Private (Military) Security Companies (P(M)SC)/National Security Sector

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Dates
23-25 April 2013

Location(s)
RACVIAC Facilities at Military Barracks "Vitez Damir Martić", Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia

Background
The Seminar on P(M)SC / National Security is the first one in a series of similar events aimed at becoming RACVIAC mid-term project focused on the changes in Civil-Military Relations (CMR) and the effects of privatisation of the security sector. RACVIAC’s SSR programme for the mid-term period also aims to cover the protection of human rights.

Private (Military) Security Companies and other Private Security Providers play an important role in protecting state and non-state clients engaged in various activities. In providing these services, the activities of P(M)SC can have potentially positive and negative consequences for their clients, the local population in the area of operation, the general security environment, the enjoyment of human rights and the rule of law.

To ensure higher level of human rights protection and the rule of law as the responsibility of P(M)SC, the government of the Swiss Confederation and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in cooperation with the representatives of 17 states (Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Iraq, Poland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States) launched an initiative resulting in the Montreux Document. A further step aimed at improving the level of human rights protection was the adoption of the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers. Thereby, the Signatory Companies, PSCs, affirm their responsibility to respect human rights and fulfil humanitarian responsibilities towards all those affected by their business activities.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of the first P(M)SC /National Security Seminar in April 2013 is three-fold.
Firstly, it aims to bring together representatives from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and provide them with relevant general information on the global trends, rapid growth and changing nature of the private (military) security sector in the last two decades and its impact on civil-military relations (CMR).
Secondly, the seminar is aimed at outlining pros and cons of the use of P(M)SC and lessons learned in the course of security privatisation and outsourcing.
Thirdly, the event aims to present the options for effective regulation of P(M)SC on international level and types of national legislation.

The seminar will provide an opportunity for the participants from parliaments, ombudsman institutions, ministries, chambers of commerce, representatives of P(M)SC and NGOs from the SEE countries to present their experiences in transposing international regulations into national legislation.

The main objectives are:

- to outline the changing nature of the P(M) SC and the impact on CMR,
- to provide participants with relevant general information on the history and growth of P(M)SC,
- to give an overview of the pros and cons of using P(M)SC and lessons learned from privatizing and outsourcing security,
- to direct participants’ attention to the options available for the effective regulation of P(M)SC,
- to present the efforts on producing international regulations, such as the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers,
- to exchange national experiences of SEE countries in implementing action plans and programmes to regulate P(M)SC at the national level.

Participants
Approximately 30 participants from Parliaments, national Ombudsman institutions for human rights protection, MFAs, MoDs, Ministries of Internal Affairs, as well as representatives from Chambers of Commerce and/or Economy, representatives from P(M)SC and NGOs, as well as experts from various national institutions and think-thanks. Experts from relevant UN, OSCE and EU departments are invited to take part in providing relevant information on the subject matter.

Methodology
The seminar will include keynote speeches outlining the importance of the law, practice and governance of Private (Military) and Security Companies in Security Sector Reform, followed by presentations on national implementation action plans.

The working language will be English.

POC
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