Regional Conference on NATO Integration in SEE:
Developing a Common Transatlantic Vision and Future Perspectives

Dates
30 May - 1 June 2010

Venue
Hotel Epinal, Bitola; MK

Background
The enlargement of the Alliance is an ongoing and dynamic process. The NATO integration contributes to enhanced stability and security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic area by: encouraging and supporting democratic reforms, including the establishment of civilian and democratic control over military forces; fostering patterns and habits of cooperation, consultation and consensus-building characteristic of relations among members of the Alliance; and promoting good-neighbourly relations. The process of accession to NATO has served as a catalyst for substantial political, economic, administrative and structural reforms. Acquiring NATO membership has meant that a country has become a part of a large security area and that it has cemented its status of a mature, vibrant democracy and market economy. The NATO Integration progress in SEE is still not completely achieved, there are still substantial challenges on the path of the Western Balkan countries in completing their accession. Those challenges should be discussed and built on pillars that rest on principles of mutual respect, mutual responsibility and mutual reciprocity.
The aim of the Regional Conference is to inform the SEE countries on the role of NATO and prospects for the region with regard to its integration. The Conference will also serve as an opportunity to exchange views and lessons learned related to NATO Integration process among the NATO member and candidate countries from the Region.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of this Regional conference is to contribute to SEE countries’ efforts in their Euro-Atlantic integration processes by encouraging them to exchange information, views and lessons learned
• to promote the cooperation between NATO and SEE countries through projects on political development
• to highlight most necessary reforms and challenges in fulfilling the conditions for membership
• to promote NATO partnership and accession-tools (IPAP, MAP) as means of enhancing the reform efforts

Participants
Approximately 35 participants, including audience and speakers. Several Ministers of Defence from respective core member countries will attend the Regional Conference. In addition to that, two participants per each country of the following countries are invited: AL, BA, MD, ME, MK and RS, senior civilian or military officials at decision-making level, representing all the relevant ministries dealing with NATO integration. Senior officials of other MAG countries are also invited to take part in the Conference, as well as representatives of NATO, relevant International Organizations and HQs, NGOs and media.

Methodology
The regional conference will last two full days and it will comprise lectures and discussions. The conference working language will be English. All materials from the Conference will be issued on CD at the end of the Conference.

POC:
RACVIAC – Centre for security cooperation
Mr. Milan JANICJEVIC;
℡ +385, (0) 1 333 0836
✉ +385 (0) 1 333 0839;
E-mail: mjanicijevic@racviac.org
and
Ministry for Defence (MK)
Mrs. Violeta TASEVA
℡ +389, (0) 2 328 2148
✉ +389 (0) 2 3113 639;
E-mail: tasevav@morm.gov.mk