Zagreb, 29 April 2010

The Seminar on “Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Its Future Implementation in SEE” was held in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from 27 – 29 April 2010.

The purpose of this seminar was to promote a common understanding of CSDP in SEE, thus further developing a common security culture and efficient co-operation between the EU and SEE Countries.

It gathered participants with knowledge and experience in the field of CSDP, representing different ministries involved in this issue.

The seminar was conducted in two days and it included three sessions, followed by questions and answers, which encouraged the participants to exchange views and lessons learned and openly discuss the future perspectives of CSDP in SEE.

The participants and lecturers were representatives of eleven countries and five organizations, namely: Albania (2), Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (12), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\(^1\) (2), Moldova (2), Serbia (3), Greece (1), Turkey (1), France (3), Slovenia (1), NATO HQ in Sarajevo (1), University of Zagreb (7), European Council (1), Center for European Security Studies (2), and Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations (1).

\(^1\) Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
Seminar Opening

In his opening speech, Ambassador Nikola TODORČEVSKI, Director of RACVIAC, expressed his warm welcome to all the participants and pointed out that the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has been an inherent part of the European integration and since the SEE countries are on the road to EU membership, their engagement in CSDP has definitely become their common obligation for the future.

Opening Session

From right to left: Ms Ines TROHA BRDAR, Ambassador Nikola TODORČEVSKI, Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH

Ms Ines TROHA BRDAR, Minister Plenipotentiary and the Head of Department for CFSP and CSDP in MFAEI of the Republic of Croatia, stressed the importance of CSDP for the region and emphasised that EU has learned from the experience in the Balkans that Europe needs an efficient and persuasive tool to deal with security challenges. She added that countries of the region have gathered experiences that can be considered as an added value in their capacity of present or future contributors.

Plenary Session

The Seminar lectures focused on the following CSDP aspects: priorities, evolution, means, strategy, instruments and capabilities, operations, experiences and challenges in SEE, and future perspectives.

Keynote speech

Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH

Mr Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH, from Council of the European Union, delivered the keynote speech titled “CSDP as a Component of the EU’s CFSP: Priorities, Evolution and Means”. He provided an overview of the historical development of the CSDP and pointed out its basic priority areas, focusing both on areas in which progress has been reached and areas where CSDP can further evolve. During
his lecture Mr Weisserth also put special emphasis on the policy implications.

The first session, moderated by Mr Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH, began with the lecture by Prof. Sven BISCOP from EGMONT - the Royal Institute for International Relations. Prof. Biscop introduced the European Security Strategy (ESS), its established principles, the main strategic objectives identified in the strategy, and the policy implications for Europe.

He was followed by Mr. Srdjan GLIGORIEVIC, an independent security policy analyst, who provided a comprehensive overview of the existing institutional architecture of the CSDP and explained the respective roles of their functioning and their inter-relationship in the field of CFSP/CSDP. In the last presentation in session one Colonel Pascal ROUX, from the French Military representation to the EU, provided an overview of the current state of capabilities and underlined the precise steps towards a better development of the CSDP in order to meet its headline goals for 2010.

In the second session, moderated by Dr. Jochen REHRL, Ph.D. Sandro KNEZOVIĆ, from the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb, presented the main lessons learned and experiences from three missions (EUFOR-Althea, EUPM, EULEX) in SEE as well as the main efforts of stabilisation in the region involving EU’s contribution.

The next speaker, PhD Vladimir PREBILIC, from the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana, provided an overview of CSDP’s achievements in SEE, the major obstacles to regional cooperation and the modern security challenges which the region faces nowadays.
Dr. Sami FALTAS, Executive Director of Centre for European Security Studies, completed the second session with a presentation on the role and responsibilities of European and National Parliaments in the launch of a CSDP civilian or military mission and the main principles for more effective Parliamentary Oversight.

In the third session, moderated by Prof. Dr. Sven BISCOP, Mrs Julie MERCIER, from the Direction for Strategic Affairs of the French MoD, presented the framework introduced by the Lisbon Treaty and the added value it brought to a Europe more coherent, more capable and more active.

Mrs Mercier’s lecture was followed by Dr. Athanasios DROUGOS, from the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. Dr Drougos presented the most prominent transatlantic security issues in the 21st century and how both organizations need to cooperate better and to pay attention to the practical cooperation.

The subsequent presentation was given by Dr. Jochen REHRL, security policy expert from the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of Austria. Dr Rehrl presented the key steps of EU planning and decision-making process in practice as well as the flow of crisis management planning for EU missions.

At the end of session three Dr. Willem Frederic van EEKELEN, Chairman of the Board of CESS and the former Secretary-General of the WEU, provided an overall assessment of the relationship between EU enlargement and the CFSP. He also presented the impact of new issues and new tasks in the scope of CFSP on CFSP’s ability to function effectively in redefining the EU’s borders, as well as the important challenges raised by the prospect of enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe.
SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS
The seminar provided a successful platform to promote a common understanding of CSDP in SEE, thus further developing a common security culture and efficient co-operation between the EU and SEE Countries. The contribution of members of European Council, EU, and experts from different organizations proved outstanding in creating fruitful discussions.

The speakers and audience expressed the opinion that the intensification and enhancement of existing regional cooperation should remain among most important foreign policy goals for all SEE countries.

All panellists assessed the three sessions as very successful and useful. They recommended co-organizers to carry on with similar activities in the future.

Compiled by: LtC Ioannis Papavasileiou,
Activity Coordinator,