



**ALBANIA:  
SECOND NATO PFP TRUST FUND PROJECT COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY.  
SETTING UP A THRIVING INDUSTRY**

*October 2007* - A ceremony took place on Thursday 04 October 2007 at Mjekës, Albania, to celebrate the completion of the NATO PFP Trust Fund Project for the Demilitarization of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) ammunition in Albania.

This ceremony will mark a significant milestone in that this project will have succeeded in setting up a thriving industry at Mjekës that will be able to continue for many years to come, playing an important role in helping to maintain the peace and stability of the region by destroying surplus small arms ammunition.

This NATO Trust Fund project, valued at MEUR 6.4, has been led by Canada. In addition to the lead nation, Canada and the host nation, Albania, the countries having contributed to the cost of the project are either NATO members – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom and United States – or members of NATO's Partnership for Peace – Austria, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland. There is one other important contributor to this project: the European Union has so far donated more than MEUR 1.3. This was the first time the European Union had joined with NATO in sponsoring such a project.

The work has been carried out at the government explosives factories at Mjekës and Poliçan under contract with the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency. This project that began in December 2002 has so far demilitarized 8,700 tonnes of SALW ammunition and has seen the following tremendous achievements:

- More than 104 millions small arms ammunition to include 7.62mm, 12.7mm and 14.5mm ammunition have been destroyed. When packed, this represents more than 200,000 wooden transport boxes equivalent to a 10x10x40m building and, when aligned head to tail, this covers more than the distance from Tirana to New York.
- Albania ammunition stockpile has been cleared from the totality of 107mm mortar rounds and Chinese made hand-grenades.
- 16 storage areas and 3 tunnels have been cleared from small arms ammunition.
- 128 drivers have been trained and 300,000 kilometres covered by trucks moving ammunition from storage to disposal by 60 truck drivers trained to NATO standards. This represents a 8-time around the earth travel.
- An industrial scale Explosive Waste Incinerator has been operated continuously 24/7 at Mjekës during the last two years, the only such example in the world.
- 160 Albanians have been employed at the explosive factory ULP Mjekës and at the ammunition factory KM Poliçan (with up to 30% of the positions being occupied by women at these two locations) and throughout Albania where ammunition have been repacked by the National Demilitarization Centre.