Overview

Defence Accountability in the Framework of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)
(The Basics of SSR series of seminars)

SSR-01-S

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Dates 19 – 20 February 2013

Venue(s) RACVIAC Facilities at "Vitez Damir Martić" Military Barracks, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, Croatia.

Background The last seminar in this series, held in February 2012, addressed the concept of Good Governance, which can be shortly described as a way of structuring and running an organisation with the aim of its effective and efficient output. The manner in which this happens largely depends on the scope of responsibility and accountability determined within a respective organisation. Placing the above statements in the context of the current economic, and consequently, financial crisis, the necessity for the high-quality outputs of an organisation becomes obvious. Namely, who can confirm that organisations without a clear structure of internal responsibility and accountability are not overspending resources without producing adequate outputs? To put it differently, isn't it true that an organisation with a well-implemented structure of responsibility and accountability directly contributes to the well-being of its employees, to a positive image among other comparable organisations and to a more efficient response to the crisis?
The defence sector is no exception in this regard. Moreover, one could argue that within the defence system it should be even easier to ensure accountability because of its firm organisational structure. A slight, yet crucial, shift in this direction must be a shift from responsibility and accountability towards WHO is responsible and accountable for WHAT. The attempt of achieving this in the well-established defence system of the country far away from the SEE region was what prompted us to design this seminar.
Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of the seminar is to present the role of national defence systems within the EU CSDP with a special emphasis on the context of budget cuts and general economic and financial hardship. This generally refers to short-term and long-term regulatory defence system. Ways of overcoming some major problems in this regard will be addressed as well. The indispensable concept in dealing with the problems, alongside the concept of Good Governance, is the concept of accountability and responsibility, both individual and organisational. The necessity or relevance of adjustments or restructuring of national defence systems, where applicable within the framework of the CSDP, should be highlighted through redefining of the system of responsibility and accountability. Once the budget has been decreased, it hardly ever increases over a short period. Ways of mitigating or preventing defence budget cuts through an increased effectiveness and efficiency will be stressed as organizational and system priorities.

The objectives are:

- to clearly define and explain the meaning and use of the terms responsibility and accountability,
- to raise awareness of the concepts of accountability and responsibility,
- to elaborate the concepts of horizontal and vertical accountability and the effects of their implementation in the overall defence system output,
- to compare national security and military strategies with international and national commitments including CSDP,
- to foster collaboration with other, internal and external actors from different segments of the defence system.

Participants
Estimated number of participants: 25

- High-ranking officials from the Defence Ministries and General Staff engaged in policy development or planning;
- Representatives of Parliamentary Defence Committees;
- High-ranking officials from Foreign Affairs Ministries engaged in international defence relations;
- Representatives of civil and public organisations and institutions involved in decision-making processes related to Defence matters.

Methodology
Interactive lectures and open discussions. Participants must be able to use the English language in a way that they can understand delivered lectures/presentations as well as to communicate therein contained ideas and concepts.

POC
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