



## **CENTRE for SECURITY COOPERATION**

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### **INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR**

*Dear Friends,*

*In the year 2008 RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation reached the peak of its transformation process. The two working groups established by the decision at the 20th MAG Meeting in October 2008, dealt in a highly productive manner with the two most important strategic issues for the future of the Centre – adapting its organization and its legal status to the shifting regional and world order. In parallel, some old practices were abandoned or replaced with new ones, including a somewhat different style of organizing and executing our activities as well as reporting, to mention just a few of the steps towards a new working ethos of the Centre. It is not possible to overstate the importance of the adoption of the new organizational structure and legal status of the Centre at the Spring MAG Meeting 2009 and we all know that the SEE countries are far from the only beneficiaries of this process.*

*In 2008/9 RACVIAC has continued to contribute to administrative capacity building in the region by providing highly valued courses on a wide variety of Arms Control issues, such as Vienna Document '99, Dayton Agreement, Open Skies, and others. RACVIAC co-organized its activities in 2008 with relevant - predominantly regionally located - Organizations/Institutions or similar bodies, choosing those which have similar strategic objectives in regional security cooperation in general or in at least one of RACVIAC overarching themes. These include RCC, DPPI, MARRI, SECI, RAI, SEMEC, and similar.*

*RACVIAC cooperation was further developed in 2008 as well as in the first quarter of 2009. Wherever possible RACVIAC developed and executed its activities with the contribution of at least one relevant Organization/Institution or similar body as a Co-Organizer. In general, the participation of a co-organizer was visible through the use of its logo or other suitable sign of identification on the activity overview and agenda. As the preferred option, RACVIAC chose to co-organize its activities during 2008/9 with those Organizations/Institutions or similar, with which it had already signed Memoranda of Understanding or any other Cooperation Agreement. We intend to continue doing so in the future. The Centre succeeded in its efforts to foster security dialogue and cooperation on various levels by attracting high-ranking officials such as ministers, parliamentarians, journalists, attaches and ambassadors to our seminars and meetings.*

*The Centre envisages investing additional effort in promoting its new image in order to attract more extensive media coverage of its activities. Accordingly, topical issues, as well as fresh elements in advertising our activities in order to attract greater media attention, are receiving serious consideration. A brand new Web Page as an indispensable part of that new image of our Centre is designed in order to keep you up-to-date with all activities in and around RACVIAC. It is refreshed on a daily basis and we are constantly trying our best in improving its appeal. It also goes without saying that Member Countries, our partner-organizations in the SEE Region and beyond, are kindly invited to help themselves with our website, as well as to make their honest comments and suggestions.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić*

*RACVIAC, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009*