



**CENTRE FOR SECURITY
COOPERATION**

Combating Irregular Migration and Trafficking of Human Beings

(01 – 02 December 2008;
Rakitje, Zagreb, Croatia)

Threat without borders...

...whenever, wherever human rights must to be respected...

Southeast Europe (SEE) stands as one of the main bridges between Europe and Asia. Unfortunately, as such it too often provides a perfect setting for irregular migration and trafficking of human beings. It is only by close cooperation and greater coordination among the countries of the region that we can successfully fight these threats. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people are victims of trafficking in Europe, in particular for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour. Poverty, unstable economical and political situations, as well as the numerous armed conflicts that have occurred recently, have contributed to spread rapidly this blatant affront to human dignity.



Participants of the seminar

The countries' needs assessment demonstrated the necessity of organising these kind of seminars with the purpose of achieving a common framework for a comprehensive and streamlined regional action by engaging governmental and civil society actors, as well as international organisations in fighting irregular emigration and its threats to the security.

Close cooperation as a prerequisite...

... the solution to stop the crimes...

The participants had the opportunity to discuss the main challenges that states are facing in their efforts to tackle increasingly complex and diverse phenomenon of irregular migration and trafficking of human beings. Furthermore, the participants were able to exchange information on the issues related to the institutional set-up and penalty scales for trafficking and smuggling of human beings as well as to discuss document security. They presented on the possible ways of international co-operation and possible establishment of information exchange mechanisms, particularly among neighbouring countries so as to manage migration and trafficking of human beings more effectively along these "routes", as well as addressing these challenges primarily to the officials who are tasked to co-operate on operational level mostly (intelligence agencies, criminal investigative units, etc.).

The seminar content

The seminar gathered 36 participants from 12 countries (AL, BA, HR, GR, IT, MD, ME, MK, RS, RO, SI and TR) and 9 international organizations (*Mr Theo den Haan from EUROPOL, Mr Grigorios Apostolou from FRONTEX, Ms Mariyana Radeva from ICMPD, Ms Lovorka Marinović from IOM, H.E. AMB Jorge Fuentes Monzonís-Vilallonga from OSCE office in Zagreb, Ms Zoi Sakelliadou from UNHCR and Ms Francesca BOSCO UNICRI*).

The purpose of the seminar was to provide regional forum for comprehensive discussions; to share lessons learned and display best practices; to present national weakness as well as to establish better international cooperation among the countries and international organizations.

The main objectives of the Seminar were: to improve capacity building on national institutions tasked for combating irregular migration and trafficking of human beings, to discuss the ways and means as how to improve education and training systems for the state officials, to identify best practices, to deepen contacts between representatives of national organizations, agencies engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures, to add a real value to the SEE region showing fields and ways as how to work in the present and future as a platform for co-operation on national, regional and international level.



Keynote speech been addressed

In the Keynote speech Ms Felicita Medved gave a general overview on the phenomena of irregular migration and especially stressed out the numerous of crimes, which appears in trafficking of human beings as well as human parts, where in both cases all of the international law should be respected and implemented in to the national legislations. All through the human rights should never been forgotten.

Deputy Director Colonel Tomislav Vibovec highlighted the importance of the

cooperation between the countries and related international organizations. He emphasized the significant value and meaning of having participants from so many countries under one roof to share observations, ideas, lessons learned, best practice and different points of view.

The following discussions generated by the distinguished lecturers and participants were most interesting.

[Here are the participants` consolidated conclusions from the discussions:](#)

Conclusions.

...it is impossible to make the terror disappear from the reality.

c) Overview of the Workshop

This was the first time that RACVIAC organized an activity related to Cluster Munitions. This workshop replaced the course on Ottawa Convention on antipersonnel mines, which had been organized for the last 2 years. It proved to be a successful choice and on right time, just before the Convention for Cluster

Munitions will be opened for signature in Oslo, Norway, on 2-3 December 2008.

Day 1 Session

Colonel Tomislav Vibovec, Deputy Director of RACVIAC and Ambassador Davor Božinović State Secretary for European Integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia opened the workshop.



H.E. Ambassador Jorge Fuentes
Monzonís - Vilallonga

The workshop was divided into 3 segments. The 1st segment (Day 1) examined the background: i.e. the impetus for the Convention or why it came into being. Also, it focused on the steps leading to the Dublin Diplomatic Conference; that is how it came together. The given perspective was that of the core actors in the convention making process, both governmental and non-governmental.

Dr. Dijana Pleština, Advisor to the Minister for Mine Action, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, gave the opening remarks and Mr. Stan Brabant (Head of Policy Unit, Handicap International) spoke about the role of Cluster Munitions Coalition. Ms. Yana Mihaylova (Director, International Cooperation and European Integration Department Bulgarian Red Cross) presented the perspective of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Finally Dr. Cornelia Kratochvil (Counsellor for Military Affairs, Austrian Permanent Mission to the UN

Office in Geneva), described the steps which led to the Oslo process.

Day 1 Session

The 2nd segment (second parts of Day 1 and Day 2) focused on theoretical issues and on-the-ground experience in cluster munitions as presented and examined by international experts. Mr. Christopher Clark (United Nations Chief Technical Advisor / Programme Manager, South Lebanon United Nations Mine Action Service) gave a solid picture of the cluster munitions, which had been used in operations as well as their disastrous consequences. Ms. Vera Bohle (Evaluation and Disarmament Specialist/Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining) spoke about the Cluster Munition Clearance and the Stockpile Destruction. Mr. Peter Courtney-Green (NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency), on the last presentation of the 1st day, gave the NATO perspective for Stockpile Destruction of Cluster Munitions.

Ms. Vera Bohle (GICHD)

The 2nd day started with a brief presentation delivered by Mr. Jens Erik Grondahl, Deputy Head of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Zagreb, followed by a session about victim's assistance. The main speakers on the said subject were Ms. Anesa Kundurović (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr. Stan Brabant. The last session of the day was a panel presentation by national (regional) experts from the Mine Action Centres of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia who displayed their particular experiences, problems and lessons learned.

During the 3rd segment (Day 3) a panel of national and international NGOs representatives shared their insights and experience on mine clearance and victim assistance. Mr. Gregor Sančanin (Project Manager, International Trust Fund for

Demining & Victims Assistance) and Mr. Emil Jeremić (Regional Representative, Norwegian People's Aid, Regional Office South Eastern Europe, Belgrade) presented on the contribution of their respective organizations on the abovementioned issues and Ms. Marija Breber (Executive Secretary, Mine Aid NGO) introduced Ms. Mina Žunac, a Cluster Munitions Survivor, who gave a very realistic description of her personal experience.

3. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS:

According to the participants' assessments provided at the end of the event, the workshop proved successful, most interesting and well organized. They considered it valuable for their continuing work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of workshops in the future, aimed at contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region.

Panel of Lecturers

Issues to be highlighted:

Croatia was excellent. Especially, their contribution in inviting the proper lecturers, which was certainly most important for the success of the workshop.

Col Vibovec presenting the Certificate to Ms. Pleština

- All the presentations were very interesting. On several occasions the participants lacked time for further discussions and had to save their questions/comments for the next period or even for the following day. Therefore, if we will organize the same Workshop in the future, we have to reconsider the duration of the Workshop, either by adding more

- The invited lecturers presented in an excellent way all the issues related to Cluster Munitions: the steps to the Convention, the humanitarian issues and the on-the-ground experience with cluster munitions. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by all the participants.
- Participants' interest and motivation were very high. Even more, the moderators had often asked the participants to save their questions/comments for the next period or even for the next day.
- Generally, the participants were satisfied with the topics chosen. Therefore, it might be necessary for the next year to add one more day in order to have more discussion periods and questions/answers sessions.
- The cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of

discussion periods or by extending them.

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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name