

Bryan Early
Political Science

Sponsor: U.S. Department of State
Dates: September 30, 2011 – September 29, 2012
Amount: \$99,703

Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls – Western Balkans and Armenia

The Western Balkan region poses a substantial proliferation risk due to its location along major commercial trade and smuggling routes, transnational and organized crime, and indigenous arms manufacturing and trade and burgeoning dual-use industry sectors. The Western Balkan states are at varying degrees of strategic trade control development, ranging from relatively new and unimplemented laws in some to advanced systems based on international standards that are largely consistent with EU requirements in others. But, deficiencies nonetheless persist in all these systems. Gaps in laws and regulations and weakness in the implementation of licensing restrictions, customs and border controls, and industry outreach diminish the efficacy of nonproliferation efforts in the region, especially at the borders.

The Center for Policy Research therefore proposes to provide a comprehensive introductory overview of strategic trade controls for appropriate government representatives from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) and Armenia in two one-week seminars with one to be held in Tirana, Albania for the Balkan states and the other in Yerevan, Armenia. Each week –long seminar will provide participants with a basic understanding of the fundamental principles of strategic trade controls and an appreciation for the role that effective strategic trade control systems play in global security. The seminar will also discuss how a complete and effective system can help to strengthen border security and mitigate the risk of unauthorized border incursions and smuggling.

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Amount: \$299,751

**Strategic Trade Control Legislation Development Assistance:
Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan**

Central Asia is important both geographically and politically in the fight against proliferation: The location of the region, which borders sensitive countries such as Afghanistan, the political instability of governments in the region, the presence of proliferation-sensitive items that remain on their soil following the fall of the Soviet Union, and land transit routes that are utilized in particular by illicit traffickers make these nations especially important in the global nonproliferation regime. Notable deficiencies in the strategic trade controls of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan contribute to a significant risk of proliferation of goods and technologies applicable to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and conventional arms in the region.

It is important to regional and global security and nonproliferation efforts that these countries adopt and implement robust strategic trade control systems that meet international standards. Of particular need is for each to revise, update, or create new strategic trade control laws and regulations upon which they can build fully functional trade control systems.

Therefore the Center for Policy Research proposes to provide the three governments with different levels of training and assistance tailored to their individual circumstances and based on U.S. and International obligations, standards, and norms such as are identified in the guidelines of the multilateral export control regimes (MECRs) and United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1540 (2004), 1979 (2011), and 1810 (2008). In providing this training and assistance, CPR will seek to raise the strategic trade control awareness of Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Uzbek officials, address deficiencies in their trade control laws and regulations, provide them with actionable recommendations concerning how they can resolve those deficiencies in ways that are consistent with U.S. and International standards, and, in consultation with the ISN/ECC action officer and EXBS Legal Advisor for these countries, provide them with ongoing support and technical assistance as they amend statutory language.

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Dates: September 30, 2011 – September 29, 2012

Amount: \$99,984

Licensing Mechanics Assistance – Brazil

While Brazil has the foundation for a robust export control system, significant gaps in its controls present a serious cause for concern when coupled with the growing indigenous high-technology sector, trade with some countries of proliferation concern, and ongoing problems with corruption and organized crime.

We therefore propose to approach this effort in three phases. In Phase One, the Project Team will research Brazil's current system, analyze gaps (particularly those relating to licensing and regulatory implementation) and create relevant modules and exercises to give government of Brazil officials the knowledge, skills and ability to bridge these gaps. The Team will also develop a tailored regulatory template to use as a tool in small group discussions. Phase Two will include conducting the in-person workshop in Brazil, which will be led by Team members and a government licensing official (most likely from a US government agency). We will also hold a series of smaller, more focused exchanges and consultations with relevant Brazilian licensing officials to work on a plan for revisions to the regulatory basis for Brazil's licensing system. We will use the regulatory template as a tool to facilitate this discussion, but we will also attempt to work with officials to set realistic goals and deadlines in which to achieve those goals. Finally, in Phase Three, the Project Team will conduct follow-up communications with relevant officials to ensure understanding of the materials presented and to facilitate progress on meeting the goals established during the small-meeting group discussions.