



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

## Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

### **“Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course”**

**25-30 March 2019**

**Kraljevo, Republic of Serbia**

#### **Introduction**

The “Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course” was held on 25-30 March 2019 in Kraljevo, Republic of Serbia. It was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany and was executed in the official languages of the Parties to the Agreement. During both the theoretical and practical part simultaneous translation into English was provided. The Course was conducted with the assistance of eight lecturers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Federal Republic of Germany, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Slovenia. In addition to the lecturers, several speakers from the signatory countries supported the Course.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct participants how to successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts pursuant to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust and confidence as well as transparency in the course of inspections. The objectives of the Course were:

- To inform and educate the participants on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BA (Dayton Peace Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

- To train the participants in the role of inspectors and escorts within the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by 40 participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), Croatia (4), France (1), Germany (1), Hellenic Republic (1), Montenegro (1), Serbia (8), Slovenia (2), South Korea (2), Spain (1), Turkey (1), and USA (2). It lasted 4 days and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part.

#### **Execution**

The first working day of the Course started on Tuesday, 26 March with the Opening remarks by Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, RACVIAC Deputy Director on behalf of RACVIAC Director, Major General (ret.) Jeronim Bazo. Brigadier General Garašić stressed that the Agreement has been a very significant instrument of confidence and security building in the region as well as a means of reinforcing stability. As a result the Course, being one of the most important annual events of RACVIAC, also makes a significant contribution to regional stability, transparency and trust. She voiced her hope that the 25th anniversary of the Agreement will be celebrated together with all those who are present. The Opening remarks were followed by a Welcome

address by LtC Vlastimir Milovanović, Head of the Verification Centre of the Republic of Serbia. In his address LtC Milovanović emphasised the significance of the Agreement in building trust and confidence in the region.



**Welcome address by Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, Deputy Director of RACVIAC**

He also added that the Course offers a unique opportunity to gather the most professional elite when it comes to the Agreement and that it has been an honour for the Republic of Serbia to take part in its organisation and to host it.

This was followed by speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries and OSCE, i.e., Mr Momir Brajić, Head of Department for NATO and PfP in the MoD of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Igor Kuželka, Minister Counsellor in the MFA of the Republic of Serbia, Ms Svjetlana Šimičić, Head of Arms Control Division in the Croatian Verification Centre, MoD of Republic of Croatia and Mr Kristijan Podbevsek, Associate Arms Control Officer at the FSC Support Section in the Conflict Prevention Centre of the Secretariat of the OSCE.

The representatives of the signatory countries provided the preconditions for the Agreement, views and political background concerning the history and development of the Agreement and the phases of its implementation in the process of confidence and security building measures in the region. Although some challenges were faced in the process, the Agreement is still in use thanks to the clear political commitment of all sides.

Mr Kristijan Podbevsek addressed the participants as well in regards to the role of the OSCE when it comes to the implementation of the Agreement. He presented the work of the OSCE, both in general in ensuring stability and confidence building and in regards to its role in the Article IV implementation process. He stressed the importance of transparency and dialogue to prevent any kind of conflict while touching on the differences between Dayton and other instruments in building confidence and security.

The afternoon was devoted to the theoretical part of the Course regarding the Annual Exchange of Information and Protocols on Reduction and on Existing Types.

The second working day continued with instructions about Protocols on Inspections covering sections one to ten of the Agreement and the integration of OSCE Guest Observers. In the end the participants were divided into two groups as inspection and escort teams. The day was finalized with the preparation for the training inspection.

On the third working day the first part of the practical part was executed. A training inspection was carried out by the participants supported by the lecturers on the premises of the 98<sup>th</sup> Airforce Brigade at the Airport "Morava". During the training inspection the whole process of inspection (preparation, execution and debriefing) was demonstrated and practiced. The participants were able to take part in, observe and ask questions at all points of the training.



**Demonstration inspection in Kraljevo**

On the fourth day the second phase of the practical part took place in a military unit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Brigade in Kraljevo within the framework of another training inspection. The participants were tasked to demonstrate what they had learned during the theoretical part and during the first practical part. The Inspection Report and Debriefing was carried out by participants under the supervision of lecturers.



*Airport "Morava"*

The Course was closed by an evaluation and a brief Closing ceremony in which the participants were given certificates of successful completion of the Course. The certificates were handled by Director of RACVIAC, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo. In his Closing speech Director Bazo underlined how important it is to reinforce CSBMs. He expressed hope that the Course has had an added value in terms of gaining more knowledge, getting to know each other and building an even bigger and stronger expert community in this field. He also pointed out the significance of having so many participants from those countries who are not signatories of the Dayton Agreement and from outside the region.

### **Conclusion**

Participants as well as lecturers were highly motivated during the whole Course thus contributing to its conspicuous success.

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