

RACVIAC CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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19th MULTINATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING IN MOLDOVA



Forty-four representatives from twenty-five RACVIAC member countries participated in the **19th Biannual Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting** held on 10th April 2008 in Chisinau, Moldova. Meeting participants were also representatives of countries with observer status (Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine), as well as OSCE representatives General Bernard AUSSEDAT and Col Yonko TOTEVSKI, SEDM representatives Mr. Pance ANGELOV and Ms Vesna SEBISKA, and RCC representative Mr Efrem RADEV.

At the beginning of the meeting, MAG took note of Director's Report on RACVIAC Activities after a brief discussion. MAG welcomed the increasing interest of other regional organizations in RACVIAC as evinced a short time ago during the SEECP Defence Ministers Meeting held in Sofia, as well as a stronger cooperation between RACVIAC, EU and NATO.

During the discussion, MAG stressed that the completion of RACVIAC's transformation was an ongoing process and that MAG countries would require time for thorough consideration of the most efficient structure. For that reason, MAG decided to establish a Working Group to discuss

RACVIAC's New Organizational structure, to be chaired by Turkey, with the participation of all MAG countries. At the same time, a Working group on RACVIAC Legal status led by the host nation - Croatia, was also established. This group is to be composed of experts from, the signatories of the existing basic Agreement as well as from other MAG nations. Both Working Groups will present a report on their achievements at the next MAG Meeting.

The revised RACVIAC Programme 2008 was approved by MAG, with their request to be informed through a silent procedure of any amendments of a substantive nature to the programme. At that point, MAG took note of the Projection of RACVIAC programme for year 2009. Under the Agenda dealing with the financial issues, MAG took note of the Budget 2008 and the Projection of the Budget 2009, but also requested holding a Budgetary Meeting the day before the MAG Meetings as a rule.

Before closing the meeting, all representatives welcomed Spain as the new Associate member and agreed that next Budgetary Meeting would be held on 30th October and next MAG meeting on 31st October 2008 in RACVIAC facilities.

WORKING GROUP MEETING ON RACVIAC NEW ORGANIZATION

At the 19th MAG Meeting on the 10th April 2008 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) decided to establish a Working Group (WG) on RACVIAC New Organization to be chaired by Turkey, and composed of all the countries willing to participate in the group. The first WG meeting was held in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on the 16th June 2008.

The main purpose of this meeting was to provide the participants with a common understanding on RACVIAC core function; to provide them with an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of RACVIAC current organization and structure and review the proposed organisational framework, thus ensure the proper identification of all the issues for its upholding, which would promote Centre's sound performance.



MAG gathered twenty participants from eleven MAG countries, namely from: Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Bulgaria (2), Croatia (3), Greece (1), Hungary (1), Moldova (1), Netherlands (1), Romania (1), Serbia (1) and Turkey (2), representing relevant governmental institutions, organizations and ministries involved, as well as one representative from the Regional Cooperation Centre (RCC) and four RACVIAC representatives, all ready to share their observations and actively engage in discussions.

In his opening address, Mr Ömer Burhan TÜZEL, Chairman of the Working Group invited all the participants to frame their comments not in the light of any perceived shortcomings of the past, but in the needs and requirements of the future.

The experts discussed the following main issues: clarity of structure/job descriptions/mandates vs. over bureaucratization; keeping the military component engaged vs. civilianization; transition to a more academic structure vs. continuity; delegation of greater authority to the Director in the selection of staff vs. national prerogatives in the appointment/secondment of staff; selection of most qualified staff vs. regional ownership. All the participants agreed that achieving a common understanding on the said issues would certainly require

a transition phase and establishing a step-by-step approach. The one-day meeting proved successful, and Mr TÜZEL thanked all the participants for their proactive contributions. All the participants agreed they had reached a common understanding on the proposed organisational structure framework and could take it as a basis for the WG future work, complemented by the job descriptions. They all agreed not to completely dismantle the present structure, but to seek solutions on how to keep the military component and successfully enhance it by the civilian one.

For the next WG2 meeting the experts recommended the following topics: upgrading of the proposed organisational framework and providing a preliminary organigram, producing detailed job descriptions and laying down nomination and vetoing process.

They proposed holding the next meeting of the Working Group on RACVIAC New Organisation on 22nd September 2008.

RACVIAC VISIT TO GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY

On Monday 26 May 2008 the Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ and LtCol Thomas MERGEL, RACVIAC, Chief Planning and Liaison Officer for WE and international organizations, paid a return visit to Geneva Centre for Security Cooperation (GCSP). Earlier this year a Memorandum of Understanding between both Centres was signed.

The discussions and presentations focused on providing a better understanding of Center's functions and activities. It is clear that the RACVIAC can offer excellent logistic support for almost any training in the Southeast European Region while GCSP can offer a great range of expertise.

Ambassador Fred TANNER and Dr. Peter FOOT, Academic Dean, accepted the request for tailored training of faculty members from RACVIAC and to invite them to participate in the main courses. The talks were concluded with a brief presentation of GCSP training facilities.



CONFERENCE ON FIREARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES IN SEE

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in close collaboration with SEESAC and UNODC, conducted a Conference on Firearms Control Initiatives in Southeast Europe from the 22nd to the 24th April 2008.

The purpose of the conference was to share the current experience of participating States in regulating, preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms and ammunition, to examine the status of implementation of the legal obligations under the UN Protocol on Firearms among the SEE countries, and to develop a consensus for a coherent and coordinated approach to the application of agreed controls as to avoid duplication of effort and to share information and knowledge amongst the authorities involved. The conference gathered thirty-eight participants from eleven countries with intimate knowledge and experience in the area of firearms control, representing the lead Ministries with a mandate for firearms control, and parliamentary committees.

During the three conference days a multinational team of experts provided an insight into International SALW norms and standards and subsequently discussed the status of their implementation in each country. The experts stressed the importance of identifying different ways of enhancing the bilateral, regional and inter-agency collaboration as to discuss lessons learned, challenges and problems, to share knowledge and experience as well as to seek common solutions. The consolidated findings from the participants of the conference were as follows:

- The participants agreed upon a need for developing new ways and greater opportunities for sharing common relevant operational picture among all relevant organizations and institutions with a view to promoting stronger cooperation and avoiding duplications. The countries should consider launching media campaigns to increase SALW awareness.

- There was still a strong need for a closer cooperation between the governments, communities and NGOs as to insert topics on SALW into their activities with a view to building stronger programme awareness.

- The participants stressed the urgent necessity for international cooperation and assistance, including financial and technical assistance, as appropriate, to support and facilitate efforts at the local, national, and regional levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of conferences in the future and proposed organizing seminars with a practical part, which would also provide the participants with the appropriate training. Key findings from the guest expert faculty are as follows:

- The countries should continue to fully implement the provisions of the UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol and specially promote the harmonization of legislation on brokering and reduce the number of international brokers.

- Members of the Parliaments have a unique and important role to play in terms of legislative initiatives and mobilizing resources for implementation of the SALW provisions.

- It is important to recognize that measures taken by the countries will be determined in part by their capacity to undertake appropriate action.

- Countries should adopt administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the export, import and transit of SALW and their ammunition, including the establishment or maintenance of effective systems of export, import, and international transit licenses or authorizations for transfers.

- Focal Points are a key access point for cooperation and assistance in implementation of the SALW provisions, hence it is important to continue maintaining a functional and efficient regional network.

- The countries should encourage negotiations, where appropriate, with the aim of concluding relevant legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. Countries of the regions should develop, where appropriate, measures to enhance transparency.

- Technical assistance is valuable, as are broader support and capacity-building mechanisms.

During the last session all the participants agreed upon the need for establishing a common approach in the area of SALW, recognizing the important contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and industry in, *inter alia*, assisting Governments to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. Therefore, they proposed setting more common initiatives in the future. They also expressed a support for initiating a discussion on the implementation of holistic arms violence prevention programmes with a focus on the local communities.

There is a strong mandate inherent in the participants' conclusions, which will contribute to RACVIAC ongoing Needs Assessment.

All countries representatives wanted SEESAC and UNODC to support and assist them. This engagement would then send a strong message to the international donor community that countries of the

region are taking more ownership of the initiatives by submitting a part to the limited budget and asking SEESAC and UNODC to deliver the requested needs.

The countries had already achieved a significant progress in this field, but they should move one step further and engage their parliaments to vote for allocating funds for such initiatives.

All the participants and representatives present expressed their readiness and strong commitment to promote regional cooperation, and organizations expressed their willingness to assist the countries in the process. The feedback of participants strengthened RACVIAC aim to continue with this subject at the next activity on SALW, which should be organized this year.

COUNTER TERRORISM THROUGH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized in Sarajevo, Army Hall, a two-day seminar aimed at highlighting the importance of cooperation between the countries and related security organizations in terms of the fight against terrorism, as well as to discuss different aspects and threats of terrorism. The main purpose was to provide the participants with a common understanding on the meaning of terrorism; to clarify the effects of globalization on terrorism; to draw attention to the international organizational efforts; to foster exchange of information and opinions as well as to highlight efforts of regional countries in developing common regional approach as to efficiently counter this global threat.

The seminar gathered sixty-one participants from twenty countries, as well as representatives of different international organizations and NGOs ready to share their observations and discuss this *omni present* and most intriguing issue.

Among other respectful lecturers, participants had the opportunity to hear presentations by the representatives of the following organizations and institutions: George C. Marshall – European Centre for Security Studies (Germany), Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism (Turkey), United Nation Office of Drugs and Crime (Austria), NATO Allied Land Component Command (Germany), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (Italy) and Faculty of Criminal Science (Bosnia & Herzegovina) as well as other experts on terrorism from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Greece. On behalf of their country, Mr Selmo CIKOTIĆ, the Minister of Defence and Mr Tarik SADOVIĆ, the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed the participants in their introductory speeches and welcomed all to the seminar.

Mr CIKOTIĆ highlighted the importance of this seminar for all the countries in the region as an example of a joint initiative in the fight against terrorism. Minister SADOVIĆ agreed that terrorism was posing the biggest threat to world peace and security. He confirmed his country's readiness to fight this "global evil" and acknowledged the joint efforts of all government entities.



Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, RACVIAC Director, welcomed all to the seminar and invited the participants to share their thoughts and to prompt debates and discussions on the new challenges and threats that beset our world nowadays. He stressed the biggest threat to democracy from terrorism was not destruction of property and life, but rather an inexorable erosion of civil liberties worldwide. Ambassador reiterated that effective counter-terrorist efforts required the military and law enforcement to work together in a more coordinated strategic partnership. Dr. John LE BEAU, George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, Germany, specifically addressed this issue in his keynote speech. He reminded all about the demand for the countries of the region to assume greater responsibility in establishing a more common approach as the only way to diligently deal with this global threat.

Other speakers also supported this momentum. Although having dealt with different aspects of terrorism and antiterrorism, they all came to the same conclusions. The participants agreed upon several potential causes that might provoke terrorism, such as various combinations of religious conflicts, inequality, poverty, failure of politics, corrupt politicians, lack of political freedom and civil liberties as well as authority of the government. Another issue is an ongoing dispute over drawing a clear line between a terrorist act as a criminal offence, and an armed action as the form of the fight for freedom. In addition, speakers emphasized the necessity to diligently examine different ways of terrorists financing their activities and to put additional efforts to destroy their fund network. Due consideration was also given to the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction, as a serious risk to be addressed by the countries. Furthermore, lecturers pointed out the upcoming threat in the evolution of terrorism as the cyber

terror and terrorists using cyber space not only for attacks, but also for recruitment, fundraising and promotion purposes. The participants thus stressed the necessity of adopting appropriate legislation, but also of harmonizing those laws and regulations among all the countries of the region, which would again seek for a closer collaboration of the countries' relevant governmental institutions, ministries, NGOs and other agencies and organizations involved. Dr. Athanasios E. DROUGOS, International Relations Expert, highlighted the necessity of establishing strong relationship among the countries on religious, cultural and ethnic level, since all the existing differences would ultimately prove to be far less important than our common strengths.

Although there is still no universally accepted definition of terrorism, all the participants agreed upon the necessity to work closer together and join forces in the fight against this global threat, which knows no national boundaries. They pointed out that it was impossible and beyond any reason to try to politically justify any form of violence, which is at the core of any terrorist act.

THE 7TH WG2 WORKSHOP ON MILITARY BASE CONVERSION

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with Slovenian Ministry of Defence organized the workshop on the topic: "Slovenian experience in the military bases". The workshop was held in the period of the 26th – 28th March 2008. The first day was organized as a field study trip to Slovenia, and the second day activities were held at the "Vitez Damir Martić" Barracks in RACVIAC, Rakitje - Zagreb. The of the WG2 workshop was to bring together representatives from different ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, financial institutions and businesses to examine and discuss all the aspects of military base conversion (MBC). The seminar gathered participants from Southeast European (SEE) countries as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova, Montenegro, Hungary, Romania and Serbia, with knowledge and experience in MBC, representing relevant ministries, agencies and institutions, as well as parliamentary commissions, which are directly involved in the military base conversion process.

The workshop activities started in Čatež, Republic of Slovenia by an opening speech of Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Director of RACVIAC, and Mr. Slavko DELALUT, Director of the Office for Defence Policy of Slovenian MoD. During the workshop a team of subject matter experts from the

Slovenian MoD provided an insight into the military base conversion norms and standards in their analytical lectures.

The first presentation was held by Ms. Mojca GEC ZVRZINA, Head of the Real Estate Office of Slovenian MoD. In her presentation she outlined the status of the military structures in the Republic of Slovenia. Ms. Gec ZVRZINA elucidated legal acts necessary for a detailed definition of requirements and ways of maintaining prospective military structures in Republic of Slovenia and the procedure of selling non-prospective ones as an example of a good practice in the process of conversion of Slovenian air force base CERKLJE into partially civilian facility.



The following experts have presented their expertise: Mr. Jože LACKO, Secretary, MoD Social Aspects of the MBC: Case study: Military Air Base Cerklje (The Role of Communication Process), Ms. Metka GORIŠEK, PHD, Secretary, Ministry of the Economy MBC Process: Role of the Ministry of the Economy in Case study: Military Air Base Cerklje and Mr. Erik KOPAČ, M.Sc., FSS, University of Ljubljana, General Overview on MBC Process in the Republic Slovenia. On the second day of the workshop, which was held in RACVIAC, Dr. Hatmunt KUECHLE from Bonn International Centre for Conversion delivered the presentation on the MBC of Cerklje airbase. Dr. KUECHLE presented Germany experience and lessons learned. He gave us a brief historical review and explained a definition of conversion. Germany had already faced the issue of downsizing millions of soldiers and closing down of many bases. During the process they were constantly in need of creativity, cooperation and innovative ways of financing.

At the time it was most important to establish good management structures and alternative models of conducting proper allocation of resources and finding investors. In order to move forward with the project it was very important to set up a project agency and to involve the citizens. Mr. KUECHE also emphasized that conversion was a costly process, which therefore required a thorough market analysis. He concluded by stressing the importance of fitting the successful projects into econo-

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-mic environment of the region and actively developing innovative ideas with a view to achieving a long-term goal of launching private initiatives and creating new jobs.

RACVIAC was delighted to have hosted Mr. Efrem RADEV, High Expert for Safety Issues from the Regional Cooperation Council, as well as the respective representatives of OSCE, EU, NATO, BICC and RCC. The workshop proved as most useful and successful as it had contributed to promoting an even closer cooperation among the SEE countries on MBC issues.

For the next WG2 meeting the participants recommended the following topics:

- Legal aspect of the base conversion process;
- Step by step conduct of base conversion;
- The stakeholders' role in MBC projects (invite government representatives).

All participants agreed that the conversion of military structures was a very complex process, both country and project specific. Involvement of all the aspects of the society in conversion would contribute to better results and reduce the costs of the process, and in long the term strengthen the military-civilian relations.

**Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia by it's constitutional name*

8th WORKSHOP ON TRANSITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

RACVIAC Defence Conversion Cell - Working Group I successfully organized the 8th Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel due to the generous support of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria and its acceptance to host this joint activity.



The Workshop was held at the Central Hotel Forum in Sofia from the 3rd - 5th June 2008. The initial objective of the workshop was to display the best examples of Bulgarian experience in the field of the military personnel transition processes, as well as to present the most interesting elements of its "Social Adaptation Program". Further on, the *omnipresent* idea was that the most interesting issue in this field of interest was the self-employment. It is the hardest and riskiest way of transition, but was possibly to provide the highest benefit not just for the individual making the enterprise, but also for the national

economy through creation of new jobs and ultimately, the production of additional values.

These were the starting points for the creation of the corresponding workshop agenda, which was done solely by the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence (MoD). During the first working day sessions, the participants had the opportunity to hear presentations and engage in discussions on the subject matter.

The presentations were delivered by the eminent economy and business experts: Mr Kostadin KOLAROV, PhD, Consultant from the Bulgarian Institute for Entrepreneurship Development at the University of National and World Economy, Mr Kostadin KOLAROV, PhD, Chairman of Bulgarian Association for Management, Development and Entrepreneurship, Country Vice-President of the European Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship and Ms Slavka RADEVA, Counsellor at EURES - European Employment Services, just to mention a few. Mr Peter PASHOV, PhD, the WG1 Chairman, reported on the bilateral military cooperation established between Bulgarian MoD, Albanian MoD and Macedonian* MoD at the last WG workshop, followed by the visit of their representatives to the Bulgarian MoD last month.

The second day's agenda included a visit to the Regional Information and Support Centre in Sofia city centre. Workshop gathered thirty-four participants from twelve different countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, the Kingdom of Norway, the United States of America and Serbia), including representatives from OSCE and NATO, RACVIAC staff and lecturers.

The 8th WG1 Workshop confirmed again that the in-country approach was recognized and accepted by all members without exceptions and countries expressed their readiness to continue this support. The latest contribution was the announcement by the Moldovan representatives. WG1 was officially informed about the decision by the Moldavian Ministry of Defence to host the 9th Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel in Chisinau. In this way, holding the MAG chairmanship, Republic of Moldova honored WG1 by choosing its activity among all other RACVIAC activities.

The participants also proposed to consider the legal framework of the military personnel transition process as the main topic of the next event.

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ASSESSMENT OF REGIONAL SECURITY SITUATION IN SEE

Seminar on Assessment of Current Regional Security Situation in Southeast Europe (SEE), organized by RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and supported by the Kingdom of Norway, was held in RACVIAC facilities in Rakitje, Zagreb, in the period of the 3rd - 4th June 2008.

The purpose of the seminar was to analyze and discuss the latest developments in the field of security in SEE and to highlight responsibilities of the countries as well as to point out the major politico-military challenges in the region. The seminar provided participants with an opportunity to share their knowledge opinions and to actively engage themselves in debates with view to establishing a sustainable and efficient framework for regional cooperation on all security issues and setting the long-term strategic vision.



The seminar gathered many experts with an intimate knowledge and experience in the area of regional security from the Southeast European countries, as well as representatives of respective international organizations, namely: NATO, EU, OSCE, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and other MAG countries' participants, representing all ministries involved, at the assistant minister or head of department level, as well as parliamentarians from respective committees.

In his keynote speech on "Regional stability and security in SEE" Mr George KATSIRDAKIS, Head, Defence Cooperation, Defence Planning & Programming Directorate, NATO International Staff, expressed his content with the significant progress countries had already achieved. These efforts were welcomed, but there was still a strong need for a better coordination.

Mr Kenneth LINDSAY, Defence Reform Advisor with the NHQ in Sarajevo, Political-Military Section, supported this idea. In his presentation Mr Christian HAUPT, OSCE – Senior Politico-Military Analyst, Department of Security Co-operation, pointed out the specific political, defence-military,

economic and social challenges that countries still had to face in the field of security. Among other relevant presentations, held on the second day of the seminar, the participants had the opportunity to see a documentary "Dealing and Wheeling in Small Arms" by Mr Sander FRANCKEN, Dutch film director/producer, on arms trade in the SEE region behind the scenes of international regimes.

In their assessments, the participants acknowledged the achieved progress in this field, but also agreed upon the need for establishing a more common approach in the area of regional security. They saluted significant efforts already undertaken particularly by NATO, using all its capacities, and EU by European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) project, thus playing an important role in enhancing security in SEE region. All the participants agreed upon necessity of dealing with some specific challenges on national level, but stressed the need to strengthen closer regional cooperation, which should enable countries to move one step further and engage more actively in establishing instruments for exchanging data, knowledge, training and costs of security.

RACVIAC PERSONNEL



RACVIAC says a farewell to **LTC Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER**, our former Chief Planning & Liaison Officer for Southeast Europe. LTC WECHSELBERGER joined us in February 2007

and stayed in RACVIAC for more than a year. He was responsible for collation and evaluation of information regarding the political and governmental systems of the SEE region. We would like to thank Wolfgang for all his work and friendship during his work in RACVIAC, and at the same time to wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Mr Özgür KÜRÜM temporary joined RACVIAC's Dialogue & Cooperation Division as an Intern in March 2008.

He was born in 1982 in Turkey. He holds BA in Political Science, and MA in International Affairs and Public Policy from Bilkent University, Turkey. Following his obligatory military service as a conscript in the Turkish Army, he enrolled at the graduate programme, MSc International Relations, at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. His main area of interest is international security and peace support operations. Mr. Kürüm is currently doing his internship in RACVIAC until mid of November. He has a fluent working knowledge in English, reasonable knowledge in Dutch and Russian languages.



Programme 2008 - forthcoming events (July - September)

Vienna Document '99 Orientation Course (C-05)

30 June - 04 July

Meeting of Working Group on RACVIAC Legal Status (M-4)

Coorganized with Croatia

06 - 07 July

Berlin Seminars on Conventional AC - Arms Control in Crisis Situation (C-10)

Coorganized with MFA Germany

09 - 11 July

Control Measures to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of SALW (S-07)

Coorganized with UNODC and SEESAC (tbc)

15 - 18 September

Open Skies Treaty Ariel Observation Course (C-06)

Coorganized with MoD Hungary

29 September - 10 October



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