Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

Co-organized with
Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Dates  
15-18 February 2016

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 2016 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 again on a specific article (X) of the Convention, in particular on the administrative/regulatory measures that govern the actions of States Parties and the Organization 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, provides briefings on Article X issues and information on CWC reporting mechanisms.

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 different aspects, and measures in implementing the Convention. OPCW seeks to gain a clear understanding of the 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 X in particular, major achievements and challenges included;
- to inform the participants about the implementation of Article X of the CWC and the roles and capabilities of the OPCW under Article X of the CWC;
- to clarify any uncertainties in the fulfilment of Article X obligations of the CWC by the States Parties to the OPCW;
- to give all necessary information about Article X - Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons;
- to collect information on the adoption, implementation and enforcement 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 a) the CWC, its provisions and requirements, roles and responsibilities as well as b) the Article X (Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons).
- Compilation of information regarding the framework of the administrative/regulatory instruments available and adopted by the participating countries.
Participants

Approximately 30 participants, namely three (3) 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 and one (1) 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 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.

POC

Mr Pál BÓDOGH-SZABÓ, Tel.: +385 1 333 0 827, Fax: +385 1 333 0 829, E-mail: pbszabo@racviac.org, Web: www.racviac.org.

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