Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar
“Convention Implementation - Legal Aspects”
Co-organized with
Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Dates 8-10 April 2015
Venue RACVIAC, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Republic of Croatia

Background Seminars focusing on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) have been organized annually since 2004 thanks to RACVIAC cooperation with the OPCW. Seminars on the topic of the CWC serve as a forum for enhancing regional capacity building in the fight against CW. They also provide an opportunity to discuss practical challenges in building a response system to be employed in a scenario of CW use or a threat of CW use. The 2015 seminar is a continuation of fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in South-Eastern Europe, which directly helps enhance regional stability, transparency and trust. This year the main focus will be put on the legislative aspects and requirements of implementing the Convention, in particular on the administrative/regulatory measures that govern the actions of customs authorities and their role vis-à-vis the implementation of the Convention. The seminar will cover the following topics: an overview of the CWC, obligations and requirements under the Convention, updates on the status of implementation of the Convention in the region and the role of customs authorities in import/export control.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of this seminar is to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and provide a broad overview of the CWC implementation procedures with specific focus on legislative aspects, requirements as well as administrative and regulatory measures in implementing the Convention. Additionally, OPCW seeks to gain a clear understanding of the administrative measures that are currently in place in the different countries in the region and of the mechanisms deployed by them.

The specific seminar objectives are:
• To provide an overview of the CWC, Article VII in particular, major achievements and challenges included;
• to inform the participants about the implementation of Article VII of the CWC and the roles and capabilities of the OPCW under Article VII of the CWC;
• to clarify any uncertainties in the fulfilment of Article VII obligations of the CWC by the States Parties to the OPCW;
• to give all necessary information about legislative/administrative aspects and requirements;
• to collect information on the adoption, implementation and enforcement of administrative measures deployed by the States Parties in the sub-region, and
• to identify follow-up procedures that are in place in the States Parties.

The seminar expected outcomes:
• Enhanced knowledge and understanding by the States Parties in the region regarding the CWC, its provisions and requirements, roles and responsibilities as well as implementation measures under the Article VII of the Convention
• Compilation of information regarding the framework of the administrative/regulatory instruments available and adopted by the participating countries.
Participants

Approximately 35 participants, namely three from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia and one from Romania and Republic of Turkey (each). In addition to the above-listed, attendees from all other associate members, observers and participants are invited to attend the seminar. They should be either senior/junior military or civilian recommendation-makers dealing with CWC issues and responsible for escorting inspections in the Secretariat of the OPCW. The content of this seminar will be of particular interest to the members of National Authorities of States Parties. Therefore, the participation of National Authorities’ representatives is a fundamental requirement.

Methodology

The duration of the seminar is two and a half days. It will comprise presentations and discussions. The seminar will provide an appropriate setting and atmosphere to encourage focused discussions. The seminar’s working language will be English (STANAG 3232).

Member States are kindly informed that RACVIAC encourages all lecturers to submit written essays on their area of expertise to be referred to during their presentation at the RACVIAC activity. Most prominent and current essays will then be published in the “RACVIAC Compendium – Assortment of RACVIAC Prominent Lecturers’ Insights” that will be issued at least once a year, preferably at the beginning of the year for the year preceding, but with an option and aim to become semi-annual if input and interest of the targeted audience is satisfactory.

Understanding that additional effort and time are needed to be put into the writing of this essay, RACVIAC will stimulate it with an amount of 100 euros per essay. The essays should comprise at least 1500 words and should be submitted electronically and in the hard copy version to RACVIAC before the actual lecture or presentation is given. The author of the submitted essay should give his/her written permission to RACVIAC to publish the essay in the “RACVIAC Compendium” waiving future claims or compensations towards RACVIAC.

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