CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on
Arms Control Pillar

Arms Control Symposium

12-13 November 2013, Raktje, Croatia

Introduction

The Arms Control Symposium is an activity with a long tradition in the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. This year it was organised as a one-day event.

This year’s event built on the experience of the last year’s symposium and its purpose was 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 event served as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of arms control treaties as a cornerstone of European and the SEE security.

The symposium aims were to examine:

- The objectives and means of a modern, stability oriented pan-European arms control regime;
- The situation regarding military capabilities in future conventional arms control;
- The role of cooperative security and NATO;
- The role of arms control in resolving remaining security issues in Europe;
- New arms control requirements from a military perspective;
- Future arms control and modern force capabilities.

The participants who attended the Symposium came from the following countries: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Croatia (3), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (3), Montenegro (3), Romania (1), Serbia (1), and international organisations, such as the NATO School Oberammergau (3) and OSCE (4). They were both senior and junior military men and civilians dealing with arms control issues.

The Symposium was conducted with the assistance of lecturers from Austria (BrigGen [ret.] Heinz Vetschera [Institute for Political Science, Vienna]), Croatia (Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Head of International Security Division, MFEA of Croatia), Germany (Col [ret.] Wolfgang Richter, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main), Serbia (Amb. Branka Latinović,
Director of Directorate of Arms Control, MFA of Serbia, the USA (Mr James Cox, former senior US conventional arms control representative in Europe), the OSCE (MajGen Michele Torres, Personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office for Article IV, Annex B-1 of Dayton Peace Agreement), NATO (LtCol Jörn Wiederholz, Arms Control Staff Officer).

During the working day

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers and discussions. This Symposium was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring historical background of arms control. The Symposium also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for really valuable and focused discussions.

Execution

The Symposium was opened on 13 November 2013 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, followed by opening remarks given by MajGen Michele Torres which was followed by opening remarks by Col [ret.] Wolfgang Richter, who was an excellent moderator of the one-day event and who, among other things, emphasized the role of the Pan-European nature of arms control in Europe.

During Wednesday, 13 November, the following topics were presented:

- From Arms Control to Force Control - Cooperative Military Security in the New Environment by BrigGen [ret.] Heinz Vetschera from the Institute for Political Science, Vienna.

Brigadier General Vetschera gave a detailed overview of the structure and notion of arms control (AC), supported by an excellent and clear presentation. Special emphasis was put on the history of the AC from the late 60s to the present day. One of his striking remarks was as follows: "It is impossible to always carry around a fire extinguisher, because we do not need it all the time, only in the event of fire. The same is true of [the role] of arms control."

Col. (ret.) Wolfgang Richter and MajGen Michele Torres

- Possibilities for advancing arms control in Europe by Col [ret.] Wolfgang Richter, German Institute for International and Security Affairs. This presentation – with a subtitled "Is conventional arms control relevant?" provided a great historical overview with an emphasis on Europe and examples were illustrated with lots of maps. Strategic context of arms control in Europe was highlighted. According to the presenter, NATO’s enlargement broke the party concept. In the end, future role of conventional AC in the European security architecture was outlined.

- Possibilities for advancing arms control in Europe by Ambassador Branka Latinović, Head of Department of Arms control, MFA of Serbia. In this presentation the AC was highlighted as an important cornerstone of the European security. Ambassador
Latinović pointed out the evident crisis in the work of international bodies on disarmament items. According to Ms Latinović, future negotiations on arms control should be open to all interested OSCE participating States.

- **Art. IV, Annex 1/B, Dayton Peace Accords: Situation and Future** by MajGen Michele Torres, Personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office for Article IV, Annex B-1 of Dayton Peace Agreement. Major General Torres outlined the role of the OSCE and the Personal Representative of the CiO for Article IV Dayton Peace Accords. He gave a general overview of the Agreement and its implementation, Article IV – Annex 1B and its political/technical aspects and perspectives. He gave personal assessment and remarks regarding Article IV – Annex 1B.

- **Arms Control - What It Can and Cannot Do** by Mr James Cox, former senior US conventional arms control representative in Europe. Mr Cox gave a very clear, impressive, purist style presentation about AC agreements and treaties, pointing out that they are “highly specific antibiotic medicines” constructed by mixing highly specialized components and applying them to treat very specific and serious “illnesses.” According to Mr Cox, AC can help prevent a conflict, which is probably its most important contribution. Finally, he emphasized that “we should not forget that Europeans and North Americans hold virtually all expertise in the world in formulating, negotiating and implementing effective arms control agreements”.

- **Arms Control and Its Impact on Stability and Security in SEE** by Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Head of International Security Division, MFEA of Croatia. The presentation provided information on the possibilities and capabilities of Croatia in the field of AC. It also covered AC issues and treaties from a more general point of view. In her closing remarks, Ms Bujas Juraga pointed out: “arms control agreements depend upon changes in the development of military forces. Numerical reduction of armaments can serve only as an element of a more comprehensive approach in arms control providing military transparency, flexibility and predictability. The same model cannot be introduced in different circumstances, but these same principles, based on effective practices, can be universally applicable”.

- **Verified Transparency of Military Capabilities: Their Chances and Possible Problems** by Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main. The presenter gave an overview of a Verified Transparency (VT) of military capabilities and pointed out why discussions about it were important in the first place. He outlined the goals of the VT, while the evaluation of conventional military capabilities (CMC) was illustrated with the example of strategic airlift.

The final part of the Symposium was devoted to the evaluation of the Symposium and a Closing Ceremony. Due to lack of time and because of the restrictions in the Agenda, LtCol Wiederholz’s presentation was regretfully omitted.

**Conclusion**

Thanks to the harmonized cooperation inside RACVIAC and to the long-standing tradition of the event, the presence of high-level lecturers was ensured. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants.
expressed various ideas regarding topics for possible future activities, which may prove to be a valuable source of needs assessment. In particular, they reiterated the need to put greater emphasis on the time slot given to each presenter. They unanimously underlined the necessity for an additional working day for the next year’s Symposium in order to have truly fruitful discussions and in-depth exploration of topics.

These recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration by the organizers in the course of preparation of the next year’s activity.

This event proved to be a good example of a traditionally popular activity of the RACVIAC CSE Pillar. In this regard and under the same aegis, RACVIAC will continue facilitating future discussions about arms control with all means at its disposal.

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