

Belgrade, November 10th 2011

Opening remarks – Presentation of National and Regional Reports of Arms Export

- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!
- It is a pleasure for me to address such an important audience when the report of National and Regional Arms Export will be presented. I am glad that Norway has been able to support such an important project.
- While the national reports represent strong evidence of these countries commitment to transparency within arms transfer, the regional report is a unique effort that can only be compared to the reports produced by EU.
- I find it promising that all countries in South-Eastern Europe now are contributing to this openness.
- The report that will be presented today states that outside EU and South-Eastern Europe there are just a limited number of countries publishing national reports of arms export. Norway is among these countries and has for more than ten years issued similar information.
- These regional and national reports represent in my mind an important instrument of transparency. They have served to improve the reporting at the national level and given insights in the arms export policies of the states involved.
- The exchange of information should not be seen as a goal in itself, but a mean to build confidence among the countries and enhance the cooperation between the states in the region with regard to arms export.
- Ladies and Gentlemen!
- I would like to use this opportunity to thank SEESAC for their hard work and commitment to the project. Without their help and

persistence to the countries in the region, such a report would not have been published today.

- Norway will continue to support projects with the aim to provide information, knowledge and openness in areas that not long time ago was seen as state secrets.
- Let me use this opportunity once again to commend the significant efforts, commitment and contributions from all the countries in the region for detailed information of their arms export, and making these reports available to the public.
- Thank you very much!