



Newsletter



*Ambassadorial meeting honoured with the attendance
of the President of the Republic of Croatia*

**RACVIAC presented at the NATO HQ Brussels
6 activities conducted in February and March
MoUs with SEESAC, SELEC and MARRI signed**

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Visits to/outside RACVIAC

President of the Republic of Croatia received RACVIAC Director

On 18 January 2013, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, accompanied by Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, RACVIAC Deputy Director, paid an inaugural visit to the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr Ivo Josipovic.

During the meeting Ambassador Mandic informed the President about the current status of RACVIAC as a very specific, regionally owned organization, the ongoing programme of activities and some future plans and challenges. He also conveyed his genuine appreciation for the outstanding and unremitting support of the host nation, the Republic of Croatia, to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in the twelve years of its existence.



Photo: Office of the President, Filip Siranovic, official photographer

President Josipovic pointed out that RACVIAC has a significant role in fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in Southeast Europe. He also reiterated Croatia's continued political and financial support to RACVIAC, not only with the aim to maintain the important role of RACVIAC in the SEE region, but also to raise it to a higher level. ■

RACVIAC Director's inaugural visit to Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, accompanied by Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director, paid an inaugural visit to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Ms Vesna Pusic, on 21 January 2013.

Ambassador Mandic took this opportunity to inform the Minister about the Centre's transformation into a regionally owned organization, ongoing activities, as well as plans and projects for the future. As the newly appointed Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Mandic assured the Minister of his personal readiness to strengthen the Centre's role while broadening the programme of activities and fostering links with other organizations and institutions contributing to the stability and security in the SEE region. He also expressed his appreciation for the continuous support and uninterrupted assistance that the Republic of Croatia, as the host nation, has been providing to RACVIAC.



Ms Pusic availed herself of this opportunity to assure RACVIAC of the Ministry's intention for an ongoing partnership, thereby contributing to enhanced dialogue and cooperation on security matters among the countries of Southeast Europe and supporting their NATO and EU integration processes. The meeting also provided the opportunity to exchange opinions about RACVIAC activities that are taking place in the period of the Croatian chairmanship of MAG. ■

RACVIAC Director paid inaugural visit to RCC

On 31 January 2013, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic paid an inaugural visit to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Sarajevo. Ambassador Mandic was welcomed by the newly appointed Secretary General Mr Goran Svilanovic who assumed his position on 01 January 2013, following the appointment by the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Foreign Ministers in Belgrade on 14 June 2012. Mr Svilanovic succeeded Hido Biscevic, the first RCC Secretary General who held the post in the period of 2008-2012.

During the meeting Ambassador Mandic informed the Secretary General about RACVIAC programme of activities, current issues and challenges as well as some future plans. Ambassador Mandic took this opportunity to assure the RCC Secretary General of his personal readiness to strengthen RACVIAC's role and capacities, while broadening the scope of activities and links with other international and regional organizations, especially with the RCC.

Subsequently, both diplomats expressed their strong readiness to enhance and deepen cooperation between the two organizations, thereby contributing to enhanced dialogue and cooperation on security matters among the countries of Southeast Europe. ■



Military Attaché of Bosnia and Herzegovina visited RACVIAC

Colonel Nikola Zekic, Military Attaché of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 06 February 2013. This was Col Zekic's first official visit to the Centre, during which he wanted to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC's mission, aims and organization.

The Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, together with the Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, and the officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina seconded to RACVIAC welcomed the distinguished guest.

Colonel Zekic and his hosts engaged in a very comprehensive discussion on RACVIAC as a new international, regionally owned organization and its role in the overall security environment in South Eastern Europe.

While Bosnia and Herzegovina has proved to be a reliable partner to the Centre in terms of finance and secondment of personnel, both sides expressed their strong willingness for the cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and RACVIAC to be even more enhanced in the time to come. ■



MoU between SEESAC and RACVIAC signed



On 14 February 2013, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and Dr. Ivan Zverzhanovski, SEESAC Coordinator signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two centres, continuing the cooperation which started back in 2003. The last MoU between the two organizations was signed in 2008.

The purpose of this MoU is the intention of RACVIAC and SEESAC to co-ordinate their efforts in order to avoid duplication of their activities and to establish effective co-operation in the field of small arms and light weapons, focusing on capacity building, public awareness and promotion of dialogue, regional harmonization of legislation, including arms export legislation in accordance with the EU standards.

Regular consultation and exchange of information on developments in the scope of activities and projects in both centres will certainly optimize the use of resources and provide a forum for regional dialogue and cooperation.

Subsequently, both sides expressed their hope that this mutual effort, meeting the needs and requests of regional countries, would further foster cooperation and dialogue in the SEE. ■

Agreement between Germany and RACVIAC signed



On 20 February 2013, H.E. Mr Hans Peter Annen, German Ambassador to Croatia, and the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, signed the Financial Agreement between RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Federal Republic of Germany for the year 2013.

With this Agreement, the Federal Republic of Germany allocated 60.000,00 Euro which will be used for “RACVIAC project work 2013” to cover the costs of seminars, courses and workshops, especially within the RACVIAC programme pillar “Cooperative Security Environment (CSE) with focus on Arms Control”.

RACVIAC representatives, Ambassador Branimir Mandic and Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, acknowledged the cooperation with Germany as a mainstay of the SEE region's progress and security for over a decade. Owing to continual German contributions, RACVIAC focused primarily on training verification experts in order to lay the groundwork for implementing arms control agreements such as the Dayton Agreement, Vienna Document, Open Skies Treaty, Chemical Weapons Convention and the Oslo Convention. In this way,

RACVIAC and Germany significantly contributed to enhancing trust and cooperation among security forces in the region and beyond.

It is worth mentioning that in addition to the financial contribution, the Federal Republic of Germany has supported RACVIAC with staff officers seconded to the Centre for more than 12 years, as well as with a number of highly competitive experts in a wide range of security issues. ■

Inaugural visit to UNODC Vienna and MoD Austria

On 25 and 26 February 2013, RACVIAC delegation, consisting of RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and Planning and Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organizations, Colonel Ferdinand Klinser MSD, visited UNODC, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and Major General Michele Torres - Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords, in Vienna.

As this was the inaugural visit to UNODC for the RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Mandic, he wanted to use this opportunity to introduce himself in person and to present the management's approach that will be utilized in order to develop and further stabilize RACVIAC in accordance with its Strategy 2012-2015. The visit was also aimed at discussing the possibilities for deepening and widening the cooperation between the two organizations, with a specific



focus on an MoU and the UNODC's Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe 2012-2015. Thus, highly productive, efficient and promising meetings were held with the representatives of UNODC holding key positions for future cooperation with RACVIAC: Mr Aldo Lale-Demoz, Director for Operations, Mr Tullio Santini, Chief Regional Section for Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr Diman Dimov, Project Coordinator, Ms Ekaterina Kolykhalova, Programme Officer Regional Section for Europe and Latin America



and the Caribbean, and Mr Vladan Golubovic, Consultant Regional Section for Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the visit to the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Ambassador Mandic met with Ambassador Dr Gerhard Jandl, Security Policy Director, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and Brigadier General Reinhard Trischak, Head of Military Policy Division at the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports. Their discussions covered a wide range of topics related to the current status of RACVIAC, programme of activities, vision for the future and further development. Future-orientated approach aimed at making Austria RACVIAC's contact country, arbiter and broker in the EU-related security issues and access to the EU bodies was assessed as a “wonderful idea” and will be gladly supported by Austria.

The meeting with Major General Michele Torres, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords, turned out to be an indispensable opportunity to exchange views on the latest developments and future steps to be taken in view of professional fulfilment of the Dayton Agreement. ■

MoU with SELEC signed

On 27 February 2013, Mr Gurbuz Bahadir, Director General, Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC), visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The visit was organized on the occasion of signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RACVIAC and SELEC. The purpose of the MoU is to continue and enhance the cooperation between the two Centres in order to combat trans-border crime and prevent threats to public order and security for the benefit of the SEE region.

Identification of common areas of concern related to the scope of activities of both Centres, planning and implementing common projects and seeking each other's expertise will certainly strengthen abilities of the Centres to carry out their respective missions and responsibilities, while optimizing the use of resources and minimizing duplication of efforts. Subsequently, both sides expressed their hope that the MoU would meet RACVIAC and SELEC Member states' needs and requests, while further fostering cooperation and dialogue in the SEE. ■



RACVIAC Director paid a visit to the Montenegrin Ministry of Defence

With the purpose of enhancing and strengthening cooperation and exchanging information with the Member countries, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic paid a visit to the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro on 28 February 2013.

Ambassador Mandic was welcomed by the Assistant Minister for Defence Policy, Mr Ivan Masulovic and Minister's Advisor for Military Issues LtCol Rajko Pesic. During their conversation, Ambassador Mandic informed the hosts about the programme of activities for 2013 as well as about the Centre's intention to expand its scope of activities and a network of partners and co-operators. He took this opportunity to present some ongoing challenges, particularly regarding the issues of secondment of personnel. He also expressed his appreciation for the continuous support Montenegro has been providing to RACVIAC.

Mr Masulovic pointed out that cooperation, as an interactive relationship, should become constant in regional relations in all areas, particularly in the area of defence and security. He also announced continued support to RACVIAC, in line with their national capacities. ■

Croatian War College “Ban Josip Jelacic” visited RACVIAC



On the 4 of March 2013, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation hosted students from the Croatian War College “Ban Josip Jelacic”, accompanied by Colonel Antun Cicak, War College Commander, and Colonel Miro Colic, Military Strategy and Operations Course Coordinator.

The guests visited RACVIAC in the framework of the regular College Curriculum. They were welcomed by the Deputy Director of RACVIAC, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and RACVIAC Operations Manager, Captain Nevena Skender Markic. Brigadier General Jakop provided the guests with a brief outline of RACVIAC's history, mission, annual programme of activities, completed process of transformation, new Agreement on RACVIAC and plans for the forthcoming period. In the second part of the visit, RACVIAC Deputy Director delivered a presentation on Arms Control as Means of International Cooperation.

Later on, all participants demonstrated a great deal of understanding of the subject matter through their to-the-point questions and comments during a lively Q&A session and a subsequent open discussion. ■

RACVIAC PLO gave a presentation at NATO HQ Brussels

On 8 March 2013, Major Sasa Konjevic, RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE, gave a presentation on “Cooperative Security and the Role of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation” at the NATO HQ in Brussels on the occasion of the meeting of the Military Committee Working Group (Cooperation) + Partnership for Peace (PfP), which serves as a consultation forum for military issues between Allies and Partners, as well as a preparatory forum for EAPMC/PS meetings.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 28 NATO member and 22 PfP countries, as well as by representatives of NATO HQ divisions. The presentation was focused on RACVIAC's role in the SEE region and possibilities for deepening and widening cooperation between NATO and RACVIAC. ■

Italian Joint Services Staff College visited RACVIAC

On the 14 of March 2013, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation hosted attendants of the Italian Joint Services Staff College led by Rear Admiral Valerio Boldrini.

The purpose of this visit was to get the guest better acquainted with the status, function and programme of RACVIAC, in the framework of their study trip to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia.

The Italian Joint Services Staff College representatives were welcomed by the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and senior RACVIAC staff members. During the visit, Brigadier General Jakop provided the guests with a brief outline of RACVIAC's history, mission, annual programme of activities, completed process of transformation, new Agreement on RACVIAC and plans for the forthcoming period.



Later on, all participants engaged in a lively Q&A session and an open discussion. ■

French Ambassador visited RACVIAC



The Ambassador of the French Republic, H.E. Ms Michèle Boccoz, accompanied by Colonel Eric Prigent, Military Attaché, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, on 14 March 2013. The occasion for the visit was the desire expressed by H.E. Ms Boccoz to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC's mission, aims and organisation.

The Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, together with the Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, and RACVIAC staff members welcomed the distinguished guests.

After the presentation on the history, mission, annual programme of activities and accomplishments of RACVIAC, the French delegation and their hosts engaged in a very interesting discussion on RACVIAC's programme, plans for the future and possibilities for further cooperation.

Ms Ambassador showed significant interest in RACVIAC's achievements, current activities and plans for the forthcoming period, and expressed her willingness to create a more targeted and cooperative relationship between RACVIAC and France, as a RACVIAC Associate member.

Since France used to be actively involved in RACVIAC, H.E. Ms Boccoz expressed her intention to explore the possibilities for France to get re-involved in the Centre more substantially than in the past few years. ■

Working meeting held with SEESAC and MARRI representatives

On the 18 of March 2013, after the Ambassadorial Meeting, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, met with the representatives of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI).

The purpose of the meeting, agreed upon during bilateral talks initiated by RACVIAC, was to discuss the annual programme of activities, as well as the possibilities of intensified cooperation. The delegations also considered a possibility to organize a regular



annual meeting with the participation of all regional organizations and initiatives, as a platform for regular data exchange and harmonization of planned activities in the region.

The interlocutors declared their willingness to open new areas of cooperation and pursue the objective of developing a regional approach to strengthening security and stability in the region.

On this occasion, the Memorandum of Understanding between RACVIAC and MARRI was signed with a view to establishing and enhancing the cooperation between the two organisations that undertook to support each other in the fields of migration, demographics and other issues of mutual interest. ■

Albanian Ambassador visited RACVIAC

On 25th March 2013, H.E. Pëllumb Qazimi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the Republic of Croatia, paid a courtesy visit to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The guest was welcomed by the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandic.

The two ambassadors discussed RACVIAC programme of activities, plans for the forthcoming period and possibilities for a more intensified future cooperation between RACVIAC and the Albanian national institutions dealing with security matters. Ambassador Qazimi used this opportunity to donate a book entitled “Albania - the Military and Foreign Influence (1912-1991)”, which he authored himself. ■



RACVIAC Deputy Director gave a presentation at NATO HQ Brussels

On 26 March 2013, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, RACVIAC Deputy Director, gave a presentation on “Cooperative Security and the Role of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation” at the NATO Euro Atlantic Partnership Military Committee/Permanent Session at the NATO HQ in Brussels.

The presentation was made upon the request from NATO Military Committee in the Partnership for Peace format in order to provide a better understanding of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in the context of cooperative security environment. The meeting was attended by representatives of 28 NATO member and 22 PfP countries, as well as by representatives of NATO HQ divisions. The presentation was focused on RACVIAC's role in strengthening security dialogue in the SEE region and possibilities for more intensified cooperation between NATO and RACVIAC in the future. ■

RACVIAC Director paid a visit to the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 28 March 2013, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic paid an inaugural visit to the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ambassador Mandic was welcomed by Defence Minister Zekerijah Osmic and Deputy Defence Minister Mirko Okolic. During the meeting, Ambassador Mandic informed the hosts about RACVIAC programme of activities for 2013 and its future plans. The representatives agreed on the importance of cooperation between the countries of the region in the framework of RACVIAC and similar centres and initiatives.

The Defence Minister and his Deputy expressed their satisfaction with the meeting, reiterating that the Ministry of Defence would continue to support the work of RACVIAC. Finally, they have agreed that the cooperation between the Ministry and the Centre needs to be further intensified. ■



Meetings

MAG POCs Meeting conducted



With the aim to present a new approach to programme planning and new challenges lying ahead of RACVIAC, in the light of RACVIAC Agreement and ever-greater regional ownership, the MAG Point of Contacts (POCs) Meeting took place on 13 February 2013 in RACVIAC.

The MAG POCs Meeting gathered participants representing relevant ministries from the MAG countries, namely Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey, as well as OSCE and SEESAC/UNDP representatives, who readily engaged in discussions.

Opening the Meeting, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic said that although the new RACVIAC management, assuming their positions last year, faced several challenges in terms of finance, election of the MAG chairperson, execution of the Programme, they managed to solve these issues after all. He also pointed out that RACVIAC intended to focus more on further

development of the Programme in order to better meet the Members' needs and requests in the future.

During the Meeting, participants were provided with updates on the 2013 Programme and information on initial results of the Programme Development Group (PDG), with a special focus on projects as a methodology of RACVIAC Programme planning and execution. In addition, participants got an overview of the current financial situation. Special attention was given to the manpower issues, seconded personnel in particular, which seems to be the most important issue at the moment. More than 50 percent of seconded positions that are occupied now will be rotated in the next 12 months, mainly in the faculty part of RACVIAC structure.

After a comprehensive discussion on the ongoing challenges, the Meeting was concluded on a positive note, providing additional impetus to RACVIAC in implementing its strategic goals. ■

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Ambassadorial Meeting took place

Photos taken by Davor Kirin, Hrvatski vojnik



Organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and honoured with the attendance of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Ambassadorial Meeting took place on the 18 of March 2013. As RACVIAC successfully completed its transformation into an international, independent, academic and a regionally owned organisation, the purpose of the Meeting was to introduce RACVIAC Members and partners with the current status, challenges and future plans of the Centre.



On this occasion, the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr Ivo Josipovic, delivered a speech on the "Regional Security and Cooperation".

Mr President pointed out that in the last decade Croatia became a reliable actor in providing stability on the international scene, while RACVIAC, as the only international organisation based in Croatia, played a significant role in fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South Eastern Europe.

He pointed out that it was beyond dispute that security was a prerequisite for development. There could be no development without security of individuals and groups, without security of societies and states.

Emphasising that security and development were mutually interdependent, he said: "It is impossible to maintain and develop the security system of a state or a group of states without making investments into the necessary resources. And it is quite an art and responsibility to respond to this challenge adequately, balancing abilities and needs in order to achieve security objectives and objectives of development."

He also stressed that for most European and Euro-Atlantic countries, security was measured in the first place by means of non-military characteristics. Thus, threats to security were non-military in their nature. These threats may comprise corruption, organised crime, insecure borders, trafficking (of weapons, drugs, goods and people), illegal migrations, ethnic and religious conflicts, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, scarce natural resources (such as water) and, of course, terrorism.

Referring to the words of a former NATO Secretary-General, Mr President said that security was indivisible and cooperation was necessary. He added: "Security is created and achieved with one's neighbours and not against them."



Answering the question whether the area of South East Europe can become an area of security and stability in all respects and benefit the generations that are currently living in it and those that will succeed us, he responded: “Yes, it is; and yes, it can and must, given the contribution, responsibility and action of all stakeholders, in particular of all of us who bear responsibility for the present and the future.”

After the President's speech, RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop gave a general overview of RACVIAC's history, structure and aims. Focusing on RACVIAC's recent developments and future vision, RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, highlighted the achievements made in intensifying cooperation with other regional organisations and initiatives with the aim to secure sustainable funds and long-term partners. He stressed that the biggest challenge RACVIAC was facing at the moment was the lack of seconded personnel nominated by RACVIAC Member states.

Ambassador Mandic assured RACVIAC Member state representatives and collaborators of his personal readiness to



strengthen the Centre's role and capacities in addressing new security challenges and responding to the changing security needs of the region, while becoming more actively engaged in broadening the scope of activities and the number of partners.

Gathering more than 50 representatives of RACVIAC Member countries and partners, as well as heads of regional organisations, the Meeting proved to be a high-level event, reflecting a great interest of RACVIAC Members and partners in RACVIAC as a platform for dialogue and cooperation in South Eastern Europe. ■



Seminar on Border Security conducted

Co-organized by DCAF Ljubljana and RACVIAC



A two-day “Seminar on the Facilitation of Common and Coordinated Measures in the Western Balkan Region” took place in the period of 04-07 February 2013.

The seminar was co-organized with the DCAF office in Ljubljana, under the DCAF Border Security Programme, with the aim of facilitating and upgrading further practical cooperation among South East European countries.

In accordance with the Exchange of Letters between RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation and DCAF Ljubljana, signed on 18th December 2012 in Rakitje, Croatia, this mutual project, financed by DCAF, includes four events which will cover main challenges faced by the states in the region in their efforts to deal with border security, improve capacity building and enhance common and coordinated measures.

The first event brought together police experts and police practitioners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia as well as Italian, Polish, DCAF and FRONTEX EU experts in the area of border security and cross-border police cooperation.

Opening the seminar, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic said that the Centre was aware of the role and importance of international cooperation in creating a positive image of developing effective and efficient police systems as

well as border security.

On the first day Mr Anton Travner, Director of DCAF Ljubljana and Head of Border Security Programme, presented developments in the DCAF Border Security Programme. He outlined the 2013 Annual Plan and the report from the DCAF Meeting of the Chiefs of Cabinets and Chiefs of Border Police Services held in December 2012 in Belgrade, Serbia.

His presentation was followed by the evaluation of the results of the Common and Coordinated Measures in 2012, lessons learned, gap analysis and areas that can be improved. In addition to this, a comprehensive discussion was held on future education and training needs and developments, as well as on building mutual trust among the practitioners in the regional security sphere.

The second day of the seminar was operationally oriented and focused on the planning and *modus operandi* for the preparation and execution of the Common and Coordinated Measures in the Western Balkan region planned in 2013. Under these measures, two Common Operations are going to be executed: one in the period of 14 -20 April 2013, focusing on the Green Border between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and one from 4 to 22 September 2013 in Slovenia, on the occasion of the EuroBasket Championship.

It is worth mentioning that all countries participating in this event, except for the Republic of Croatia, are signatory states to the Police Cooperation Convention, which provides the legal basis for their mutual cooperation and cross-border operations. ■

In 2012, the DCAF Border Security Programme was transferred from Geneva to the permanent DCAF office in Ljubljana, Slovenia. In addition to some structural and organisational changes, the Programme has been transformed to make it more efficient and result-oriented. It consists of three main components - “EU/Schengen Integration”, “Education and Training”, and “Common and Coordinated Measures in Crime Prevention, Fight against Organised Crime falling within the responsibility of Border Police Forces, and the Fight against Illegal Migration”.



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Defence Accountability in the Framework of CSDP



A two-day seminar entitled "Defence Accountability in the Framework of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)" was conducted in the period of 19-21 February 2013 in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Since the necessity and relevance of adjustments or restructuring of national defence systems, where applicable within the framework of the CSDP, should be highlighted through redefining the system of responsibility and accountability, the purpose of the seminar was to present the role of national defence systems within the EU CSDP with a special emphasis on the context of budget cuts and general economic and financial hardship.

The seminar gathered more than 30 participants, high-ranking officials from the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries, representatives of Parliamentary Defence Committees, as well as representatives of European Defence Agency, Security Governance Group from Canada, Zagreb Economy Institute, Belgrade Centre for

Security Policy, Institute for International Relations, Zagreb, Primorska University, Slovenia and the Centre for Peace Studies, Zagreb.

Emphasising the need for and relevance of similar activities, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić and Mr Boris Blazeković, Head of the Delegation of the Croatian Parliament to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, opened the seminar. Both speakers pointed out that the exchange of experiences and ideas among the security sector reform actors and experts were very important for the future benefits of institutionalisation of accountability within the defence system, especially in light of the on-going budget cuts and in the general context of financial constraints faced by EU members and potential members.

At the outset, the seminar focused on explaining the meaning and use of terms "responsibility" and "accountability", since majority of the SEE countries have only one word (*odgovornost*) for both of these concepts. It continued with a presentation on the European Defence Agency's Code of Conduct aimed at increasing transparency and with the elaboration of horizontal and vertical accountability and their effects on the overall defence system output.

Additionally, the seminar provided an overview of the most recent accountability mechanisms implemented in various security sector settings, with an assessment of their weaknesses and strengths and an elaboration of the benefits of institutionalising accountability within the defence system as well as of some possible outcomes of justifiable public expenditures.

A very comprehensive discussion was developed around the presentation on professional identity and integrity as well as on defence budgets cuts and subsequent repercussions on defence outputs and civil - military relations.

Raising some new questions with regard to responsibility and accountability in defence systems, the seminar provided an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and information not only among defence system actors, but also among academics and independent, non-state actors. ■



Vienna Document 2011 course conducted

Hosted by Hungary and co-sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany



A five-day Vienna Document 2011 Formation/Unit Commanders' Course, co-organized with the Hungarian Ministry of Defence was held in the period of 03-08 March 2013 at the premises of the Hungarian Defence Forces Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in Szentendre, Hungary.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Document, RACVIAC has been organizing Vienna Document courses for the countries of South Eastern Europe since 2001.

The purpose of this year's course was to give formation/unit commanders an overview of the VD '11 and to provide a comprehensive theoretical analysis and guidance on the practical implementation of the relevant activities. It focused on the duties and responsibilities of the formation/unit commanders engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned document, thus demonstrating the real spirit of confidence and security building measures. During the practical part of the course, participants were provided with the opportunity to exercise an evaluation visit to a military unit, thus demonstrating the operations that should constitute a platform for future cooperation on the national, regional and international level.

The course gathered more than 40 participants and lecturers from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Germany, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and USA, as well as representatives from the Austrian Institute for Political Science and OSCE.

Providing the participants with the opportunity to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge of the Vienna Document 2011, and exercising an evaluation visit, this course proved to be successful and well organized, thus contributing to the confidence and security building in the region of South Eastern Europe.

In the margins of the course, RACVIAC Director Branimir Mandic had a working lunch with Dr. László Deák, Deputy Director General, Department for Security Policy and Non-Proliferation, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Tas Kelemen, Head of Defence Policy Department, Ministry of Defence. He also had a meeting at the Ministry of Defence with Mr Péter Siklósi, Deputy State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning. As newly appointed Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Mandic assured the Hungarian officials of his personal readiness to strengthen the Centre's role and capacities in addressing new security challenges and responding to the changing security needs of the region while broadening the scope of activities and links with other international and regional organizations. The hosts expressed their intention to continue supporting RACVIAC in the same manner as they did so far. Ambassador Mandic took this opportunity to invite MoD officials to visit RACVIAC and take part in RACVIAC activities as lecturers. ■



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Round table on SSR and gender conducted

Co-organized with the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



A two-day round table on “SSR and Gender: Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820”, co-organized by the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, was conducted in the period of 12-14 March 2013.

The purpose of the event was two-fold. Firstly, it aimed to bring together the representatives from South Eastern Europe and provide them with relevant general information on the standards guiding Security Sector Reform and gender with a main focus on the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, 2004 OSCE Action Plan, European standards and regional instruments for promoting gender equality. Secondly, it aimed to encourage the participants from parliaments, ombudsman institutions, ministries, governments and NGOs from the SEE countries to present their experiences in implementing Action Plans with measures to strengthen the role of women in public sector.

The round table gathered more than 40 participants, the representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Interior and Ministries of Security from the following countries: AL, BA, HR, ME, MK, RS, and SI, as well as the representatives from the public sector, experts from various national institutions and think-thanks.

The opening speeches were given by Ms Vesna Batistic Kos, MAG Chairperson, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues, Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; Ambassador Branimir Mandic, RACVIAC Director; Ms Visnja Ljubcic, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia and H.E. Ms Nancy Rossignol, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Republic of Croatia.

After the opening part at the premises of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the round table was continued at RACVIAC, Rakitje, with comprehensive presentations on

institutional experience delivered by Mr Mirko Okolic, Deputy Minister, MoD of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Visnja Ljubcic, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia, and Ms Melita Mulic, member of the Croatian Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality.

Highly competent speakers included also representatives from DCAF Geneva; SEESAC; the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, MK; Primorska University, Koper, SI; the Gender Equality Agency, BA; Belgrade Centre for Security Policy,RS; Centre for Women's Studies, Zagreb, HR; and Gender Task Force, HR.

The round table addressed relevant information on gender as one of the core aspects of security sector reform from the international and national point of view and highlighted the gender perspective in different national institutions. Special attention was given to the representation of women at different levels of the decision-making process, especially in the security sector institutions. The last session was dedicated to the presentations on National Action Plans for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions in the SEE countries. Some practical experiences in regional cooperation aimed at mainstreaming a gender perspective into security sector reform were also presented.

The event met all expectations - it was interactive and challenging to some extent, producing a fine blend of institutional and civil society approach and visions concerning gender equality.

As a specific outcome of this round table, RACVIAC, Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina put forward the initiative to organise a joint event addressing mechanisms and standardisation aspects of National Action Plans on Gender Equality. In addition, Mr Mirko Okolic, Deputy Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina also launched an idea endorsing an event that could be organised in the field of Gender Equality. ■



Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

Co-organized with OPCW and co-sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany



The Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar, co-organized with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), was conducted from 18 to 21 March 2013 in RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. The seminar was a continuation of a ten-year-long cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in South Eastern Europe, enhancing regional stability, transparency and confidence.

The purpose of this seminar was to discuss substantial issues related to the CWC and to provide a broad overview of the Convention implementation procedures as well as general outline of specific conditions in the region. The seminar gathered 26 participants, civilian and military officials from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and Serbia as well as lecturers from the OPCW.

Continuing the well-established cooperation, the Australian Ambassador to Croatia, H.E. Ms Susan Cox, made a contribution to the opening part of the seminar by giving a comprehensive presentation entitled "The Recent Events - Activities of Australia Group and the Effort in Harmonizing Export Controls on Chemical Weapons".

In his opening speech, Mr Andrew Jan Van Veen, Special Advisor on International Cooperation and Assistance, Office of the Deputy Director General, OPCW, said that although this Convention was one of the most important arms control conventions ever, it was faced with several challenges. Among the operational and technical challenges, universality is the most important one. The Convention has 188 state parties, two signatories that haven't ratified it yet and non-state parties: Angola, Egypt, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

The first day of the seminar primarily dealt with the overview of the CWC with an emphasis on Article X, including major achievements and challenges as well as status of implementation of Article X, capacity building, regional approach, role and capability of the OPCW in the delivery of assistance.

On the second day, Mr Nuno Goncalves, Inspector, Chemical Production Technologist, OPCW, gave an overview of the main types of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, modern threats related to the possible use of warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals as chemical weapons and verification procedures. Zoran Orehovec, PhD, gave a very interesting, comprehensive, independent view of the military, technical and defence security standards on industrial facilities protection in case of terrorism and military attack.

On the last day, the participants took part in a tabletop exercise on typical Schedule 2 and OPCW inspections. The end of the second day was earmarked for the national representatives' presentations and their respective national points of view on practical issues regarding the control and declaring of chemicals.

The seminar was an opportunity to discuss and clarify CWC related matters that were not included in the Agenda, and to raise awareness of the CWC itself, thus contributing to successful CWC implementation in the SEE region.

The following topics were singled out as interesting for future seminars: Crisis Management Exercise (for example exercise on terrorist or military attacks on industrial facilities); More detailed information on Article X and widen information on Schedule 2 inspection exercise; Updated information about terrorism issues related to chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) substances and security measures; Report on the activities of the OPCW from real missions and inspections, as well as the exchange of experiences and information. These recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration by the co-organizers in the course of preparations for next year's activity. ■



* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Workshop on Restrictive Measures in the Framework of the EU CFSP

Co-organized with TAIEX



A two-day multi-beneficiary workshop on “Guidelines on Implementation and Evaluation of Restrictive Measures (Sanctions) in the Framework of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy”, co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), DG Enlargement, European Commission, was conducted in the period of 26-28 March 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The purpose of the workshop was to support and foster capacity building process in South East European countries that are EU

candidate or potential candidate countries. The event provided an overview of the Common Foreign Security Policy /Common Security Defence Policy objectives set out in the Treaty on European Union and legal EU instruments. It also outlined the types and categories of sanctions or restrictive measures which the EU applies and the manners in which they are monitored and evaluated. It also provided the opportunity for the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the process of implementation of international restrictive measures in the SEE countries, thus highlighting and promoting further co-operation among the SEE countries.

The workshop gathered more than 60 participants, officials at the decision-making level and experts representing relevant ministries from the region.

The workshop was opened by Ana Trisic-Babic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ambassador Branimir Mandic, RACVIAC Director.

During these two days, participants were also given an overview of the UN sanctions regimes and the relation between the EU and UN legal orders, principles and legal issues in establishing and implementing restrictive measures, practical tasks and challenges in enforcing restrictive measures and experiences and lessons learned from the process of implementation and monitoring of international restrictive measures. These topics were covered in the presentations given by representatives coming from Austria, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden. ■



Background:

Restrictive measures play an important role in the overall success and achievements of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) / Common Foreign and Defence Policy (CSDP). They are an important instrument of the EU efforts to maintain international peace and security.

The importance of targeted measures in maintaining international peace and security has increased with time, while significant efforts have been undertaken to strengthen them. Restrictive measures have been imposed by the EU in recent years, either on an autonomous EU basis or through the implementation of binding Resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations. Thus, the European Union has extensive experience in designing, implementing, enforcing and monitoring restrictive measures (sanctions) in the framework of the CFSP. It is also worth mentioning that within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the Council of the European Union may decide to impose restrictive measures against third countries, entities or individuals. These measures must be consistent with the CFSP objectives, as set out in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

Alongside EU's endeavour to standardize the implementation of restrictive measures and strengthen methods of their implementation, such as adoption of “Guidelines on implementation and evaluation of restrictive measures (sanctions) in the framework of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy”, there is a need to make them more recognizable and introduce them to the third countries in order to achieve better understanding and thereby their implementation as well.



Our new interns, **Ms Vedrana Djukaric** and **Ms Mihaela Krsinic**, signed their internship contracts on 01 February 2013 and joined RACVIAC's team for a while.

Ms Djukaric was born in Zagreb in 1987 and holds a Masters in Political Science (National Security) from the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. Working part time for different business companies as a student, she acquired basic administrative skills. She is fluent in English and has intermediate knowledge of German and Spanish. Ms Djukaric was assigned to the Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar.

Ms Krsinic was born in Zagreb and is currently completing her Bachelor's degree in Journalism at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. She was the youngest Board member at the National Scout Organization, in the role of a PR, where she gained basic administrative and PR skills, as well as upgraded her organizational skills. She is married and has two children. Because of her experience in the area of public relations she was assigned to the PR Cell. ■



Forthcoming events (April - June)

Border Management: Capacity Building: Workshop on Early Warning Messages and Regional Risk Analysis	08-10 April 2013
Spring MAG Meeting	15-16 April 2013
Private Military Security Companies (PMSC) / National Security Sector	23-25 April 2013
Search and Rescue (Joint Regional SAR Development)	23-25 April 2013
Aspects and Challenges in the Public Defence Procurement	06-08 May 2013
Advanced Research Workshop: Increasing National Cyber Resiliency: Political and Legal Instruments	07-09 May 2013
Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions	13-16 May 2013
Border Management and Gender	21-23 May 2013
Strategic Communication - The Coordinated and Appropriate Use of the Communications Activities and Capabilities	26-28 May 2013
Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course	27-29 May 2013
Prevention of Corruption: Implementation of Integrity Plans	04-06 June 2013
Intellectual Emigration - Effects and Implications on the Socioeconomic and Demographic Development	TBD June 2013
Seminar on Parliamentary Oversight	17-19 June 2013



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