Promoting Security Strategies and Emerging Policy Priorities in SEE

Dates 03 - 05 December 2012

Venue RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Zagreb

Background The evolving security environment in the early twenty-first century creates new challenges for all, including the South East European (SEE) countries. Globalization has brought new opportunities, but has also made threats more complex and interconnected. To ensure security and meet the expectations of our citizens, we must be ready to shape events. That means becoming more strategic in our thinking, and more effective and visible around the world. We are most successful when we operate in a timely and coherent manner backed by the right capabilities and sustained public support. Global challenges and key threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century are: threats of a politico-military nature, terrorism, organized crime, illegal immigration, discrimination and intolerance, threats to cyber security and energy security, environmental degradation and climate change.

Respect for and compliance with international law and principles of the United Nations Charter and other relevant strategies, such as the European Security Strategy (ESS), adopted by the European Council in December 2003, and a new Strategic Concept for the Defence and Security of the Members of the NATO, adopted at the NATO Summit in Lisbon 2010, remain central to the efforts to prevent and combat threats to stability. These documents and strategies have established principles and set clear objectives for advancing the security interests based on core values. However, despite all that has been achieved, their implementation remains a work in progress, particularly with regard to the effectuation of common objectives and full protection of the universal and perpetual values of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The prime responsibility for providing security for their citizens lies with individual states, which are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for the implementation of their commitments. Co-operation between the participating states in the spirit of solidarity, partnership and transparency is basic to security in the SEE area and should reflect mutual interest and respect.

For the full potential to be realized, there is a need to be still more capable, more coherent and more active, particularly in achieving strategic objectives and effective crisis management. This event aims to contribute to a more cohesive and effective international and regional security cooperation in responding to global threats and challenges.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the Conference is to give an overview and share lessons learned on security strategies and emerging fundamental policies and priorities in the participating countries.

The objectives are:

- To review the achievements of the EU security strategy, NATO strategic concept and the strategies of other organizations;
- To present measures needed in order to mitigate the negative impact on security;
- To present achievements and current emerging policy priorities in the participating countries;
- To exchange views on the challenges encountered within the national security policies in the SEE countries;
- To highlight and promote further security co-operation among the SEE countries.

Participants There will be approximately 35 participants - three national representatives from each of the signatory countries of the RACVIAC Agreement, who are officials at the decision-making level, and experts representing relevant ministries dealing with the topic. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media will also be invited.

Methodology The event will last for two working days and will comprise lectures and discussions. The official working language of the event will be English. The event materials will be issued in CD format at the end of the event.

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