



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



**ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

Co-organized with

Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- Dates** 20-24 February 2012
- Venue** RACVIAC - Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia
- Background** The seminar focuses on provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It has been organized annually since 2004 in cooperation with the OPCW. The OPCW came into existence on 29 April 1997, following the entry into force of the CWC. The CWC has four principal objectives: the elimination of chemical weapons and the capacity to develop them; the verification of chemical non-proliferation; international assistance and protection in case of CW use; and international cooperation in peaceful use of chemical substances. This seminar serves as a forum for enhancing the regional capacity building in the fight against CW. It also provides an opportunity to discuss practical challenges in building a response system to be employed in a scenario of CW use or a threat of use. Each year the purpose of the seminar is different. The 2012 seminar is a continuation of a fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in SEE, which directly helps to enhance regional stability, transparency and trust.
- Purpose & Objectives** The purpose of this seminar is to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and to provide a broad overview of Chemical Weapons Convention implementation procedures and a general look at specific conditions in the region.
- Our objectives are:
- To clarify any uncertainties in the submissions of Article X obligations of the CWC by the Member States to the OPCW;
 - To provide an update on issues relating to industrial (Article VI) declarations under the CWC, including a review of Verification Information System (VIS);
 - To inform the participants about the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts;
 - To emphasize the importance of capacity building in the fight against Chemical Weapons Agents (CWA) and Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TIC), through projects on national and regional levels;
 - To analyse updates on preparedness for Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU) and Delivery of Assistance (DA) operations;
 - To talk about regional support during IAU and DA in the field;
 - To inform about the assistance offered by countries in the region under Article X of the CWC, and about their preparedness, reaction time, and provision of logistic support;
 - To execute training with table exercises on Delivery of Assistance operations.
- Participants** Approximately 35 participants, namely three from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia. Representatives from each of the remaining MAG countries, the OSCE, relevant international organizations, and academics will also be invited. They should be either senior and junior military and civilian recommendation-makers dealing with CWC issues and responsible for escorting inspections from the Secretariat of the OPCW. The content of this seminar will be of particular interest to members of National Authorities dealing with declarations. The speakers will be representatives of the OPCW.
- Methodology** The duration of the seminar is 4 days. It will comprise presentations, discussions and exercises. The seminar will provide an appropriate setting and atmosphere to encourage focused discussions. The seminar working language will be English (STANAG 3332).
- POC** Lieutenant Colonel Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Tel.: 00385 1 333 0 822, Fax: 00385 1 333 0 829; E-mail Address: kalexopoulos@racviac.org, Web: www.racviac.org.

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