

## **Croatia**

Croatia supports further programs of assistance for improving the control of arms exports, strengthening border security, re-evaluating and improving legal regulations, intensifying the exchange of information, and sensitizing the public to the issue of proliferation.

Croatia is an active participant and a party to a number of international legal instruments concerning arms control and non-proliferation.

### **Control of export and import**

The export and import of arms and dual use goods are regulated by a Government Ordinance. The Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labor and Entrepreneurship is responsible for issuing import/export licenses for arms and military equipment for commercial purposes and for dual use goods, following the opinion of the Inter-agency Commission. In the last twelve months, the Commission has greatly improved its operation in terms of creating better databases, controlling the authenticity of documentation more efficiently, and increasing international cooperation. In July 2004, the Law on Control of Dual-Use Goods Export was passed. The regulation containing a List of Dual Use Goods

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will be issued by the Government in accordance with the EU Council Directive 149/2003 of 27 January 2003.

### **Border management and security**

Within the framework of the 2001 CARDS Twinning Project for Integrated Border Management/Police, the new Law on State Border Control was prepared and fully harmonized with the EU legislation. The Law entered into force in November 2003. All by-laws have been prepared and should be adopted by the end of 2004. In accordance with the new Law and the results of the above-mentioned project, the Government is to issue an Ordinance on the Internal Organization of the Ministry of the Interior, and already at the end of 2004 and at the beginning of 2005, the reorganization and re-staffing of the border police at regional and local levels will begin. Pursuant to the Law, the Strategy for the Development of Border Police in terms of organization, staffing, education and technical matters has been developed.

Croatia welcomes all forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in border management and security. Croatia is participating in several multilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening border services and trans-border cooperation (jointly with NATO, EU, Stability Pact, and OSCE), and it also cooperates and maintains contacts at the level of experts with all the neighboring countries, including the exchange of information, as one of the most important forms of cooperation.

The Agreement with OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) on providing a platoon for radiological, biological and chemical decontamination is being prepared. The platoon would respond in case of a chemical incident. It is the same platoon for response within NATO.