Integration and Contribution of SEE Countries to CSDP

09-12 May 2012

IRC-10-S

EXTERNAL REPORT

Abstract

The idea to organize an event on the aforementioned topic originated from the wish to continue conducting EU-related activities in order to foster and promote the European integration processes in South Eastern Europe (SEE). RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, together with its Members and with the support of the European Commission, successfully served as a platform for the exchange of experiences, best practices, knowledge, and understanding of EU rules and procedures.

Background

Common and synchronized adoption of demands, which are cumulated in the CSDP concept, could be one of the instruments stimulating effective reaching of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)/Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) standards as part of the EU integration. Different concepts of crisis management and the necessity for harmonisation with regard to CSDP standards have increased the needs of the EU candidate and potential candidate countries in the pre-accession phase pertaining to the procedures, management, capabilities, knowledge, etc.

Purpose

The purpose of this event was to contribute to regional security cooperation in South Eastern Europe as an important tool aimed at promoting the region’s European integration efforts. The activity has contributed to better recognition of the importance of CFSP/CSDP, as part of the SEE countries’ integration in the EU.

The objectives were:

➢ to provide information and prompt discussion among the SEE countries concerning security and defence issues, challenges and achievements with regard to the CSDP activities;

➢ To explore and identify ways of influencing CSDP with regard to security and defence of the SEE countries;

➢ To analyze and compare experiences of new EU members in terms of security and defence;

➢ To consider current and potential impacts of other entities of Euro-Atlantic security integration, as well as other security-relevant actors, in terms of security and defence of the SEE countries in the process of their accession to the European Union;

➢ To promote optimal ways of systematizing the activities of preparation and cooperation of the SEE countries in the field of security and defence in the process of their accession to the EU;

Acknowledgements

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Venue and participation

The event was held at the Topčider barracks in Belgrade from 09 to 12 May 2012. It gathered a total of 122 participants from the SEE countries and member countries of the European Union. The participants were both civilian and military officials at the decision-making and expert level.
The Programme

Ms Tanja Miščević, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Serbia, welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Serbian Ministry of Defence and gave the floor to the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Dragan Šutanovac for his opening remarks.

Minister Šutanovac pointed out that the basic question was how to ensure that each country from the SEE understands and supports realization of the most important European values to the benefit of security of our citizens. He underlined that security was an important precondition for economical, social and similar improvements and fundamental for better lives and better future of every person. The Minister also added that this event was the confirmation of the partnership and importance of security system for the region. Likewise, he said that by exchanging insights on the importance of all aspects of the common security and defence policy, we all contribute to improved security cooperation in the region and by doing this we all promote the European integration process.

After the opening part was finished, the event continued with the panel presentations. In the first panel the distinguished representative Ms Patricia Galvao Teles from the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU delivered the presentation entitled: The CSDP - Policy, Strategy and Legal Framework. In continuation, Col Nikolai Dotzev, Head of National Defence Policy Branch at the Bulgarian MoD delivered a presentation: “How SEE Countries Can Contribute to the CSDP - the Bulgarian Example”. The panel was closed by MG Božidar Forca, PhD, Head of Strategic Planning Department at the Serbian MoD, who informed the audience about the Republic of Serbia and Common Security and Defence Policy.

The second panel was dedicated to the defence industry and research. The panel was chaired by Mr Zoran Jefić, PhD, State Secretary MoD (RS). In the framework of this panel the following experts delivered their presentation: Mr Christian Madsen, Head of Capabilities Support Unit at the European Defence Agency (EDA) made a presentation on Improving European Defence Capabilities: Challenges for EDA; Col Florian Toporan, Head of Department for Research, Development and Testing Evaluation, Sector for Armament at the Romanian Ministry of Defence gave a presentation on Integrated Defence Acquisition Management System, while MG Bojan Zrnčić, Head of Defence Technologies Department presented an example from the host nation.
The following panel focused on the military and civilian dimensions of the crisis management. Mr Yves de Kermabon, European External Action Service (EEAS), former Head of EULEX - Kosovo Mission, addressed the audience and shared some of the most important lessons learned from CSDP missions, such as the need for a comprehensive approach, the necessity for the strategic planning to be military and civilian alike, responsibility sharing as crucial part of any operation that helps avoid duplication. Afterwards, national presentations were made by: Col Saša Stefanović (RS), Ms Beatrica Šmaguć (HR) and Mr Viktor Popovski from MK. The panel was concluded by a question and answer session followed by an open discussion.

The second working day started with the forth panel which dealt with the political and security aspects of CSDP in the pre-accession phase. During this session the national presentations of EU candidate and potential candidate countries form South Eastern Europe were made from the point of view of respective countries and delivered by their representatives, namely: Mr Eduard Sulo, Head of CFSP Department at the MFA (AL), Mr Zoran Šajinović, Assistant Minister at the MoD (BA), Mr Silvio Kus, Assistant Head of CFSP and CSDP Department at the MFIA (HR) and Captain (N) Dragoslav Pumalović, Head of NATO and EU Department at the MoD (ME). After that, Brigadier General Reinard Trischak from the Austrian Ministry of Defence underpinned some of the key aspects of the cooperation on CSDP: cooperation with alliances, participation in the EU-led operations, participation in the crisis management operations in accordance with the possibilities of respective countries, positive visibility, participation in EU trainings, education and preparation of personnel for future engagement, etc.

The fifth panel, which focused on the impact of human resources management on the CSDP, was chaired by Brigadier General Reinard Trischak. In this regard, Col Samed Karović, PhD, presented the Serbian example. Within the last panel, which dealt with the budgetary issues in the CSDP, Col Philippe Pourque from the French Military Representation to the EU delivered his presentation on the CSDP Mission and Operation Funding - Rules and Implementation.

The panel was closed with the presentation by Col Slavoljub Marković, MA, Serbian Ministry of Defence.

Closing remarks

In the course of the event, RACVIAC, together with the Serbian MoD and TAEX Instrument [EU Commission], created a fertile ground for an exchange of views and best practices, as well as for the discussion on existing challenges and perspectives. This activity can be regarded as a continuation of the commitment and readiness of South East European countries to further promote European integration processes.

At the end of the event, during the closing session, it was highly recommended that this initiative be further promoted in the future. Furthermore, the following conclusions were made:

- The event was one of the largest activities organized by RACVIAC together with its Members and international partners;
- During the event, speakers and participants showed considerable interest in various topics in order to get a better insight into them;
- The support form TAEX should be continued in the future, in addition to making use of other EU funds;
- Despite different national positions on the CSDP, all EU candidate and potential candidate countries from the region have the same strategic path towards the EU membership;
- On behalf of the Ministry of Defence, the State Secretary, Ms Miščević, announced that an event on CSDP Financing would be taken into consideration for 2013.

Compiled by: Mr Milan Janićijević, IRC Pillar.