



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION DIVISION

December 2009

**Seminar on NATO Integration:
“Next Enlargement and its Implications in SEE”**

After Action Report

for external use

Zagreb, 02nd December 2009

The Seminar on “**NATO Integration: Next Enlargement and its Implications in SEE**” was held in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation during the period of 01st – 02nd December 2009.



Family photo

The purpose of the seminar was to support the integration process of aspiring SEE countries to NATO. It gathered both civilian and military officials at decision-making level, representing the relevant ministries dealing with NATO integration.

The seminar was conducted in one day and it included two sessions, followed by questions and answers, which encouraged the participants to exchange views, experiences and lessons learned

related to NATO Integration process among the NATO member and candidate countries from the region.

The participants and lecturers were representatives of nine countries and four organizations, namely: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (2), The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ (3), Montenegro (1), Moldova (3), Russia (1), Serbia (1), Turkey (3), NATO HQ in Brussels (1), NATO - Joint Force Command in Naples (1), NATO HQ in Sarajevo (2), George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies in Germany (1), and University of Zagreb (10).

Seminar Opening

In his opening speech, Col Željko CEPANEC, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, expressed his warm welcome to all the participants.

Col CEPANEC pointed out that NATO is the most effective multilateral

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

institution and the most successful military alliance in history and that NATO enlargement is of crucial significance to all SEE countries.



Opening Session
From right to left; Col. Željko CEPANEC, Colonel Nicolas KOTCHINE, Mr. Rohan MAXWELL

Plenary Session

The lecturers focused on three issues: The enlargement policy of NATO towards the SEE, the role of NATO and priorities for SEE and SEE towards Euro-Atlantic Integration.

Colonel Nicolas KOTCHINE from NATO - Joint Force Command in Naples delivered the keynote speech titled “The Enlargement Policy of NATO towards SEE”.

He provided a general overview of the situation in the region, the challenges it faces and its future prospects. He pointed out NATO’s “open door policy” which is based on Article 10 of its founding treaty, which says that any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO’s principal decision-making body, on the basis of consensus

among all Allies. NATO’s ongoing enlargement process is aimed at promoting stability and cooperation, as well as at building a Europe whole and free, united in peace, democracy and common values. NATO will stay engaged in this important region although the trend is to reduce the NATO footprint on the ground.

In the first session, moderated by *Colonel Nicolas KOTCHINE*, *Mr. Rohan MAXWELL* gave a clear picture on NATO engagement with partners through a full spectrum of its tasks ranging from crisis response operation to defence reform. This presentation highlighted the necessity to cooperate with various organisations and the progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the defence sector.



From right to left; Ms. Esra DOĞAN GRAJOWER, Mr. Sabri ERGEN, Col. Željko CEPANEC, Colonel Nicolas KOTCHINE, Mr. Rohan MAXWELL

Mr. Sabri ERGEN talked about the continuing importance of the NATO “open door policy” in the wake of the NATO Ministry Foreign Affairs meeting. He described the security

related political developments in the region and enumerated the progress in

NATO's door remains open to any European country

defence reforms in the regional countries. He concluded by emphasising the added value of regional cooperation beyond Euro-Atlantic membership of regional countries.

Ms. Esra DOĞAN GRAJOWER depicted the principles of the cooperation between UN – EU – NATO. The history of NATO – EU relationship includes the the Western European Union created in 1948, a key actor in the region prior to NATO and EU involvement in the 1990s. A description of the current security environment highlighted the importance of a Comprehensive (Integrated) Approach. The Western engagement in the Balkans is part of this Comprehensive Approach for assisting this region in re-integrating it into the Euro-Atlantic area.

In the second session, moderated by *Mr. Sabri ERGEN*, *Colonel Kenan Dautovic* from Bosnia and Herzegovina described his country's relationship with NATO and their well-appreciated reform efforts. He talked about their positive experience with the IPAP and Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to contribute to regional and global security. He also

emphasized that no conditions should be attached to his country's accession to MAP, the granting of which would be an enormous boost to their efforts.



Colonel Slobodan Todorovski presented the experience of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the MAP process and how the results of this process in his country are consolidated reforms, inter-ministerial coordination and transparency and how they have been able to substantially contribute to international peacekeeping missions and operations.



From right to left; Colonel Kenan DAUTOVIĆ, Dr. Dragan LOZANČIĆ

Dr. Dragan Lozancic of George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies academically described the

possibilities for future enlargements, mentioning opportunities as well as challenges. In that regard, he also took up the subject of NATO-Russia relationship.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The seminar provided a successful platform to exchange views and lessons learned related to NATO Integration process among the NATO member and candidate countries from the SEE region. The contribution of members of NATO HQ in Brussels, in Sarajevo, and in Naples, together with experts from different countries and organizations proved outstanding in creating a healthy discussion climate.



Plenary Session - Participants

The speakers and audience expressed the opinion that the intensification and enhancement of existing regional cooperation should remain among most important foreign policy goals for all SEE countries.

All panellists assessed the two sessions as very successful and useful. They also recommended co-organizers to continue

with similar activities in the future.

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