Overview

“Seminar on P(M)SCs IV: Regulating the Private Security Industry for the Public Good”

SSR-F2-S-16

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Dates 28th - 30th November 2016

Venue RACVIAC Facilities, the Military Barracks "Vitez Martić"
Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

Background Private Military and Security Companies (P(M)SC) play an increasingly important role in the provision of security services within the region and beyond. Numerous states either host headquarters of P(M)SCs or rely on their services, either at home or/and abroad. Globally, there is a strong push to regulate and control P(M)SCs, as is manifested in several diplomatic initiatives, such as the Montreux Document or the Voluntary principles.

According to the Montreux Document on Private Military and Security Companies, the term describes “private business entities that provide military and/or security services, irrespective of how they describe themselves. Military and security services include, in particular, armed guarding and protection of persons and objects, such as convoys, buildings and other places; maintenance and operation of weapons systems; prisoner detention; and advice to or training of local forces and security personnel”.

The Seminar on P(M)SCs IV is the 4th seminar in a series of similar events that has become a RACVIAC mid-term project focusing on the changes in Civil-Military Relations (CMR) and the effects of privatization. The goal of the project is to promote values and provisions of the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security providers in SEE, to raise awareness about the existing national legislation, policies, and best practices and to build up a common platform for the exchange of information on the SEE region.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of the Seminar is to support the implementation of international legislation on regulating the P(M)SCs. As recommended in the OSCE Code of Conduct, the aim is to include special information regarding the contracting/outsourcing of private military and security services (P(M)SCs) and the respective legal status of such personnel. The main objectives of the Seminar are to promote international standards and give impetus to more effective regulation of P(M)SCs on the state level.

Participation Approximately 30 participants from ministries of internal affairs, ministries of justice, ministries of defence, SEE parliaments, as well as the representatives of associations of P(M)SCs and NGOs, managers from P(M)SCs as well as experts from various institutions and think-tanks. Experts from relevant DCAF, OSCE, EU and CoESS departments are invited to take part in providing relevant information on the subject matter.

Methodology The event is designed as a seminar and it will be conducted as a combination of lectures, national presentations and group discussions. The Seminar working language will be English.

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