



Centre for security cooperation



NATO Enlargement: Integration and Security in the SEE region

Dates	15-17 November 2011
Venue	Rakitje, Zagreb
Background	<p>NATO's new Strategic Concept, adopted at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, reaffirmed the Allies' commitment to keep NATO's door open to any European country in a position to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership and contribute to the security in the Euro-Atlantic area. It also paved the way for full NATO integration of South-East European (SEE) countries, as potential NATO member states from SEE have demonstrated willingness to take the necessary steps and meet the benchmarks set for their possible future membership. The concept of the conference has been developed with a view to providing the countries of the region with an opportunity to discuss regional security issues of mutual concern and to address future challenges and pitfalls they could encounter in the process of NATO integration. Those challenges will be discussed and analyzed relying on principles of mutual respect, responsibility and reciprocity.</p> <p>The aim of the conference is to examine the prospects of NATO enlargement in the region by informing the SEE countries about past and current developments concerning NATO integration and security in the region, especially in the light of the conclusions of the 2010 Lisbon Summit. Furthermore, the activity will provide NATO member and candidate member states from the region with an opportunity to exchange views and lessons learned relating to the progress in NATO integration.</p>
Purpose & Objectives	<p>The purpose of this conference is to contribute to SEE countries' efforts in their Euro-Atlantic integration processes by encouraging them to exchange information, views and lessons learned, as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To present and discuss the achievements of SEE countries on their way to NATO;• To promote cooperation between NATO and SEE countries through different projects;• To highlight the most necessary reforms and challenges in fulfilling the conditions for membership;• To promote an active participation in PfP and EAPC mechanisms;• To learn from the experiences of member and potential member countries.
Participants	<p>Approximately 35 participants, from each of the signatory countries of the RACVIAC agreement, who are either civilian or military officials at decision-making levels and experts representing relevant ministries dealing with the conference subject matter. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media will also be invited.</p>
Methodology	<p>The conference will last two full days and will comprise lectures and discussions. The conference working language will be English. All conference materials will be issued in the form of a CD at the end of the conference.</p>
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