Dates 7 - 9 November 2016
Venue Rakitje, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia
Background The Arms Control Symposium represents one of the main events in the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar since it offers the possibility to discuss the main Pillar topics in one place. Within the Pillar, the key priorities range from conventional Arms Control treaties, the reduction of security threats from CBRN materials to aspects of physical security and stockpile management. This Symposium aims to cover these priority topics and review the recent developments in the ever-changing political and security arena. It will also gather experts from the region and beyond on the topic of Arms Control (Heads of Verification Centres, Heads of departments of MFA or MoD, and the academic experts dealing with this topic).

Purpose & Objectives 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 to open up new perspectives on confidence-building measures for peace and stability in Europe. The idea is to bring together all relevant players coming from the ‘Arms control family’ and give them the opportunity to discuss and share ideas on the future of arms control in Europe and the region. An important element of its overall aims is the updating of any relevant information regarding Arms Control issues and to discuss the way ahead. The aim is also to organize a parallel meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres of the SEE region.

The objectives of the Symposium are to examine:

- The military capabilities in future conventional Arms Control
- The role of Arms Control in resolving the remaining security issues in Europe
- New Arms Control Requirements from a military perspective
- Future Arms Control and modern force capabilities.

The Symposium will serve as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of Arms Control treaties as a cornerstone of European and SEE security. Participants are encouraged to give their own opinions as they are the true experts in this field, and also the national view on the Arms Control issues in their own countries.

Participants Three participants (one of them being the Head of the Verification Centre of the respective country) from each of the following countries: Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia as well as one participant from Greece, Romania and Republic of Turkey (each) are kindly invited to attend the Symposium. In addition to the above-listed, attendees from all other Associate Members, Observers and participants are invited to attend the activity. 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 represent 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 one working day.
The working language of the Symposium will be English.
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 the additional effort and time 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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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.