PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

“Positive Experiences and Examples of the Parliamentary Committees for Security in SEE”

Annex A

Dates
27 – 29 June 2010

Venue
Conference Room in the Parliament of B&H, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Background
Parliamentary oversight of the security sector is a recent phenomenon in SE Europe. The implementation of oversight mechanisms started in 1989 in the Western European states with a long democratic tradition and subsequently in the new democracies in Eastern Europe. Various countries have adopted different systems of security sector oversight, as reflected in differences in legislation and institutions involved. Parliamentary Security Committees have been developed as institutional tools for overseeing the Security Sector Activities and their efficiency is directly fenced by their capabilities to work in accordance with the following preconditions: clearly defined constitutional and legal powers, customary practices, resources, expertise, and political will.

The purpose of the Conference is to provide regional forum for comprehensive discussions on parliamentary oversight of the security sector and to stage the base for better standardization in this field in Southeast European (SEE) countries.

The objectives are as follows:

- To share the lesson learned and experience in the SEE region in terms of Parliamentary oversight of the security sector with an aim to look for possible ways for further improvement
- To discuss mechanisms and practices of Security Committees in each SEE country
- To discuss Military Preparation for future integrations in international security organizations
- To discuss the establishment of the military ombudsmen in parliaments of each SEE country

Participants
Approximately 45 participants, namely three from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia, and one from Moldova and other MAG countries, as well as representatives from NATO, OSCE, RCC and DCAF. The conference is designed especially for parliamentarian staff (officials from respective MoI, MFA, MoD), civilian officials working in the field of defense, military and law enforcement officers, judicial authorities, and NGOs’ representatives and academics.

Methodology
The conference will comprise speeches by key officials, followed by Questions & Answers and a moderated panel discussion at the end of the conference. During the Conference the working language will be local and English with simultaneous translation.

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