

The Export Control System in Albania (Briefing)

During the last period the Albanian Government has undertaken reforms and concrete measures in order to set up and strength the export control system.

The technical assistance and the contribution accorded by US Government and European Union to the Albanian Government Institutions has created all the due conditions to undertake steps for strengthening of the export control system.

Although Albania, is not one of the countries of the high weapons, ammos, products and massive technology production and commerce, its efforts has been significant with the unique goal to prevent their dispersals participating on the coalition against the terrorism.

The signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU (July 2006) as well as its participation at the Adriatic Charter in order to be member of Euro- Atlantic Alliance (NATO) clearly indicates its achievements and its commitment for the work that should be done in various directions involving security, export- import production and technology of massive damages in system control.

The Ministry of Defense has licensed (Military Export-Import Company) MEICO, for the weapons, ammos and hi- tech export- import.

One of the biggest achievements of the Albanian Government is the improvement of the control quality and the management of the cross –borders, minimizing clandestine traffic, drugs and other technology products which put in danger people's life.

In order to struggle the corruption and illegal traffics the Albanian Government has undertaken various institutional and legal reforms, to the custom system as: performing high technology, supplying with new control equipments almost all the cross borders points, use new logistic equipment for the state police forces.

Another commitment of the Albanian Government is the preparation of the draft-law in order to achieve the required standards of NATO membership and to respect all the international agreements in accordance with weapons, ammos commerce. This draft – law is being reviewed by other relevant ministries before approved by Parliament.

The experience of other countries and the assistance of the US Government have been used for the preparation of this draft–law. The draft–law foresees the establishment of the new structure, the Agency for the Export Control which will be part of the Ministry of Defense framework and the establishment of various commissions are required as well (industry, radioactivity, chemistry pharmacy etc).

The structure will be in charge of all the procedures, regulations of production, acknowledgement of technology charters, different subject trading and licensing in the

export- import, brokers etc. for all the products included in the list of the products severely controlled.

Meantime the Albanian Government and in particularly the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE) has initiated a regulatory reform which is a dynamic and comprehensive program to create an absorbing regulatory environment for new inner and foreign investment. The regulatory reforms consist of the reduction and facilitation of all unnecessary licenses and the facilitation of the procedures in other sectors where the licensing regime is involved.

METE was focused on the full harmonization and rights definitions between maintain licensing regime and production permits and trading for products, yet well classified, weapons, ammos, hi- tech and the inclusion level in this regime with double destination military and civil (medical-psychotropic products, explosives, chemical tri micro bacterial products).

Also, METE reform is focused on one-stop shop business registration, structured vertical level and with the purpose to exchange actions online. This will improve the quality and the speed of the communication of various institutions at Customs, the future Agency of Export Control which will use the online method in order to exchange different information with various companies which have their activities in Albania.

METE among others initiatives, is focused also to the establishment of control export structure.

METE will focus in the near future in the definition and acknowledgement of technology charters in the various industry sectors, which are part of its framework.

In conclusion, Albania, very soon, will have a control export system similar to other developed countries as well as it will be member of international agreements, continuing cooperation with other countries and taking its concrete measures.