



**Conference on
Regional Security through Regional Ownership: A New Era of Cooperation?**
Co-organized with Turkish SEECP Chairmanship

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- Dates** 08 - 10 December 2009
- Venue(s)** Ankara, Republic of Turkey
- Background** Regional security cooperation initiative is a crucial preventive element in overcoming any future security challenges in Southeast Europe. In this respect, the Southeast Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP), currently under Turkish Chairmanship, plays a key role in the process of improving regional stability.
- Expansion and enhancement of regional ownership model is accepted as an essential tool to ensure sustainability of the existing regional co-operation networks. It is the region itself that should gradually undertake responsibilities over the initiatives and organizations that actively contribute to peace and stability in SEE. This is an exceptional endeavour that promotes the idea of lasting peace, stability and prosperity through cooperation. RACVIAC and Turkish SEECP Chairmanship believe that regional ownership is not just one of the most powerful political tools in fostering regional stability and security, but also an element supporting the economic development of the region. In that light, the Conference will provide SEE countries with the opportunity to discuss this highly important topic within the framework of its established purpose and objectives.
- Purpose & Objectives** The purpose of the Conference is to contribute to the enhancement of synergy in the field of regional security cooperation in Southeast European (SEE) countries by providing common platform both for the fruitful exchange of individual views and best practices, and for discussions on existing challenges, priorities and possible opportunities.
- The Conference objectives are as follows:
- To reach a common understanding of the concept of regional ownership and regional responsibility;
 - To examine the existing regional co-operation frameworks in order to establish a concerted approach on security and stability in the SEE;
 - To discuss challenges, opportunities and priorities with regard to security cooperation in SEE;
 - To debate contribution of regional organizations in security area within SEE region;
 - To strengthen regional security networking and cooperation in SEE.
- Participants** Number of participants (estimated): 40
Two participants per core member country: AL, BA, BG, GR, HR, MK, MD, ME, RO and RS, representing national bodies responsible for regional security cooperation.
One participant per other MAG countries, relevant international organizations, NGOs and media.
Directors of relevant international security cooperation organizations in SEE region.
Participation Criteria: Participants should have extensive experience in the corresponding field of interest, holding high management positions in respective organizations/institutions, and they should be able to identify, share and apply best practices.
Required English Language Proficiency: NATO STANAG 6001 level 2. Participants are expected to be familiar with the corresponding subject matter terminology.
- Methodology** The event is designed as an expert forum and it will be conducted as a combination of individual presentations and subsequent discussions. The Conference working language will be English. Certificates of attendance and CDs will be issued at the end of the Conference.
- POC** Lieutenant Colonel Davor KIRALJ, Tel. 00385 1 333 0 853, Fax: 00385 1 333 0 834;
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