



Centre for Security Cooperation



Parliamentary Assembly B&H

Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector
“Deployment of Armed Forces Abroad - Lessons Learned and Practical Experiences in SEE”

Annex A

Dates 14-15 June 2011

Venue Conference Room in the Parliament of B&H, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Background

The implementation of the Democratic control of armed forces and Parliamentary oversight of the security sector as its main, institutional mechanism started first in European states with a long democratic tradition and subsequently in the new democracies in Eastern Europe in 1989. Thus, Parliamentary oversight of the security sector is not quite a long-standing phenomenon in SE Europe.

However, a number of countries have already adopted different systems and models of the Democratic control of armed forces besides Parliamentary oversight of the security sector. Yet, there are considerable differences in legislation and institutions involved in these matters throughout SE Europe. In all countries Parliamentary Defence and/or Security Committees have been developed as an institutional tool for overseeing the security sector activities, and their efficiency is directly influenced by Committees’ capabilities to work in accordance with the following preconditions: clearly defined constitutional and legal basis, customary practices, resources’ management, expertise and political will.

Purpose & Objectives

This seminar, as the follow-up of the *Conference on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: “Positive Experiences and Examples of the Parliamentary Committees for Security in SEE”* held in Sarajevo (BA) in June 2010, has been developed for the purpose of enabling the participants to discuss parliamentary procedures, obstacles and oversight mechanisms in the field of deployment of armed forces abroad.

The objectives are as follows:

- Following the minutes of the earlier mentioned conference in Sarajevo, this event as well as subsequent events of the kind should serve as “a permanent forum of parliamentarians responsible for oversight of the security sector supporting required security sector reform efforts at the legislative level”;
- To present national overviews (MoD or parliamentary committee representative) of the history of deployment of armed forces abroad and to share experience and lessons learned in Peace Support Operations (PSO);
- To present and discuss different levels (executive and parliamentary) of national decision-making procedures, mechanisms and practices in the field of deployment of armed forces abroad. *Is there a practice of the Executive providing the summary of an operation to relevant parliamentary committees? Were scrutiny mechanisms applied by committees before and/or after the deployment, and how?*
- To present also the institution and experience of The Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Participants

Approximately 30 – 35 participants.

Namely, the total of three participants from **parliamentary committees on international cooperation, defence and security and Ministries of Defence** from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.

Their counterparts from other MAG countries, representatives from NATO HQ – Sarajevo, OSCE – Sarajevo, USAID – Sarajevo, EUFOR - ALTHEA as well as regional governmental representatives are also most welcome.

Methodology

The seminar will comprise speeches by key officials, experts' presentations followed by questions & answers sessions and a moderated panel discussion at the end of the seminar. During the seminar the working language will be local and English with simultaneous interpretation.

POC

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