Security System Reform and Euro-Atlantic Integration: “STARLINK” Advanced Course for South East Europe

Co-funded by Austria and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dates 22 – 25 March 2010

Venue Zagreb (Croatia), RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation

Background The modernization and reform of security policy in South East Europe is strongly influenced by international factors. The governments are aware of the need to engage in reforms in order to meet the requirements of Euro-Atlantic integration and to continue receiving necessary international assistance. In addition to that, the countries also have to respect external commitments and restrictions of various kinds. They are politically and legally bound by international treaties and agreements not only to respond to changes in technological and military posture of other states, but also to contribute to international and regional peace and security in general. This creates specific demands on security establishments as their officials are expected to support security sector reform, which is vital for long-term sustainable peace and armed conflict prevention.

In line with the strategic objective of strengthening security and cooperation in South Eastern Europe, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, together with the Centre for European Security Studies from the Netherlands, conducts an Advanced Course on Security System Reform (SSR) in order to provide the countries of the region with the opportunity to share experience and receive knowledge about SSR in the context of Euro-Atlantic integration and Peace Support Operations.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of the Advanced Course on SSR is to bring together respective representatives from relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations and NGOs, with a view to providing access to new knowledge on democratic governance in the security system. The objectives supporting this purpose are as follows:

- To promote better understanding of SSR in the context of Euro-Atlantic integration and Peace Support Operations;
- To develop, provide, test and adapt training material on Security System Reform and democratic governance in the security sector, to be used by the countries of South Eastern Europe;
- To help and encourage the countries of South Eastern Europe in developing their own capacity for providing SSR training.

Participants Approximately 35 participants, up to three participants from permanent member countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey; as well as representatives of other interested countries, relevant IOs and NGOs. The course is designed for practitioners involved in their countries’ security system (holding middle to top management positions in corresponding countries/organizations) as well as for the individuals who already completed an Introductory Training Course on SSR and are therefore familiar with the basics of SSR and Euro-Atlantic integration. The official course language will be English.

Methodology The course comprises interactive training sessions, a full-day simulation exercise and open discussions (exchange of knowledge and experience - lessons learned). All academic materials presented or produced during the course will be distributed in the form of a CD.

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