Dayton Article IV Course

Zagreb, 26 May - 29 May 2013

Introduction

Pursuant to RACVIAC 2013 Programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar carried out the Course “Dayton Article IV” CSE-03-C in the period of 26 May - 29 May 2013. The Course was organized in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords. It was carried out in the “local” language. Simultaneous interpretation into English was provided for the participants who don’t speak the “local” language.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct designated participants on how to successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts pursuant to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust, confidence and transparency during the performance of inspections. The emphasis was put on the training of the inspectors.

Course participants

The Course objectives were:

• To inform and educate the participants on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Protocol on Inspection;

• To train the participants in the roles of inspectors and escorts in the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by twenty-six participants from eight countries and one organization, namely from: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (6), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (1) Germany (3), Montenegro (3), Serbia (3), Poland (1), OSCE (2). They represented relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as regional Verification Centres involved in

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

**First working day of the Course**

Opening session

The Course was opened by representatives of the four signature countries of the Dayton Article IV Agreement. The Course was conducted with the assistance of six lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Croatia (1), Germany (1), Montenegro (1), Serbia (1) and OSCE (1). The Course lasted for 3 days and it consisted of a theoretical (first two days) and a practical (one day) part, with a debriefing at the end of the 3rd day, when the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1-B of Dayton Peace Agreement, Major General Michele TORRES made a closing speech. The theoretical part comprised lectures about the history of the Dayton Peace Agreement with a focus on the Protocol on Inspection. The practical part included a training inspection of a declared site Barracks “BILOGORA” in Bjelovar, which enabled the participants, divided into two teams, to practice both the roles of inspectors and escorts.

**The Execution**

Welcome address by Brigadier General Zdravko JAKOP, Deputy Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, marked the opening of the Course. The welcome address was followed by speeches of the representatives of the signature countries. LtCol Vladimir RADMILOVIC, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ME, and Ambassador Ms Branka LATINOVIĆ from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RS, gave a general overview of Article IV. They were followed by Mr Momir BRAJIC from the MFA, BiH, who outlined national experience in the implementation of the Agreement. The last to deliver a speech in the opening session was Ms Sanja Bujas JURAGA from the Croatian MFA, who gave a presentation on the transfer of the Agreement to regional ownership.

**Conducting inspection in Bjelovar**

The theoretical phase included the following topics:

- Information about the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords and detailed analysis of Article IV of the Agreement, Protocols on Reduction and Inspection, as well as the POET.
- Preparation of a training inspection on a declared site and practical advice about inspection and/or escort duties.
During the practical part, the participants were divided into two teams. Each team conducted a training inspection - one in the role of inspection team and the other in the role of escort team in the selected OOI (Objects of Inspection) under the following procedures:

- Preparation of the inspection
- Execution of the inspection
- Debriefing - evaluation of the inspection and lessons learned.

The Course was closed with the speech of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Agreement, Major General Michele Torres, who indicated the way ahead and maturity of the States Parties to gradually take over the ownership of the Agreement.

Conclusion

According to the participants’ assessment provided at the end of the event, the Course proved successful, very interesting and well organized. They were satisfied with the topics chosen and considered the overall Course valuable for their future work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting such courses in the future as well with the aim to contribute to the security and confidence building measures in the region.

The lecturers covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in an excellent way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants. The lecturers were also observers during the practical part in Bjelovar.

Participants’ interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that most of them had little or no experience in inspection procedures. During the practical part, participants showed exceptional professionalism in performing their roles both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a remarkable spirit of cooperation and fulfilling the standards of a real inspection. The experienced observers expressed very positive comments about the participants’ progress.

The practical part of the Course was well organized, much owing to the excellent preparation with regard to the declared site and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Verification Centre of the Republic of Croatia.

The importance of this Course for the region was also demonstrated through the participation of official representatives of the signature countries of the Dayton Article IV. The significance is even greater in this period when the Agreement is in the process of regional ownership. Thus, this Course provided more information and details on the current developments and the way ahead, keeping all interested parties updated.

Compiled by:
Ms Vedrana DJUKARIĆ,
RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION