

Overview

“The 5th RACVIAC/KAS Annual Conference on Security Challenges for Europe” SSR-F2-CF-17

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Dates 22-24 November 2017

Venue Hotel “Dubrovnik” Zagreb, Gajeva 1, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Background The subject event presents a continuation of an established series of activities aimed toward enabling open and comprehensive discussions on emerging security challenges for European countries. It is the fifth activity so far conducted as a result of organizational cooperation between RACVIAC and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Croatia.

This joint initiative is aimed toward the establishment and sustainment of the regional platform for addressing transformation processes within South East European (SEE) countries in view of the EU and NATO membership responsibilities and institutional readiness, primarily considering the required security sector reform activities, and within the context of contemporary security challenges. Thus, looking from a geopolitical point of view, SEE should define a common political and security outlook vis-à-vis the new security challenges and threats that lie ahead, that are already arising or will possibly arise in the near future.

Following last year’s experience the intention is to increase the level of participation and the quality of the content by strengthening the event’s scientific dimension and enhancing the involvement of the academic community from RACVIAC Members primarily. With this aim in mind the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb has become the Conference main academic partner.

Purpose and Objectives The purpose of this event is to continue to enable open expert debates on common security challenges in the context of the initiated security sector reforms and the required level of security integration for EU and NATO membership aspiring candidates, primarily as cause-effect related processes. The main Conference objectives are:

- To identify the developing security challenges for Europe in general and SEE in particular;
- To facilitate a common platform for reviewing the newest geopolitical shifts and resulting national security issues in view of the existing EU foreign and security policy;
- To provide participants with the opportunity to share national considerations on the current risks and challenges (such as terrorism and violent extremism, cyber threat, proliferation of WMD), to identify common interests and suggest the possible solutions;

- To support a scientific approach in developing national security policies. The specific topic this year for the academic part of the Conference are the lessons learned from uncontrolled and irregular migration.

Participation The Conference is aimed at bringing together representatives primarily from SEE countries. Approximately a total of 40 participants - senior level national security policy makers and Subject Matter Experts preferably from the ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of the interior, ministries of defence and ministries of economy, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and members of the academic community involved in addressing the contemporary security challenges and policy development processes. Detailed terms of participation and financial arrangements will be specified in the corresponding Conference Invitation Letter and Administrative Information.

Methodology The event is designed as an expert forum and it will be conducted in the form of Conference panel discussions. The Conference working language is English.

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