

RACVIAC GENERAL GUIDELINES PAPER

MAG DECISION PAPER 01/2001

INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Arms Control Verification Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) is a project under Working Table III (Security Issues) of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe. Working Table III aims to help create a climate of confidence and security throughout Southeast Europe by enhancing transparency, openness and predictability in the field of military security, as well as cooperation and a broad security dialogue among the participating states.

2. The level of preparation for implementing arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures varies considerably within Southeast Europe. Whereas the CFE states have been working for years to establish strong verification organisations, other countries in the region are unable fully to implement the provisions of the Vienna Document due to low capacities, although some of the countries that are party to the Florence Agreement (Dayton, Annex 1-B, Art. IV) have created verification institutions to implement it. The difference in the standard to which the agreements are implemented may give rise to misperceptions both among the countries in the region and within the OSCE. Establishing the RACVIAC to improve this standard and to promote regular dialogue may help to build confidence among these countries.

3. The RACVIAC aims to support the goals of Working Table III, mainly in the field of arms control and other closely related security matters. It will support, but not duplicate, the OSCE in its mandate under Articles II, IV and V of Annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Accords, which concerns the overall objective of building confidence and security, as well as promoting cooperation and good neighbourly relations in the region. It attempts to assist the states in the region to participate more effectively in the implementation of existing arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures. This includes, where applicable, agreements stemming from the Dayton Peace Accords, the Vienna Document 1999, the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation Decisions, the Chemical Weapons Convention, Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines, et al. The RACVIAC would also provide information on other arms control arrangements, such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Treaty on Open Skies and support states in their preparation for possible accession to such agreements.

4. The RACVIAC will not interfere with national rights or obligations under the various agreements. The establishment and activities of the Centre will be without prejudice to any future arms control regimes or their membership.

AIM

5. The aim and purpose of establishing the Southeast European Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) is to facilitate full participation by nations in the implementation of the arms control agreements

they have concluded. It is primarily intended to help those nations in the region that have no more than basic verification organisations at their disposal, if indeed any at all. It is further intended to promote dialogue and cooperation in order to improve the standard of implementation of arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures, as well as to discuss and prepare for participation in and implementation of any future arms control measures and agreements that may become a possibility or necessity within a multinational framework.

OBJECTIVES

6. The RACVIAC will provide a forum for dialogue and cooperation in Southeast Europe. In addition, it will provide an international forum for training personnel for all aspects of implementation. The RACVIAC will also encourage dialogue among the region's states in other arms control and confidence and security building matters. As a CSBM in its own right, the RACVIAC is intended to increase transparency and cooperation, and thus increase confidence among the states of the region.

7. To accomplish these goals, the RACVIAC will work on three levels. Firstly, the RACVIAC will give highest priority to initiatives intended to help those nations in the region that require help in meeting their verification commitments and in exercising their verification rights. The second level would be multinational efforts intended for only part of Southeast Europe, or sub-regional initiatives. Thirdly, and as resources permit, the RACVIAC will engage with individual states on national and/or bilateral initiatives.

TASKS

8. Regional Cooperation and Exchanges. The RACVIAC will seek to enhance the ties among the states of Southeast Europe through regional cooperation. While not interfering with negotiating fora or national responsibilities, the RACVIAC will provide an opportunity for regional dialogue on implementation of arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures, allowing states to share their experiences in this forum. These discussions will not replace, and should enhance the contributions by the region's states to, other meetings to discuss implementation (which are not limited to the region), notably the monthly meetings of Working Group A of the OSCE Forum of Security Cooperation, or the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

9. Implementation of Arms Control Agreements and Confidence and Security Building Measures. The RACVIAC will facilitate the full implementation of arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures and arrangements by the interested states. To accomplish this, the RACVIAC will plan and conduct activities that can contribute to a common understanding of current agreements and arrangements to which the states belong. (Early efforts will focus on the Vienna Document 1999). The RACVIAC will provide advice on implementation and information regarding obligations under international arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures, including discussion of necessary national steps, such as the development of national legislation and/or implementation regulations for armed forces, as well as making appropriate defence adjustments. As

appropriate, the RACVIAC will assist the preparation of interested states in the region for accession to agreements and arrangements in force.

10. Training of Personnel While the RACVIAC will not itself undertake inspections, it will provide an international venue for training of verification and other personnel. To accomplish this, the RACVIAC will organize training courses for the interested states, at the centre itself, in verification, information exchange and other implementation tasks. Alternatively, the RACVIAC facilities could provide a regional venue for conducting training organized (faculty/curriculum) by others. In addition, upon request and if available, RACVIAC staff members could contribute to national or multinational training programs (i.e., as instructors).

11. Advisory Teams. The RACVIAC will make every effort to respond to specific requests for advice in implementation of arms control agreements and confidence and security building measures from interested states. The RACVIAC will contact other participating states to determine if the necessary advice for the requesting state is available. If appropriate, the RACVIAC will coordinate with both the advising and requesting states to provide funding for the advisory team to work directly on a project or to conduct training. Alternatively, if the requested expertise is present and available within the RACVIAC, one or more of its staff members could provide the requested advice.

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

12. To maximize the applicability of RACVIAC initiatives, the annual programme will be structured to reflect the timing of ongoing arms control commitments and routinely scheduled events (such as the various Data Exchanges). Future programmes should reflect both short-term and long-term requirements as well as the progress achieved in the previous year's training and pay regard to participants' requests from states in the region.

- The RACVIAC staff will announce the intended target audience for each training course and seminar.
- RACVIAC activities will generally be designed for senior civil and/or military decision-makers, military and/or civilian experts or personnel from verification agencies, but they might also be adapted for a different audience (for example, legislators/parliamentarians).
- Sometimes, it will be decided to run a training course or seminar again for a different target audience; it may be sufficient to add the course/seminar to the following year's programme, but the activity programme will retain the flexibility to schedule the additional course/seminar much sooner if appropriate.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that courses/seminars are repeated for different levels and parts of the region's governments as necessary, and non-governmental participation as appropriate.

PARTICIPANTS

13. RACVIAC activities will be conducted on a non-attribution basis in order to gain maximum advantage for the participants. Participants will not necessarily speak as official spokesmen of their governments/organisations, but as individuals.

EXTERNAL LINKS

14. The RACVIAC will maintain regular links in order to accomplish its goals. In addition to contacts with the RACVIAC participating states, RACVIAC will establish and maintain contacts with those organisations, states and institutions, which will contribute to reach goals as, set out above. The paragraphs below highlights key links, but are not exclusive.

15. Multinational Advisory Group (MAG). The Multinational Advisory Group is the body that supervises the RACVIAC. It will provide guidance and outline tasks for the RACVIAC. At each meeting, the MAG will review the work of the RACVIAC and provide an assessment of that work. In addition, the MAG will approve the annual programme for the RACVIAC, and be informed by the director of RACVIAC on the progress achieved and the assistance given to other organisations, states and institutions.

16. RACVIAC Participating/Interested States. Communication between the RACVIAC and its participating/interested states will be conducted primarily through national Points of Contact as made known by the participating/interested states. Contact will also be maintained with the Embassies of RACVIAC participating/interested states in Zagreb.

17. OSCE. The development of the Stability Pact under the auspices of the OSCE and the specific association of the RACVIAC to Working Table 3 ensures that the RACVIAC will remain linked to the OSCE.

- The RACVIAC will support and complement OSCE efforts related to arms control in Southeast Europe, primarily through coordination and cooperation with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Articles II/IV and the Department for Regional Stabilization (OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- If requested, the Director RACVIAC will provide information on the progress achieved by the RACVIAC to OSCE states through the Forum for Security Cooperation.
- Ongoing communication between the RACVIAC and the OSCE Secretariat, specifically the Conflict Prevention Centre, will ensure that the RACVIAC remains aware of OSCE developments in the region.

18. NATO. The RACVIAC will establish and maintain links with NATO due to its presence in the region and due to its specific role in the field of stability.

- The RACVIAC will maintain contact with the NATO International Staff, specifically the Conventional Arms Control Section (CARC) within the Political Affairs Division, to maximize training opportunities. The Head of the CARC can act as a conduit for the RACVIAC to request assistance from, or provide information to, the Verification Coordination Committee (VCC).
- Ongoing communication with the SFOR Liaison to Croatia (SLTC) is likely to facilitate the influx of military personnel from the region's states to attend courses and seminars at the RACVIAC.
- The RACVIAC will also coordinate with other training facilities such as the NATO School (SHAPE) at Oberammergau.

19. The RACVIAC will maintain, as a key link, a website www.racviac.org containing suitable information on the aim, goals, organisation, annual programme and other matters in order to both accomplish these goals and to promote its existence and progress in the region.