



**Presentation by
Ambassador Martin Erdmann,
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NATO Headquarters
at the UN SALW Review Conference
on 29 June 2006 at the United Nations**

**“EAPC/PFP CONTRIBUTION TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF
ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE
THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT
WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS”**



Thank you.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Department of Disarmament Affairs for the invitation to attend this highly important and significant Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

May I join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of this Review Conference and also extend my congratulations to the other elected officers of the Conference. May I also thank you and the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs for your energetic efforts in preparing for this conference. I wish you every success in this important work.

I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to provide, this morning, an overview of the contribution of NATO and its Partners through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council to the fulfilment of the goals of the Programme of Action especially at the Regional level. The full report is available in hard copy at the NATO display in the exhibit area and it will also be posted on the NATO web site.

First, I would like to provide you briefly with some context of our contributions in this field.

The point of departure is clearly the end of the Cold War. The end of the East-West conflict opened entirely new opportunities for cooperative security across the entire Euro-Atlantic area. NATO seized these opportunities by building political and military partnerships with non-member countries. The goal was twofold: to help the new democracies with their challenges of transformation, managing the consequences of defence reform and the legacy of the cold war and building new capabilities to enable NATO and Partner countries to undertake future military operations together.



This policy of Partnership was – and continues to be – an overwhelming success. Ten former Partner countries have become NATO members, and the ties between Allies and most of the currently 20 Partners have steadily deepened. In fact, in the operations NATO is leading today, in the Balkans as well as in Afghanistan, many Partner countries deploy their forces alongside those of the Allies.

In conducting these operations, NATO and Partner forces are faced with a range of potent threats, not the least of which are the result of illicit trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons. It was therefore both logical and sensible that Allies and Partners would seek to address this problem together.

In 1999 the EAPC established an Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW to be focused originally on issues concerning the impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Alliance joint peace keeping operations. The Working Group decided early on that it would not interject itself into the establishment of international norms and standards preferring to rely on the UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union for that purpose. Rather, it would concentrate on implementation, advocacy, and the exchange of information between Member States, other International Organizations (IO's) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The Group meets on a regular basis and in addition to Small Arms and Light Weapons it also addresses Mine Action issues. The agenda of the meetings usually includes speakers from other International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. In 2006 the Groups priority areas for SALW are:

- Continued support for the implementation of the UN's Program of Action (POA)
- Support of Partnership for Peace Trust Fund activities
- Cooperation with the OSCE and other International Organizations
- Pursuing initiatives on a case by case basis with the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue¹ and Istanbul Cooperative Initiative Countries²
- cooperation and support of activities in the South Eastern Europe region, and pursuing initiatives with NATO Contact Countries.

The EAPC has recently adopted an "Overarching Guidance" which has established goals and objectives to be attained by all members of the EAPC through the Partnership Work Plan 2007. These goals and objectives for SALW are:

- SLW 1 Achieve the goals of the UN's "Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects".
- SLW 2 Support achievement of synergies and harmonization of programmes between Partners, Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) countries, IOs and NGOs.
- SLW 3 Ensure adequate physical security and management of national SALW and ammunition stockpiles and the destruction of surplus stocks and collected weapons.
- SLW 4 Combat illicit trafficking, and identify needs for tailored assistance in this area.
- SLW 5 Contribute to the development of PfP training modules and programs for the specific problems related to arms collection.

The Work Plan contains a wide range of areas of cooperation in 33 areas, SALW is one of these areas, but various other sectors of the Work Plan have links with SALW issues. These other related areas are:

- Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- Border Security and Control
- Conceptual, Planning and Operational aspects of Peacekeeping
- Democratic Control of Forces and Defence Structures
- Global Humanitarian Mine Action
- Military Education, Training and Doctrine
- Operational, Material and Administrative aspects of Standardization
- Response to Terrorism

In 2006 the Working Group adopted an enhanced program which directed NATO's International Staff to develop and conduct a series of workshops which would address practical and specific issues of particular concern to the EAPC Member States. They are designed to be result oriented and serve as an opportunity to foster dialogue and increase cooperation among the EAPC Member States and also on a case by case basis, with the countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperative Initiative (ICI) and Contact countries on issues related to SALW and mine action. The enhanced program includes, for SALW, workshops for

¹ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia

² Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates

- Physical Security and Stockpile Management
- Destruction Technologies and Techniques
- Promotion of Regional Security through the UN Programme of Action (PoA)
- Man Portable Air Defense Systems - In All Its Aspects
- Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Thus far two workshops have been conducted this year.

The first of these addressed physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives and took place in February at NATO Headquarters.

ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE



The second workshop “Destruction Technologies and Techniques” was conducted last week in Kyiv on 19 June in conjunction with events marking the launch of our Ukraine project to destroy 1.5 million SALW, 133 thousand tons of munitions including MANPADs. Phase 1 of this project was launched 20 June. National representative and journalist took part in a small ceremony to destroy the first MANPADs. Phase 1 will destroy 400,000 small arms, 1,000 MANPADS and 15,000 tons of ammunition at a cost of 7.9 million Euros. This is our most ambitious project to date and in fact is the single largest demilitarization project in the world. There are few organizations with the skill and experience to take on such a big and complex problem and this is in my view a good example of NATO’s added value.

Dialogue and exchange of information is only one aspect of our efforts. In 2000 the NATO /Partnership for Peace Trust Fund policy was established to provide a tangible mechanism to assist Partners in the safe destruction of, initially, stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in support of the Ottawa Convention. Success in this destruction effort led to an extension of the policy to include the safe destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons to include MANPADS, missiles, rocket fuel, conventional ammunition and the management of the consequences of defense reform. The scope of the Trust Fund Policy covers all Partnership for Peace nations as well as the countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue. We have also used the policy to establish projects in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Status of ongoing Trust Fund Projects

LEAD NATIONS	DESCRIPTION OF TRUST FUND PROJECT	CONTRIBUTORS	FINANCIAL PLEDGES	EXECUTING AGENT
Albania II/Canada	6.4 million Euros. Destruction of 11,650 tonnes of munitions for Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW), public awareness campaign, 2 workshops, website. Start December 2002. As of June 2006, destroyed 50 million 7.62 mm cartridges and 2 million hand grenades.	Albania, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, EU	€ 5,750,000	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Azerbaijan/Turkey	1.16 million Euros. Clearance of 569 hectares of contaminated land and disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Start November 2005. As of June 2006, 188 hectares cleared.	Azerbaijan, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, UNDP, Australia	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Belarus/Canada	205,000 Euros. Destruction of 700,000 Anti-personnel Landmines (APLs). Start November 2005. As of June 2006, 40,000 APLs destroyed.	Belarus, Canada, Lithuania	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Ukraine II/United States	7.9 million Euros. Destruction of 1,000 Man-Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS), 1.5 million SALW and 133,000 tonnes of munitions. Start December 2005. As of June 2006, 20 MANPADS destroyed.	Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, EU	€ 5,799,000	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Serbia and Montenegro II/ Canada & Austria *	SEEI Trust Fund. 1.69 million Euros. Destruction of 1,320,620 APLs. Start April 2005. As of June 2006, 800,000 mines demilitarized.	Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden, Switzerland	€ 1,537,000	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Moldova II/Belgium & Romania	NATO/OSCE Trust Fund in the framework of Environmental Security (ENVSEC) – Phase 1 Start May 2006. 841,500 Euros. Repack and centralise 1600 tonnes of chemicals.	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Milieukontakt	€ 624,000	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Kazakhstan/United States	238,000 Euros. Destruction of 27,000 SALW and MANPADS. Start April 2006.	Kazakhstan, Netherlands, United States	€ 198,000	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Ukraine III/Netherlands	420,000 Euros. Retraining and resettlement program for departing servicemen. Start February 2006.	Bulgaria, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ukraine	€ 172,000	NATO International Staff
Serbia and Montenegro III/ Norway *	5.9 millions Euros. Developing alternative livelihoods for departing personnel of Serbia and Montenegro Armed Forces. Start December 2005.	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, United Kingdom	€ 2,685,000	International Organization for Migration
Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Croatia, Netherlands, United Kingdom*	8,1 million Euros. Retraining of Military Personnel Start June 2006.	Croatia, Netherlands, Slovenia, Turkey, United Kingdom	TBD	International Organization for Migration

Yesterday, during a lunch time side event, we explained how the Trust Fund Policy and its mechanism operates and provided an overview of its completed and ongoing projects. We have a very broad range projects and over time we have significantly increased our level of ambition.

Status of completed Trust Fund Projects

LEAD NATIONS	DESCRIPTION OF TRUST FUND PROJECT	CONTRIBUTORS	FINANCIAL PLEDGES	EXECUTING AGENT
Georgia/Luxembourg	1.1 million Euros, Destruction of 530 missiles. Completed February 2006.	Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Tajikistan/Canada	3100 Euros. Destruction of 1,261 APLs. Completed March 2004.	Canada, Netherlands, Tajikistan	100%	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Serbia and Montenegro/ Netherlands *	SEEI Trust Fund 375,000 Euros. Destruction of 28,000 SALW. Completed November 2003.	Canada, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Montenegro	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Ukraine/Canada	800,000 \$US. Destruction of 400,000 APLs. Completed May 2003.	Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Moldova/Netherlands	1.1 million \$US. Destruction of 11,872 APLs, 250 cubic metres of rocket fuel, safety training. Completed December 2002.	Canada, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, United States	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)
Albania/Canada	800,000 \$US. Destruction of 1.6 million APLs. Completed April 2002.	Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom	100%	NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA)

* A South Eastern Europe Initiative Trust Fund project

So far the Trust Fund accomplishments to date include the destruction of more than:

- 2.8 million landmines
- 530 high-altitude anti-aircraft missiles
- 320 tons of rocket fuel
- 28,000 small arms and light weapons
- 3,000 tons of munitions

Thus far all completed PfP Trust Fund Projects have been on time, in compliance with environmental and safety standards, with full transparency and accountability of funds and have come in under budget.

All these Projects are funded by voluntary contributions from a wide range of donors. In addition to contributions from Allies and Partners, we have had contributions from Australia, UNDP, and the European Commission. For all of these contributions we are most grateful.

Close cooperation with other international organizations is a vital part of the Trust Fund Process. Currently the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations are involved in these projects. I would like to publicly express our appreciation for their support. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations such as the Fund for Peace, the Razumkov Center and Milieukontakt play an important role in the development and conduct of Trust Fund Projects. And we look forward to enhancing this aspect of our cooperation with NGOs.

The added value the PfP Trust Fund brings to these projects is direct access to the Alliance's International Staff, technical capabilities, and resource structures such as NATO's Office of Financial Controller. Concerning technical capabilities, we draw on the experience and know-how of the NATO Management and Supply Agency which has been conducting demilitarization programs for over fifty years. NAMSA provides project management, (from initial assessments to project planning, execution and reporting), international contracting, and on-site supervision.



Mr. President, I would again like to thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation. You can count on NATO and its Partners to continue to support the full implementation of the UN Program of Action.

Thank you.