



Activity Overview

International Conference „ Private (Military) and Security Companies in Critical Infrastructure Protection” SSR-F1-CF-17

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Dates 19-20 September 2017

Venue The Westin Zagreb Hotel, Izidora Kršnjavog 1, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

Background Increased international and intergovernmental attention to the protection of Critical Infrastructure (CI) provides opportunities for the private sector. Over the last two decades, there has been a considerable increase in the number of private sector companies providing risk consultancy and private security services to clients with regional and global CI interests. Private (Military) and Security Companies (PMSC) play an increasing role in the provision of security services within the region and beyond. Increasingly, national governments and international organizations are identifying strategies to protect CI. The protection of CI is a delicate and complex issue at the international level. CI is vital for national security and requires robust protection from a range of evolving threats ranging from cyber-attacks to natural disasters and man-made accidents. This creates a window of opportunity for PMSC to provide strategic services.

Through the [Directive COM\(2006\) 786](#) the European Commission set out the principles of the European Program for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP). With this directive, all European Member States were obliged to incorporate the EPCIP into their national statutes. In 2008, [Council Directive 2008/114](#) established that all Members were also responsible for identifying critical infrastructure on their territory.

The Conference will be co-organised by RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and the company TECTUS - Business Services and Publishing, in cooperation with the journal *Zaštita*. It will be an integral part of the “Days of Protection and Security”, the main manifestation organised by the Croatian journal *Zaštita* with the purpose of introducing to the general public private and public companies’ services and equipment aimed at increasing both public and private security.

Purpose and Objectives The main purpose of this Conference is to give a broad introduction on the mechanism and practices and the overall role of PMSC in the protection of CI.

The Conference is the 5th event in a series of similar events that has become a RACVIAC mid-term project focusing on the changes in Civil-Military Relations (CMR) and the effects of privatisation.

Participation Approximately 50 participants from RACVIAC Members’ ministries and governmental agencies as well as the representatives of Associations of P(M)SC and NGOs, managers from P(M)SC as well as experts from various institutions and think-tanks invited by RACVIAC and by TECTUS will attend. Experts from DCAF, GCMC and EU departments are invited to take part in providing relevant information on the subject matter. In addition to the above-listed, attendees from invited Associate Members, observers and participants may participate at the activity.

Methodology The Conference will be organised on 19-20 September 2017 during the “Days of Protection and Security” that will be organised by the Croatian journal *Zaštita*. The Conference participants will attend the opening of the Exhibition and presentation of security services and equipment on the main Zagreb square Trg bana Josipa Jelačića.

The Conference is designed as a series of speeches and presentations given by high-level speakers from international and national organisations and ministries, followed by discussions and expert consultations. The working language will be English. Simultaneous translation into Croatian will be provided.

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