



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
Office of the Director



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
Ministry of Defence

ARMS CONTROL SYMPOSIUM

Co-organised by: RACVIAC- Centre for Security Cooperation, the Republic of Albania, the Federal Republic of Germany and German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Dates 21 – 23 November 2011

Venue Training and Doctrine Centre (TRADOC), Rruga e Dibres, Tirana, ALBANIA.

Background

The implementation of various arms control treaties in the SEE region plays a key role in strengthening cooperation and stability among regional countries.

When in the past RACVIAC programme laid out its widely adopted principles of arms control, it attempted to bring arms control and defence policy into alignment, thus emphasizing the need to reduce the chances of regional conflicts. A similar logic is applied to arms control in the modern age of terrorism, instability and asymmetric threats, leading to a new set of core principles.

Arms control, once a keystone of RACVIAC programme policy, has fallen from favour with many regional policymakers. Yet it is needed more than ever, although in a different form. Dangerous technologies abound throughout the world and cannot be controlled exclusively through military action or other unilateral means. A successful strategy necessitates coordinated international initiatives to regulate the development, production, and use of such technologies and weapons— in other words, arms control.

Managing the existing arms control treaties and agreements like CFE, CWC, Oslo Convention, Ottawa Convention, Vienna Document 99, Dayton Peace Accords and the Open Skies Treaty will remain an important focus of future arms control efforts. RACVIAC identifies their main elements and illustrates the recent developments based on current multilateral arms control negotiations such as the destruction and disposal of ammunition and the reduction of small arms and light weapons. This new approach has proved to be very resilient to changing political developments, to have a strong preventive component and to be crisis resistant. Its success is closely linked to an effective implementation of the agreements whether or not they are politically or legally binding. Furthermore, the success is no longer measured in the number of ratifications, as it also implies a developed dialogue with non-state actors.

Nowadays, the emphasis is no longer on intrusive international verifications or diplomatic high-level conferences but on the ability and capability of each state to effectively implement the concluded agreements. In line with that, RACVIAC is committed to providing technical, academic and coordination assistance to countries with less experience in arms control in order to promote the implementation of the existing treaties.

Owing to its own capabilities and the support from regional and international partners, RACVIAC is well placed to continue its ten years' experience as a centre for training, education and capacity building in the field of arms control.

Purpose & Objectives	<p>Reflecting the political ambition to implement the existing arms control treaties, RACVIAC –Centre for Security Cooperation, jointly with the Republic of Albania and the Federal Republic of Germany, has developed the idea of organizing an Arms Control Symposium, to be held in the period of 21 – 23 November 2011 in Albania.</p> <p>The purpose of this event is to present the latest developments in arms control and to open new perspectives on confidence-building measures for peace and stability in Europe. The symposium will serve as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of arms control treaties as a cornerstone of European and SEE security.</p> <p>The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information on the historical background, implementation, execution, current situation and the prospects of arms control treaties; • To raise awareness of the significance of arms control and confidence building measures; • To promote the use of existing political-military instruments such as the CFE/ACFE treaty in the interest of international stability; • To examine further developments of goal-oriented OSCE commitments to tackle transnational threats; • To analyze military aspects of the application of existing treaties in the interest of international stability; • To discuss the increasing practical support for SEE countries; • To create a supplementary podium where participants would be familiarized with the remaining unresolved issues concerning arms control treaties and the obligations deriving there from; • To analyze various aspects of modern regimes for arms control in Europe and to address the future of conventional arms control; • To endorse the OSCE capability for conflict resolution.
Participants	<p>The invitation to the symposium is addressed particularly, though not exclusively, to countries of South East Europe. Thus, three participants from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia are kindly invited to attend.</p> <p>Participants should be either representatives of Ministries, political institutions and national authorities devoted to the implementation of arms control treaties or arms control experts. Lecturers will represent national institutions/agencies or other relevant international organisations.</p>
Methodology	<p>The event will be held in the form of a symposium followed by a podium discussion. It is planned to be carried out in two full working days.</p> <p>The symposium working language will be English.</p>
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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.