ARMS CONTROL SYMPOSIUM

Organised by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

Dates 12-13 November 2013
Venue Rakitje, Zagreb, Croatia

Background Adapting to an ever-changing landscape of security threats in our region, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation has significantly broadened its scope and developed into an acknowledged regional forum for cooperation and dialogue on a variety of security issues, such as the Cooperative Security Environment (CSE), International and Regional Cooperation (IRC), and Security Sector Reform (SSR). Within the CSE pillar in particular, key priorities range from conventional arms control treaties, the reduction of security threats from chemical materials to aspects of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition. Only the elimination of weapons most likely to be used can directly address the danger of violent crime and terrorism and prevent the escalation of violence – a fact reflected in RACVIAC’s expanded mission. With its own capabilities and the support of regional and international partners, RACVIAC is well placed to organize the 2013 Arms Control Symposium, building on the success of the 2012 symposium and cementing its position as a centre for training, education and capacity building in the field of arms control. The Arms Control Symposium is a good example of how the organization is meeting the challenges and reflecting the recent developments in the current multilateral arms control negotiations. This new approach has proved to be very resilient to changing political developments, to have a strong preventive component and to be crisis resistant.

Purpose & Objectives Reflecting the political ambition to uphold existing conventional arms control treaties, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation is organizing a Conventional Arms Control Symposium, which is taking place in the period of 12-13 November 2013 in the RACVIAC premises. The purpose of this event is to build on the experience of last year's symposium and to present the latest developments in arms control, with the aim of opening new perspectives on confidence-building measures for peace and stability in Europe. The symposium will serve as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of arms control treaties as a cornerstone of European and the SEE security.

The objectives of the symposium are to examine:

- The objectives and means of a modern, stability orientated pan-European arms control regime;
- The situation of the military capabilities in future conventional arms control;
- The role of cooperative security and NATO;
- The role of the arms control in resolving the remaining security issues of Europe;
- New Arms Control Requirements from a military perspective;
- The future arms control and the modern force capabilities.

Participants The invitation to the symposium is addressed particularly, though not exclusively, to the countries of South East Europe. Three participants (if possible, one of them is expected to be the Head of Verification Center of the respective countries) from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia are kindly invited to attend. Participants should either be representatives of Ministries, political institutions and national authorities, responsible for the implementation of arms control treaties, or experts in the field of arms control. The speakers at the symposium will come from national institutions/agencies or other relevant international organisations.

Methodology The event will take place in the form of a symposium, followed by a podium discussion. It will last for one working day. The working language of the symposium will be English.

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