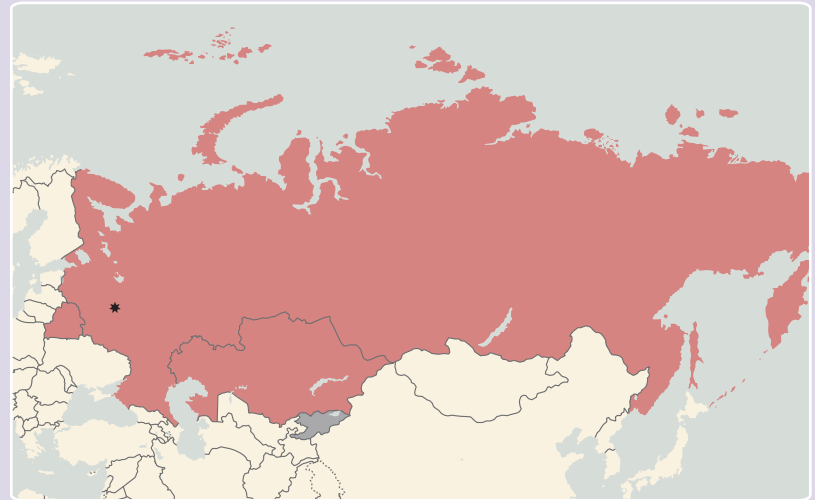As an entity, the CU is not involved in PoA-relevant cooperation with other organizations.

Legally binding regional instruments

■ Treaty on Establishing a Common Customs Territory and Forming a Customs Union (2007)
■ Common List of Goods, Exports or Imports Which Are Banned or Restricted by the CU Member States When Trading with Third Countries (2009)

Other official documents of interest

■ Agreement on the Common Order of Export Control by the CU Member States (to be signed)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

■ **Current members***
Belarus, **Kazakhstan**, **Russian Federation**

Bold: founding member

■ **Former members:** None

■ **Membership pending:** Kyrgyzstan

* Information accurate as of 24 May 2012

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Name
European Union (EU)

Headquarters
Brussels, Belgium

Web site
www.europa.eu;
http://eeas.europa.eu/
cfsp/salw/

Short description
The EU is an economic
and political partnership
with the main objec-
tives of promoting peace
and the well-being of
its people through
common economic,
foreign, security, and
justice policies.

Membership
27 members
(all UN member states)

Notes
The EU traces its origins from
the European Economic Com-
munity, formed by six countries
in 1958. The Maastricht Treaty
established the EU under its
current name in 1992. Since
2007 there has been a total of
27 member states. Six additional
countries are candidate or aced-
ing countries.

Funding
The EU budget is funded
by contributions from
its 27 member states.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
EU members represent:

- 27 of 27 Europol members
- 21 of 28 NATO members
- 27 of 56 OSCE members
- 19 of 46 RCC members

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* Plus another 17 official EU languages

PoA-related activities
The EU's commitment to strong arms transfer con-
trols began with the adoption in 1998 of the Code
of Conduct on Arms Exports, replaced since 2008
by the Council Common Position Defining Common
Rules Governing the Control of Exports of Military
Technology and Equipment, including small arms.
In 2003 the EU Council also adopted the Common
Position on the Control of Conventional Arms Broker-
ing. The EU Council Working Party on Conventional
Arms Exports (COARM) ensures coordination among
EU member states in their national implementation
of the 2008 Common Position. The EU also pub-
lishes a regular annual report providing data on
EU member states' arms exports to third countries.
In 2005 the EU Council adopted a strategy to fight
against the illicit accumulation and trafficking of
small arms, in which international cooperation
and assistance play a central role. Its implementa-
tion is monitored with six-monthly progress reports.
EU assistance programmes cover, for instance, the
full implementation of relevant multilateral instru-
ments, stockpile management, the destruction of

surplus weapons, assistance on the control of small arms exports, training to improve border controls, and actions to counter illegal trafficking flows and confront the root causes of illegal demand for small arms. The EU Council Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Controls (CODUN) holds regular meetings dedicated to the issue of small arms and their ammunition and, among other things, discusses current and future projects and areas of cooperation.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

The EU is a major donor funding PoA-related activities in close cooperation with other ROs, for instance EAC, CEEAC, ECOWAS, RECSA, SEESAC, SICA, and INTERPOL. In addition it also regularly cooperates and/or consults with ASEAN, NATO, the OSCE, UNODA, UNODC, and others.
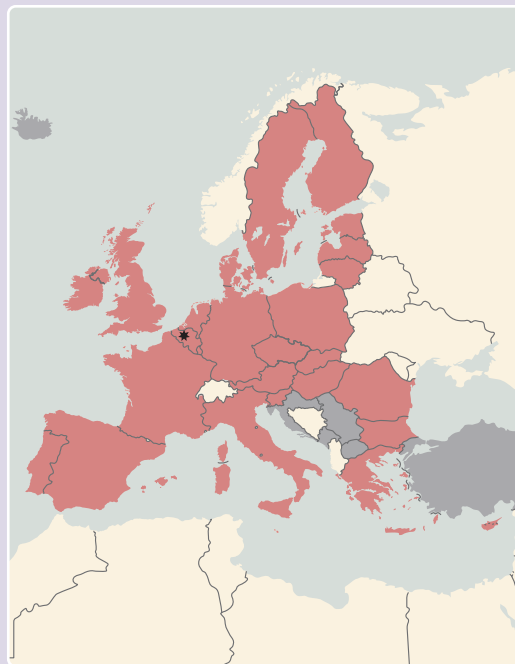
Legally binding regional instruments

- Council Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the Control of Arms Brokering (2003)
- Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP Defining Common Rules Governing the Control of Exports of Military Technology and Equipment (2008)
- Council Decision 2010/765/CFSP on EU Action to Counter the Illicit Trade of SALW by Air (2010)
- Council Decision 2011/428/CFSP in Support of UNODA Activities to Implement the UN PoA (2011)

Other official documents of interest

- EU Strategy to Combat the Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Their Ammunition (2005)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

- **Current members***
  Austria, **Belgium**, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, **France**, **Germany**, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, **Italy**, Latvia, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Malta, **Netherlands**, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

  Bold: founding member

- **Former members:** None

- **Membership pending:**
  Croatia (acceding); Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey (candidates)

* Information accurate as of 13 June 2012

Name

European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL)

Headquarters

Brussels, Belgium

Web site

www.eurocontrol.int

Short description

EUROCONTROL is a civil–military organization committed to building, together with its partners, a Single European Sky that will deliver air traffic management performance for the 21st century and beyond.

Membership

39 members
(all UN member states)

Notes

At its founding in 1960 EURO-CONTROL had six members (see below). Its membership doubled between January 1965 and January 1991 (with the successive additions of Ireland, Portugal, Turkey, Malta, and Greece). Membership reached 28 by the end of the 1990s. Latvia, the organization's most recent member, joined in January 2011. The European Community signed an Accession Protocol in 2002.

Funding

The agency budget (EUR 673 million in 2012) is mainly financed (77 per cent) by contributions from the 39 members (for operational expenditure) and bank loans (capital expenditure). Annual contributions are determined by a formula that includes the gross national product and the air traffic route facility cost base of each member. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom contribute about 60 per cent of the total budget (the Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre and the Central Route Charges Office are financed separately).

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

EUROCONTROL members represent:

- 26 of 27 EU members (Estonia is not a EUROCONTROL member)
- 24 of 28 NATO members (Canada, Estonia, Iceland, and the United States are not EUROCONTROL members)
- 39 of 56 OSCE members

PoA POC

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PoA-related activities

EUROCONTROL warehouses data on all Instrument Flight Rules flights within its airspace dating back to 1995. It also maintains its own aircraft database, which can be accessed via a secure web login. Since 2011 it has had an agreement with the UN for questions relating to flights in its airspace. UN Security Council Panels of Experts examining possible UN sanctions violations may inquire about specific flight data, which EUROCONTROL will evaluate on a case-by-case basis as to whether it can furnish the information desired.

(EUROCONTROL is exploring similar arrangements with INTERPOL, the ICC, and US Africa Command.)

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

EUROCONTROL is currently discussing the possibility of entering into an arrangement with the OSCE similar to the one it concluded with the UN (discussed above).
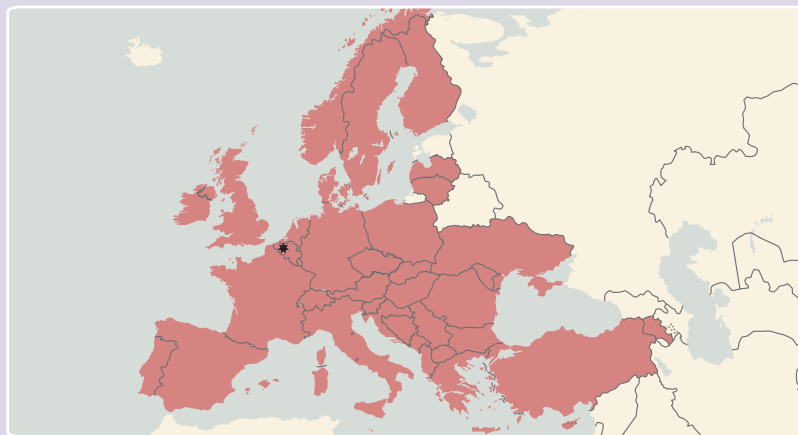
Legally binding regional instruments

■ None

Other official documents of interest

■ None

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

■ **Current members***

Albania, Armenia, Austria, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, **France**, **Germany**, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, **Netherlands**, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, **United Kingdom**

Bold: founding member

■ **Former members:** None

■ **Membership pending:** None

* Information accurate as of 22 May 2012

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EUROPOL

Name
European Law
Enforcement Agency
(Europol)

Headquarters
The Hague,
the Netherlands

Web site
www.europol.europa.eu

Short description
Europol's mission is to
improve the effective-
ness of and cooperation
among EU law enforce-
ment authorities in
preventing and combat-
ing serious international
crime and terrorism,
with the aim of achiev-
ing a safer Europe for
all EU citizens.

Membership
27 member
(all UN member states)

Notes
Europol members are aligned
with the EU membership. The
first steps towards establishing
Europol can be traced back to
the 1970s; however, its role
and scope evolved until the
Maastricht Treaty, which came
into force in 1998, established a
convention. Europol became
operational in 1999. Reforms
brought in by a new legal frame-
work in 2010 made Europol an
EU agency.

Funding
Europol is financed
from the EU budget
and is subject to EU
financial and staff
regulations. After it
became an EU agency,
the European Parlia-
ment gained increased
control over Europol
activities and budget.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
Europol members
represent:

- 27 of 27 EU members
- 21 of 28 NATO members
- 27 of 56 OSCE members
- 19 of 46 RCC members

PoA POC
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* Plus another 17 official EU languages

PoA-related activities
Europol handles the exchange and analysis of crim-
inal intelligence across the EU. It has a permanent
exchange of communications and criminal data
connection with national units, which are based in
every EU member state, and supports around two
million EU law enforcement officers. Firearms are
often confiscated or dealt with as part of responses
to maritime piracy, money laundering, and the
trafficking of drugs, humans, and other commodi-
ties. In 2010 a Europol policy brief considered
firearms possession by both organized crime groups
and lower-level street gangs to be rising. It recom-
mended the following operational priorities: joint
investigations focused on 'dedicated armourers'
and 'specialist brokers' of firearms based in the EU;
dedicated efforts to investigate and monitor the
flows of firearms leaving South-east Europe for the
EU; and the detailed recording of the quantity and
types of illegal firearms seized in law enforcement
operations, as well as those recovered in interdic-
tions of multi-commodity shipments. Operation
Shovel (2010) is an example of these measures. It
focused on an Ireland-based violent organized crime

group involved in drugs and weapons trafficking across Europe. Europol assisted law enforcement agencies in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Belgium by providing analyses and helping these agencies to detect criminal proceeds related to the group's activities and dismantle the group's money-laundering network. Europol held operational and coordination meetings and supplied mobile offices in three countries on the day of the operation, thus allowing investigators to securely exchange intelligence in real time. More than 600 pieces of information were exchanged via Europol channels, and together with the coordinated efforts of over 700 investigators, 38 arrests were made in three countries. In 2004 Europol was authorized as an international entity to access INTERPOL's encrypted communications system (I-24/7) and databases. In 2007 INTERPOL opened a liaison office in Europol headquarters to strengthen ongoing collaboration between the two police organizations. Europol also has strategic agreements with WCO and UNODC.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs
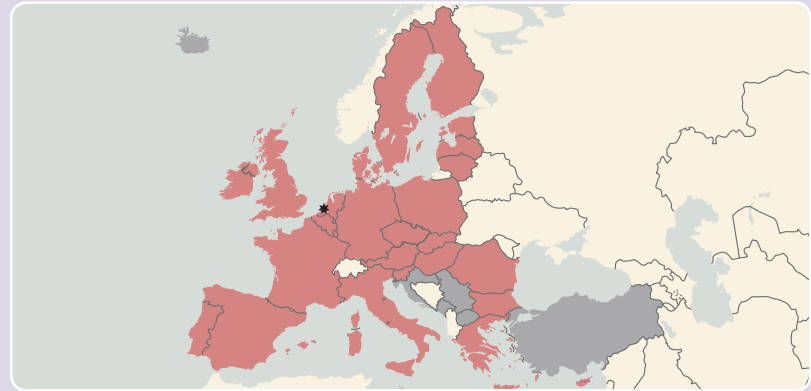
Europol is an observer of AMERIPOL.

Legally binding regional instruments

- As an EU agency, all EU legally binding instruments apply to Europol.

Other official documents of interest

- *Europol Review: General Report on Europol Activities 2010* (2011)
- 'Integrated EU Approach against the Illegal Trafficking in Heavy Firearms', OC-SCAN Policy Brief for Threat Notice, No. 004-2010 (2010)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

- **■ Current members***
  Austria, **Belgium**, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, **France**, **Germany**, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, **Italy**, Latvia, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Malta, **Netherlands**, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

  Bold: founding member

- **■ Former members:** None

- **■ Membership pending:** Pending EU memberships are the same for Europol: Croatia (acceding); Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey (all candidates).

* Information accurate as of 26 April 2012

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Name

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Headquarters

Brussels, Belgium

Web site

www.nato.int;
www.namsa.nato.int;
www.msiac.nato.int

Short description

NATO is a political and military alliance. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and security means.

Membership

28 members
(all UN member states)

Funding

NATO's 28 Allies cover operating costs for the organization's civil and military budgets, and the Security Investment Programme through assessed contributions. Dues from four members—the US, Germany, the UK, and France—cover more than half of this total. Voluntary funding—including from non-NATO Allies—supports many activities. For example, Canada, the EU, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the US have all contributed more than a million euros each to PoA-related NATO Trust Fund projects that promote small arms PSSM and destruction (some of which included land mines).

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

NATO members represent:

- 21 of 27 EU members (Albania, Canada, Croatia, Norway, Turkey, and the United States are not EU members)
- 28 of 56 OSCE members

PoA POC

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🔍 A C D E F G P R S *

PoA-related activities

NATO addressed PoA concerns prior to 2001. Examples include a 1997 manual on safely storing military ammunition and explosives, and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action established in 1999, which engages donors and recipients. It shares experiences and expertise to counter the threats posed by the illicit trade in small arms. It has convened workshops to counter the illicit proliferation of MANPADS (in 2007) and to combat the illicit brokering of small arms (in 2009). Subsequent to the PoA, the NATO Trust Fund was expanded to support three PoA-related activities: (1) the destruction of surplus small arms and their munitions; (2) PSSM of this same material; and (3) the retraining and resettlement of military personnel. NATO has also conducted a number of weapons collection and destruction programmes in the Balkans. NAMSA has implemented NATO Trust Fund projects in more than ten countries, providing technical and managerial expertise. MSIAC collates data on accidents involving munitions, sharing information and analysis

with those Allies funding this initiative, and providing best-practice guidance on transport and storage to all 28 Allies and 41 partners. The NATO School offers two courses on small-arms-related issues. Civil society organizations help instruct students (mid- and high-level military and foreign affairs career officers) from both Allied and partner countries. In 2011 NATO's 50-member EAPC initiated a structured information exchange (SIE) on ongoing small arms projects to aid cooperation and help avoid the duplication of efforts. EAPC is extending this initiative and developing the matrix.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

NATO co-hosted a conference with the OSCE in 2008 on ROs and the PoA. Since 2010 NAMSA, the EU, the OSCE, SEESAC, and UNDP have met once a year to coordinate their small-arms-related projects. They participated actively in the above-mentioned SIE.
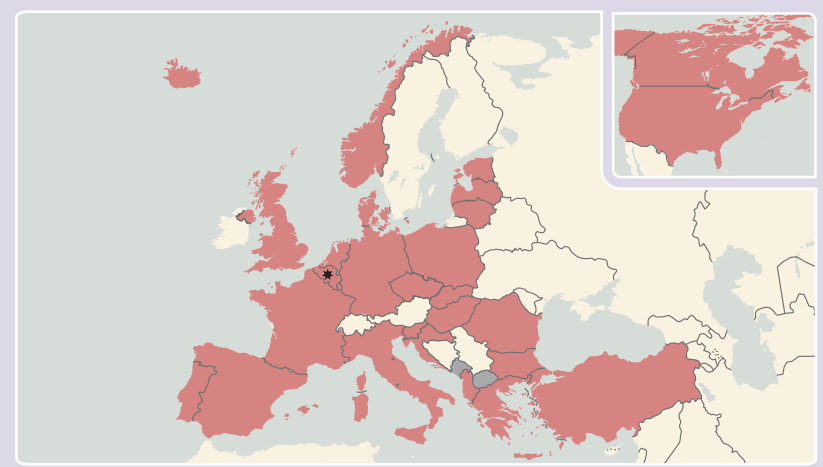
Legally binding regional instruments

- None

Other official documents of interest

- NATO AASTP-1: *Manual of NATO Safety Principles for the Storage of Military Ammunition and Explosives* (1997)
- EAPC Workshop on Combating Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons (2009)
- EAPC Workshop on Clearing Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) with a Focus on Cluster Munitions (2010)
- EAPC Structured Information Exchange on Projects Pertaining to SALW and Ammunition (2011)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

■ **Current members***
Albania, **Belgium**, Bulgaria, **Canada**, Croatia, Czech Republic, **Denmark**, Estonia, **France**, **Germany**, **Greece**, Hungary, **Iceland**, **Italy**, Latvia, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, **Netherlands**, **Norway**, Poland, **Portugal**, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, **Spain**, **Turkey**, **United Kingdom**, **United States**

Bold: founding member

■ **Former members:** None

■ **Membership pending:** Macedonia, Montenegro

* Information accurate as of 16 May 2012

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OSCE

Name

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Headquarters

Vienna, Austria

Web site

www.osce.org

Short description

The OSCE addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism, and economic and environmental activities.

Membership

56 members (55 are UN member states)

Notes

The OSCE's predecessor, the CSCE, was established in 1975 with 35 states having signed the Helsinki Final Act. Its original purpose was to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West; however, in response to the changes in the post-cold war era, the organization became the OSCE in 1994. The Holy See is the only non-UN member state. It is the largest regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. The OSCE also has 12 Partners for Cooperation, who can observe meetings and share special or formal relations with the OSCE: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mongolia, Morocco, South Korea, Thailand, and Tunisia.

Funding

Participating states agree a modest unified budget based on two scales of assessed contributions (for institutions and field operations). Most of the unified budget funding goes to field activities. In 2012 the unified budget was EUR 148 million. Many key initiatives and projects are funded through extra-budgetary contributions of participating states and partners. On small arms destruction and stockpile management security alone, participating states pledged over EUR 20 million in extra-budgetary contributions during 2005–11, with the United States being the largest donor.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

OSCE members represent:

- 9 of 9 CIS members
- 27 of 27 EU members
- 28 of 28 NATO members
- 31 of 46 RCC members

PoA POC

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A C D E F G P R S *

* Italian

PoA-related activities

The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) is a politically binding agreement in which OSCE states agreed to norms, principles, and measures to control each stage in a weapon's life: production, transfer, storage, collection or seizure, and destruction. The OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation developed a best-practice handbook that was translated into several languages. In 2004 a series of export control-related decisions were adopted, including on control of brokering, standard elements for end-user certificates, and export control of MANPADS (updated in 2008). In May 2010 OSCE states adopted a plan of action aimed at improving the implementation of existing measures and enhancing norms, measures, and principles on small arms. The OSCE and UN reporting templates on small arms were harmonized in 2011. The OSCE collects (and assists in the collection of), analyses, and archives the regular information exchanges on the legislative aspects of small arms control including export policy, brokering controls, as well as annual information on small arms that were imported, exported, and destroyed during the previous year.

It also organizes regular activities, including training for licensing and customs agencies; legislative assistance; and providing practical assistance on destruction and stockpile management. Over 40 requests from 16 participating states have been addressed since 2003, for which about EUR 20 million were contributed. The OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, regularly addresses issues related to integrated border management, including small arms.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

In 2010–11 the OSCE placed a strong emphasis on regional cooperation, providing several examples in its 2010 annual report. Since 2010 the OSCE, NAMSA, the EU, and SEESAC, have met at least once a year to coordinate projects.
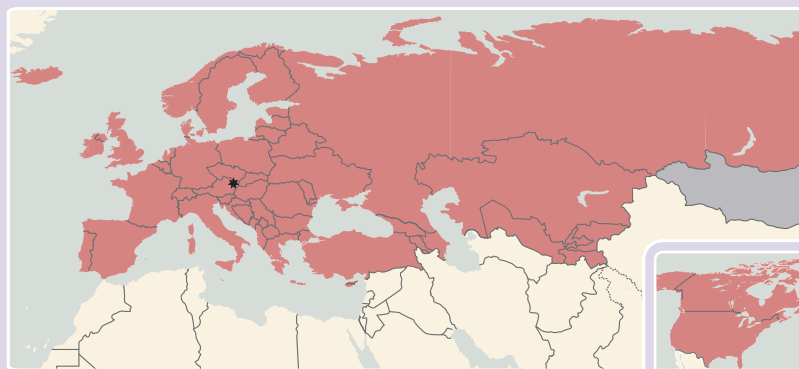
Legally binding regional instruments

- None

Other official documents of interest

- OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (2003); OSCE Principles on Control of Brokering in SALW (2004) and for Export Controls of MANPADS (2004, updated in 2008); Standard Elements for End-User Certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW Exports (2004)
- Decision to Treat Destruction as the Preferred Method of Disposal of Conventional Ammunition (2011); Decision Introducing Best Practices to Prevent Destabilizing Transfers of SALW through Air Transport and on an Associated Questionnaire
- Guiding tools such as the *OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on SALW* (2003), *on Conventional Ammunition* (2008), and *at Border Crossings* (2012); and Template for End-user Certificates (2011)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

- **Current members***

  Albania, Andorra, Armenia, **Austria**, Azerbaijan, Belarus, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Bulgaria**, **Canada**, Croatia, **Cyprus**, Czech Republic, **Denmark**, Estonia, **Finland**, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, **France**, Georgia, **Germany**, **Greece**, Holy See, **Hungary**, **Iceland**, **Ireland**, **Italy**, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, **Liechtenstein**, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, **Malta**, Moldova, **Monaco**, Montenegro, **Netherlands**, **Norway**, **Poland**, **Portugal**, **Romania**, **Russian Federation**, **San Marino**, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, **Spain**, **Sweden**, **Switzerland**, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, **United Kingdom**, **United States**, Uzbekistan

  Bold: founding member

- **Former members:** None

- **Membership pending:** Mongolia (currently a Partner for Cooperation) applied for membership in October 2011.

  * Information accurate as of 14 May 2012

Name
RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation

Headquarters
Zagreb (Bestovje), Croatia

Web site
www.racviac.org

Short description
RACVIAC fosters dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South-east Europe, targeting three overarching themes: a cooperative security environment, with a focus on arms control; SSR; and international and regional cooperation with a focus on Euro-Atlantic integration.

Membership
10 members
(all UN member states)

Notes
Within the framework of the Stability Pact (see RCC entry), RACVIAC was established in October 2000. In 2007, it became the 'Centre for Security Cooperation' and after a three-year process, a new agreement and legal status was established in 2010. The new agreement entered into force in December 2011 upon its fifth ratification. Bulgaria, however, has not yet signed the new agreement. The Multinational Advisory Group, its decision-making body, is made up of its members, 14 associates, and six observers. Associate members are Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Observers are Canada, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the United States.

Funding
RACVIAC's budget, which is divided into two parts—operating and programme—is approximately EUR 600,000. Members primarily finance the operating or daily running costs. Associate members, international partners, and other donors cover a large part of the programme budget through general or marked contributions.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
RACVIAC members represent:

- 6 of 12 BSEC members
- 3 of 27 EU members
- 6 of 28 NATO members
- 10 of 56 OSCE members
- 10 of 13 SELEC members

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PoA-related activities
RACVIAC organizes and hosts seminars, workshops, courses, symposiums, conferences, and meetings on regional security issues, among them SSR, confidence-building measures, arms control, physical stockpile management, organized crime, and dual-use items. These activities are open to its members, associates, and observers, as well as other countries, international organizations, and institutions. For example, in 2011, RACVIAC held a three-day symposium on arms control. Thirty-four participants representing ministries, political institutions, and organizations from nine countries and international organizations attended the event. Also in 2011, RACVIAC hosted a three-day conference entitled 'Towards a Sustainable Solution for Excess Weapons and Ammunition: Policy, Logistical and Financial Aspects of Excess Weapons and Ammunition Disposal'. The event brought together 31 representatives (from 6 countries and 5 organizations) of logistics, policy/planning, and finance departments in ministries of defence within the region, giving them an opportunity to exchange information and experiences. The event raised awareness and a paper was issued as a result.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

RACVIAC supports regional members with EU and NATO accession. RACVIAC regularly cooperates with the RCC, SEESAC, and a number of other regional organizations and initiatives. It is a member of the RASR Steering Committee. RACVIAC also cooperates regularly with the OSCE.
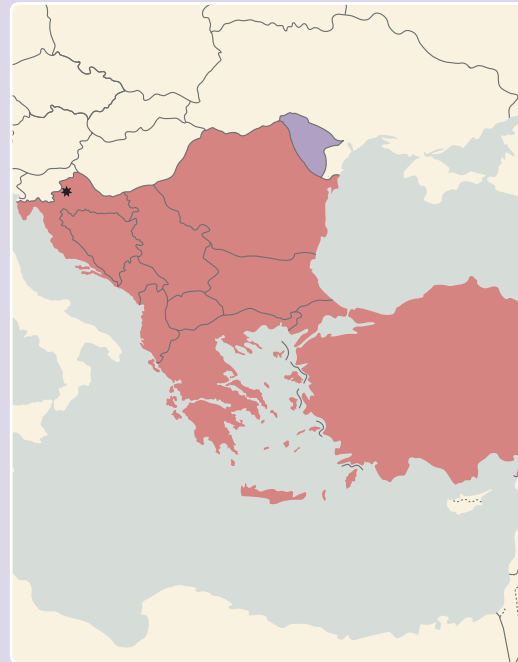
Legally binding regional instruments

■ None

Other official documents of interest

■ Terms of Reference for the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) for RACVIAC (2007)
■ Agreement on RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation (2010)
■ RACVIAC Strategy 2012–2015 (2011)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

■ **Current members***
Albania, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, **Greece**, **Macedonia**, **Montenegro**, **Romania**, **Serbia**, **Turkey**

Bold: founding member

■ **Former members:** Moldova

■ **Membership pending:** None

*   Information accurate as of 8 June 2012

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Name

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

Headquarters

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Web site

www.rcc.int;
www.seesac.org

Short description

The RCC promotes mutual cooperation in and the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South-east Europe, focusing on economic and social development, infrastructure and justice and home affairs, and security cooperation, among other areas.

Membership

46 members (31 are UN member states)

Notes

The Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe (1999–2008), which was part of a long-term conflict prevention strategy for the Balkans, was the predecessor of the RCC. The RCC was officially launched in February 2008. The RCC operates under the latter's political guidance. There are 27 RCC board members: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, the EU, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UNMIK, and the United States. The 15 non-state members comprise five UN bodies (including IOM), six intergovernmental organizations, and four development banks.

Funding

RCC members that contribute to the budget of the Secretariat make up the RCC board, which has 27 members (as of May 2012). States of the region itself contribute 40 per cent of the RCC budget. The European Commission supplies 30 per cent and other RCC members finance the remaining 30 per cent. The EU, Norway, the Swedish Armed Forces, and UNDP fund most of the current projects of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC).

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

RCC members represent:

- 19 of 27 EU members (the EU itself is also represented as an RCC member)
- 21 of 28 NATO members
- 31 of 56 OSCE members

PoA POC

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* BCMS, Italian, Macedonian, and Slovenian

PoA-related activities

The development and implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (1999 and revised in 2006) has been one of the Stability Pact's main achievements in the area of small arms. In May 2002 the RCC (as the Stability Pact) and UNDP launched SEESAC, with the mandate to function as a component of the Regional Implementation Plan. SEESAC, through its team leader, serves as the technical point of contact for the RCC's small arms work. It supports strengthening national and regional capacity to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms. Since 2003 SEESAC has developed and revised a series of Regional Microdisarmament Standards and Guidelines. SEESAC activities are constantly changing to adapt to the current needs and capacities of local governments and other stakeholders. Currently, SEESAC's work is focused on several areas of small arms: destruction, collection, and awareness-raising campaigns; storage upgrades; storage management training; marking, tracing, and registration; and arms export control. The RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011–2013 reiterates SEESAC's mandate to implement

holistic small arms control programmes, with an emphasis on cross-border control, legislative and regulatory issues, management information, surveys, awareness and communications strategy, collection and destruction programmes, and stockpile management issues.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

The EU, NATO, the OSCE, and SELEC are RCC members. The RCC provides political support to SEPCA, SELEC, and RACVIAC (until December 2011 the latter was a project under the Stability Pact). SEESAC and RACVIAC work together as part of the Steering Committee for the RASR initiative.
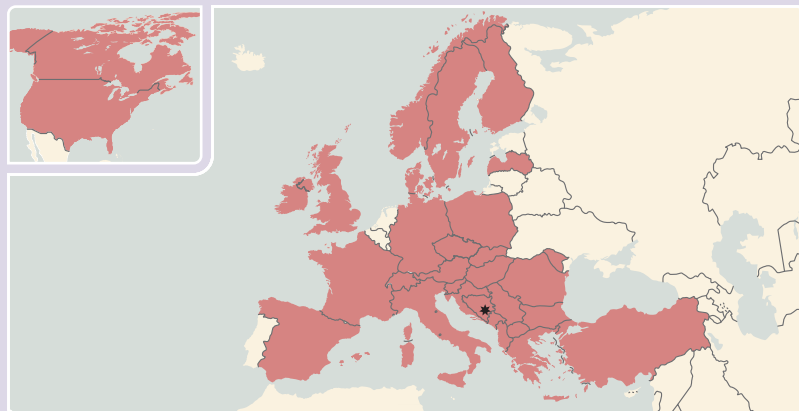
Legally binding regional instruments

■ None

Other official documents of interest

■ Revised Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan for Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in South East Europe (2006)
■ EU Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP in Support of SEESAC Arms Control Activities in the Western Balkans (2010)
■ RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011–2013 (2010)
■ Regional Micro-disarmament Standards on the subjects of: National Commissions; Legislation; Export Documentation; Marking and Tracing; Management; Accounting; Monitoring; Verification; Collection; Destruction Planning; Destruction; Storage; Ammunition Storage; Accident Investigations; Ammunition Management; EOD Clearance of Ammunition Depot Explosions; EOD Support; Border Controls; SALW Survey; Safer Community Plans; Development of Awareness Programmes; Children; Gender; Education
■ Regional Steering Group for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in South East Europe (2005)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

■ **Current members***
Albania, **Austria**, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Bulgaria**, **Canada**, **CEDB**, **Council of Europe**, **Croatia**, **Czech Republic**, **Denmark**, **EBRD**, **EIB**, **EU**, **Germany**, **Finland**, **France**, **Greece**, **Hungary**, IOM, **Ireland**, **Italy**, **Latvia**, **Macedonia**, **Moldova**, **Montenegro**, **NATO**, **Norway**, **OECD**, **OSCE**, **Poland**, **Romania**, **SELEC**, **Serbia**, **Slovakia**, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, **Sweden**, **Switzerland**, **Turkey**, **UN**, **UNDP**, **UNECE**, **United Kingdom**, **United States**, **UNMIK**, **World Bank**

Bold: founding member

■ **Former members:** None

■ **Membership pending:** None

* Information accurate as of 1 June 2012

Name

South-east European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC)

Headquarters

Bucharest, Romania

Web site

www.selec.org

Short description

SELEC supports and enhances coordination among member states in preventing and combating crime, including serious and organized crime, where such crime involves or appears to involve an element of trans-border activity.

Membership

13 members
(all UN member states)

Notes

The South-east European Cooperative Initiative Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime (SECI Center), SELEC's predecessor, was established in 1996 to focus on regional cooperation among the countries of South-east Europe. SELEC replaced SECI in 2011. There are 17 observer states, 5 observer organizations, and 2 permanent advisers: INTERPOL and the WCO. The United States and Italy have liaison officers based at SELEC headquarters.

Funding

Articles 35 and 36 of the SELEC Convention state that the SELEC budget shall be established on an annual basis, based on contributions from member states and other external sources. The contribution is based on an assessed percentage.

Observer states generally provide modest contributions. The United States has provided about USD 15 million in direct grants and equipment since 1996. Small-arms-related activities come under the Anti-Terrorism Task Force and are financed by the core budget.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs

SELEC members represent:

- 13 of 56 OSCE members
- 8 of 28 NATO members
- 13 of 46 RCC members

PoA POC

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PoA-related activities

The SELEC Convention entered into force in 2011 when the ninth state party to the Agreement on Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Trans-border Crime ratified the instrument. All members have since ratified it. SELEC supports crime prevention activity in member states; facilitates exchanges of information, criminal intelligence, and requests for operational assistance; maintains a computerized information system; notifies and informs NFPs of connections between suspects, criminals, or crimes; collects, analyses, and disseminates information and criminal intelligence; provides strategic analysis to produce relevant threat assessments; establishes, operates, and maintains a computerized information system; acts as a depositary of good practice in law enforcement methods and techniques; and implements multinational training and conferences. It also promotes joint planning and action on trans-border crime. Operational activities are conducted within the frames of eight task forces. In particular, the issue of small arms is one of three sub-groups under the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, established in

2003 and coordinated by Albania. Five states partici-pated in Operation Ploughshares (2002, 6 months), which produced data on the trafficking of 493 small arms and just under 20,000 rounds of ammunition. Eight members participated in Operation Safe Place (2004, 6 months), which yielded 3,423 seizures of small arms units, 400,000 rounds of ammunition, and more than 30,000 artillery shells and identified individuals and groups engaged in the illegal trade, transfer, and possession of small arms. Both exercises led to improved reporting on small arms trafficking and data useful for analyzing trafficking patterns.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs

Agreements and memoranda of understanding signed with RO partners, including the RCC and SEESAC, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the OSCE, the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

Legally binding regional instruments

■ Convention of the South-east European Law Enforcement Centre: Agreement on Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Trans-border Crime (2009)

Other official documents of interest

■ None

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

■ **Current members***
Albania, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, **Greece**, **Hungary**, **Macedonia**, **Moldova**, **Montenegro**, **Romania**, **Serbia**, **Slovenia**, **Turkey**

Bold: founding member

■ **Former members:** None

■ **Membership pending:** None   * Information accurate as of 4 June 2012

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