



CENTRE for SECURITY COOPERATION

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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR

*Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,*

It is my special pleasure to address You after the successful 23rd Meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group, held on the beautiful Montenegrin coast. I consider it an obligation to once again express my genuine appreciation to all MAG Members and all our partner organizations for the outstanding and very considerable ongoing support to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The 23rd MAG Meeting also served as the venue for an event of historical importance in our ten-year old Centre - the signature of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The Agreement was signed by eight SEECF countries on 14 April 2010, with two more promising to do so in the near future, and it has demonstrated the maturity of the region to undertake political commitment of increasing regional security and cooperation through the concept of regional ownership.

Nonetheless, it should be stressed that we still have a lot of projects ahead of us, the two primary ones being the preparation of the Financial Regulations and the preparation of a paper titled "Vision 2014". With regard to the former, I am certain that the welcome assistance of the MAG representatives in the work of the Working Group on Financial Regulations will undoubtedly lead to satisfactory solutions to be presented for the MAG adoption at the Autumn MAG Meeting. As the latter is concerned, I am pleased to inform you that with the great support of RACVIAC staff, I already started working on the paper that should outline RACVIAC's vision for the future period, also to be submitted to the distinguished MAG Members at the 24th MAG Meeting.

Finally, this year RACVIAC celebrates its ten-year anniversary, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my predecessors and all of RACVIAC staff who have worked for the Centre during our first ten years, for their commitment to the achievement of our mission of fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe. I would also like to thank all our regional and international partners, who have greatly assisted us in the organization and execution of our programme of activities, and thus added their contribution to the security and stability of SEE region. Our special gratitude goes to RACVIAC's core and associate member countries, whose contribution in the form of both highly qualified seconded personnel and very generous contributions, has secured the long-lasting future of our joint endeavour. And last, but not the least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the lecturers and participants of our activities. Without your expertise and desire for knowledge and cooperation, our everyday work

would be futile. Therefore, it is on behalf of all RACVIAC and my own when I say that we stand ready for continuing and further intensifying our joint cooperation.

It is needless to stress that the 10th anniversary of RACVIAC and the achievements we have jointly made in our past ten years, culminating with the signature of the new Agreement, are justifiable causes for celebration for all those that have invested themselves and their resources in our mutual mission. Therefore, parallel to our work on the new Financial Regulations and the Vision 2014 Strategy, we are also preparing special events to mark our 10th year anniversary. As always, the details of this will be distributed to you timely in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski

RACVIAC, May 2010