



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION **Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on** **Arms Control Pillar**

Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

Zagreb 28 February - 4 March 2011

In cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Introduction

Pursuant to RACVIAC 2011 Programme, Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar organized and carried out the Seminar “Chemical Weapons Convention” (CSE-02-S) in the period from 28 Feb - 4 Mar 2011. The seminar, eighth so far, was co-organized with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as the follow up of the last seminar on the CWC, which was held in RACVIAC in 2010. The seminar was carried out in English.

The purpose of this seminar was to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC.

Its objectives were:

- To provide an overview of the CWC, its current tasks, activities and challenges;
- To update the participants on the OPCW activities in the field of assistance and protection against chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals in accordance with Article X of the CWC;
- To inform the participants about the OPCW concept and developments in preparedness for Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU) and Delivery of Assistance operations in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals;
- To emphasize the importance of capacity building in the field of protection against a possible use of chemical weapons

and toxic industrial chemicals, through projects on national and regional levels;

- To provide information about the assistance offered by countries in the region under Article X of the CWC, as well as about their preparedness, reaction time, and provision of logistic support;
- To present information and lessons learned related to the third OPCW delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3, held in Tunisia in October 2010;
- To provide an update on issues related to the OPCW verification activities, inspection activities and procedures;
- To execute training with a tabletop exercise for typical Schedule 2 and OPCW inspections.

The participants who attended the seminar came from the following countries: Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (7), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (3), Hungary (2), Montenegro (2), Slovenia (1) and Serbia (3). They were both senior and junior military and civilian recommendation makers dealing with the CWC issues, responsible for escorting inspections from the Secretariat of the OPCW. The content of this seminar was of particular interest for members of National Authorities dealing with declarations.



Seminar participants

The seminar was conducted with the assistance of four (4) lecturers from the OPCW: Mr Gennadi LUTAY, Mr Muhammad KAZI, Mr Sathish KOKKULA and Mr Laurentiu LAZAR .



Mr Gennadi LUTAY, Head Assistance and Protection Branch, Chief representative TS-OPCW

It was carried out as a combination of lectures/presentations followed by discussions, and a tabletop exercise at the end. This seminar was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring the way ahead. The seminar also provided a favorable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.

The Execution

The CWC seminar was opened on 1 March 2011 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Deputy Director Colonel Željko CEPANEC, which was followed by the keynote speech delivered by Gennadi LUTAY, Chief representative of TS-OPCW.



HE Ms Beverly MERCER, Ambassador, Australian Embassy to Croatia

During the 1st day (Tuesday, 1 March) the following topics were presented:

- *The CWC and the establishment of the OPCW. A short overview of provisions of the CWC related to assistance and protection against CW* by Gennadi LUTAY. This presentation was an overview of the CWC with emphasis on Article X, including major achievements and challenges. It also covered the structure of the organization and its activities.
- *Chemical agents and toxic chemicals. Threat assessment* by Mr Sathish KOKKULA and Mr Laurentiu LAZAR (OPCW). The two (2) presentations introduced the participants to the main types of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. Subsequently, the participants were provided with an analysis of modern threats related to the possible use of warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals as chemical weapons.
- *The establishment of the Australia Group (AG) and their efforts in harmonizing export controls on chemical weapons (CW) precursor chemicals* by H.E Ms Beverly MERCER, Ambassador, Embassy of Australia to the Republic of Croatia. The Ambassador presented a brief overview of the Australia Group (AG) formed in 1985 with the aim of harmonizing both export controls on chemical weapons (CW) precursor chemicals and chemical production equipment-technologies which might be misused for CW purposes.
- *Croatian Experience in Joining AG and in Implementation of CWC* by Ms Sanja BUJAS-JURAGA, Head of Department for International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia. The presentation informed the participants about Croatian experience in joining the AG and implementing the CWC as part of a policy for effective multilateralism.
- *National protection programmes, databank for assistance and protection and TS preparedness for assistance and protection* by Mr Muhammad KAZI. (OPCW). The presentation provided the

participants with details about the OPCW's efforts in increasing the transparency of national programmes related to protective uses. It also gave a brief overview of the databank on assistance and protection and OPCW concept/developments in preparedness for Delivery of Assistance (DA) operations in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

During the 2nd day (Wednesday, 18 February) the following topics were presented:

- *Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU)* by Mr Sathish KOKKULA (OPCW). The lecturer portrayed the OPCW's leading role among international actors for investigation of Alleged Use of CWs. This role may vary considerably, depending on other major actors involved, the scenarios encountered and the region where assistance needs arise.
- *The OPCW third delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3, Tunisia*. Annual exercises improve the OPCW's reaction capabilities. The 2010 exercise Assistex 3 dealt with the threat and use of chemical weapons against a country (Tunisia). Both the presentation and the movie provided valuable information about the execution of the OPCW's third delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3 and lessons learned there from.
- *OPCW verification procedures* by Mr Laurentiu LAZAR. The presentation served to emphasize the aims, facilities, challenges and procedures related to OPCW inspections (Articles IV, V, VI).
- The end of the 2nd day was earmarked for the National Representatives' presentations of their respective national points of view on practical issues regarding controlling and declaring chemicals.



Attending the seminar

The 3rd day included the execution of a tabletop exercise for typical Schedule 2 and OPCW inspections. The aim of the exercise was to provide practice and training for relevant government representatives who might be involved in the provision of assistance under Article X of the CWC and to train and instruct them in the procedures, methods and mechanisms to be followed by an inspection team during this kind of inspection.

The final part of the seminar was devoted to the evaluation of the seminar and the Closing ceremony.

Conclusion

The cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW ensured the presence of high-level instructors. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants. The practical part proved to be particularly useful, not only for the participants, but for the lecturers as well as they gained valuable feedback by running the exercise in "real" circumstances.

According to the participants' assessments provided at the end of the event, the seminar was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of the national authorities dealing with the chemical weapons in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.

The participants were highly motivated during the Seminar and they showed deep interest in the subject matter. They expressed various ideas regarding the topics for possible future activities, which may prove to be a valuable source of needs assessment. In particular, they supported the need to prolong the practical phase of the seminar and to shorten the theoretical part, as it had already been covered during the previous seminars. The following topics

were singled out as interesting for future seminars:

- Advanced training on Electronic Declaration tool for National Authorities (EDNA) and the request of assistance by the OPCW in case of a CW attack. The participants asked for more exercises of this kind to be included in next year's activities, as they are an important source of valuable experience.
- Discussion on control/proliferation of chemical substances' trade with the participation of the appropriate personnel apart from the State Parties' representatives (i.e. customs personnel).
- Updated information about terrorism topics related to CBR substances and security measures.
- Report on activities of the OPCW and State Parties during 2011, with special focus on SEE region. Exchange of experiences and information.

These recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration by the co-

organizers in the course of preparations for next year's activity.

RACVIAC will continue to promote the CWC in all appropriate international and regional forums, as well as in its bilateral communications. It is the only multilateral treaty to ban an entire category of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), to provide for international verification of their destruction and conversion of their production facilities to peaceful purposes, and to actively involve the world chemical industry in treaty negotiations and ongoing verification.

Finally, the CWC promotes the international cooperation and coordination in the peaceful use of chemicals and in protection against chemical weapon attacks or threats. However, it needs to be continually adapted to evolving circumstances, since CWs, as part of a wider area of hazardous materials, are being increasingly used by criminal organizations or terrorists. The CWC is a universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable and enforceable model for multilateral undertakings to build global consensus on security through arms control, create confidence and deter treaty violations.

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* *Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name*