

## **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

The Republic of Macedonia welcomed and supported the unanimous adoption of the SC resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004, which complements and strengthens the existing international instruments and regimes against proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and in particular, improves the capacity of the international community to fight illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials. Macedonia shares the deep concern that one of the most serious threats to the international peace and security nowadays is the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery for terrorist purposes.

### **With regard to operative paragraph 1 of the resolution:**

The Republic of Macedonia does not provide any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery and makes efforts on national, sub-regional, regional and international level to prevent any such attempts. The country cooperates with the SC Committees established under SC resolution 1267 (1999) and SC resolution 1373 (2001) with regard to the non-State actors identified in the lists and updates maintained by the 1267 Committee.

### **With regard to operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the resolution:**

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is reviewing and assessing its capacity, domestic legislation and practices to enforce effective measures to establish domestic control to prevent the proliferation of WMD including in cases where non-State actors are involved. Inter-ministerial consultations on this matter are in progress, with a view to introducing additional measures, where necessary.

The Republic of Macedonia has undertaken binding legal obligations under the following main international instruments against proliferation of WMD to which it is a State party:

- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);
- Convention on Prohibition of Development, Manufacturing, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC);
- Convention on Prohibition of Development, Manufacturing and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC);

Macedonia is a Subscribing State to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOOC).

Aiming to prevent development, acquiring, manufacturing and possession, transportation, transfer and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, in March 2004 the National Assembly adopted amendments to the Criminal Code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 19/04) thus incriminating (Article 407-b) "misuse of chemical or biological weapons" as a crime against humanity and international law. In that connection, the abovementioned new Customs Law in accordance with the newly amended Law on Criminal Procedure ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 74/04") expands the competences of the customs officers in conducting special investigative measures in suspected criminal cases involving exporting/importing goods.

According to the abovementioned new Trade Law (Article 34) licenses for Export / import of weapons and military equipment (including dual-use goods and technology) are issued by the Ministry of Defense or Ministry of Interior (the

latter issues licenses only for light weapons and explosives for commercial purposes). The Ministry of Economy keeps and updates a Register of companies licensed to trade (including export/import) in weapons and military equipment. In May 2004 the Government began with the implementation of the national Strategy for Integrated Border Management, aimed at creating Border Police to take over the duty of securing and controlling state borders from the Army, as well as providing technical, human and other resources for effective and sustained border management, in line with the EU standards.