OTTAWA CONVENTION SEMINAR

Organised by RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, Croatian Office for Mine Action and Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC)

Proposed Dates 18 - 20 November 2013

Venue RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia; and CROMAC, Ante Kovačića 10, 44000 Sisak, Croatia.

Background The Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention/Mine Ban Treaty (commonly referred to as the Ottawa Convention) is the most comprehensive international instrument for ridding the world of mines. It deals with everything from mine use, production and trade, to victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction. Thus, it is the first explicitly humanitarian security convention in the world. Mine action involves all activities that aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of landmines, unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in general.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of this Seminar is to foster dialogue on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention and its obligations on the regional level and beyond, particularly in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty – International Cooperation and Assistance which calls on any State Party "in a position to do so" to assist other States Parties in aiding mine victims, providing demining assistance and helping with mine destruction. States Parties are expected to be as helpful as possible in making sure all States Parties have access to equipment, material, and scientific and technological information for implementing the Treaty without "undue restrictions".

The objectives of the Seminar are:
- To inform participants about the dual nature of the Ottawa Convention (security vs. humanitarian issues);
- To examine the state-of-affairs regarding international cooperation and assistance in the SEE by setting an example of security cooperation on national, regional and international level;
- To provide a forum for discussion on the above in the broader context of disarmament;
- To explore future prospects in mine action technology development;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of various national and international organizations and institutions dealing with the implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

Participants Approximately 25 participants, representing National Mine Action Centres in the SEE, international organizations and institutions dealing with mine action, as well as representatives of diplomatic missions and countries which are affected by mines, relevant mine action/human rights/human security NGOs, and representatives of public and private companies that deal with the above-mentioned issues. The Seminar also targets the countries actively involved as co-operators / supporters in the mine destruction process.

Other MAG Countries may attend if applicable.

Methodology The duration of the Seminar is 2 days. It is designed as a combination of classroom lectures / presentations followed by open discussions and a field trip. Participants will be provided with relevant documentation, which includes official certificates and CDs. The working language of the Seminar will be English (STANAG-3332 or equivalent).

PoC RACVIAC: Mr Pal BODOGH-SZABO, Tel.: 00 385 1 333 0 827; Fax: 00 385 1 333 0 829; Ms Vedrana DJUKARIĆ, Tel: 00 385 1 333 0 870;
E-mail address: pbszabo@racviac.org; vdjukaric@racviac.org web: www.racviac.org