Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Dayton Article IV Course”
04-09 March 2018
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introduction

The “Dayton Article IV Course” was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 04-09 March 2018. It was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany and was carried out in the official languages of the Parties to the Agreement. During both the theoretical and practical part simultaneous translation into English was provided. The Course was conducted with the assistance of five lecturers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Federal Republic of Germany, Montenegro, and Republic of Serbia.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct participants how to successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts pursuant to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust and confidence as well as transparency during the performance of inspections. The objectives of the Course were:
- To inform and educate the participants on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BA (Dayton Peace Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control;
- To train the participants in the role of inspectors and escorts within the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by 34 participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Republic of Croatia (3), Hellenic Republic (1), Romania (1), Republic of Serbia (2), Republic of Slovenia (1), Republic of South Korea (1), Kingdom of Spain (1) and Republic of Turkey (1). It lasted 4 days and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part.

Execution

The first working day of the Course started on Monday, 5 March with the Opening remarks by LtCol Servet Aya on behalf of RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk. LtCol Servet Aya stressed that this Course represents one of the most important annual activities of RACVIAC since it evidently makes a significant contribution to regional stability, transparency and trust.

Welcome address by LtCol Servet Aya on behalf of Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC
The Opening remarks were followed by a Welcome address by Mr Zoran Šajinović, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation (BA). In his address Mr Zoran Šajinović thanked RACVIAC and underscored that Bosnia and Herzegovina would continue to support it in the execution of its activities. Mr Šajinović gave an overview of the background of the Dayton Agreement, as well as of the political advantages of its signing. He also stressed the importance of the Agreement for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the significant role of the international community in the process of verification and ratification of the Agreement.

This was followed by speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries and OSCE, i.e., Mr Momir Brajić, Head of Department for NATO and PfP in the MoD of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Igor Kuželka, Minister Counsellor in the MFA of the Republic of Serbia, Ms Vana Vojinović, Director of the Directorate for Regional Organizations and Initiatives in the MFA of Montenegro, Ms Svjetlana Šimičić, Head of Arms Control Division in the MoD of the Republic of Croatia and Mr Robin Mossinkoff, Head of the FSC Support Section in the Conflict Prevention Centre of the Secretariat of the OSCE.

The representatives of the signatory countries provided the preconditions for the Agreement, views and political background concerning the history and development of the Agreement and the phases of its implementation in the process of confidence and security building measures in the region. Although some challenges were faced in the process, the Agreement is still in use thanks to the clear political commitment of all sides.

Mr Robin Mossinkoff addressed the participants as well in regards to the role of the OSCE within the Agreement. He presented the work of the OSCE, both in general in ensuring stability and confidence building and in case of its role in the Article IV implementation process. He stressed the importance of transparency and dialogue to prevent any kind of conflict while touching on the differences between Dayton and other instruments in building confidence and security.

The afternoon was devoted to the theoretical part of the Course regarding the Annual Exchange of Information and Protocols on Reduction and on Existing Types.

The second working day continued with instructions about Protocols on Inspections covering sections one to ten of the Agreement and the integration of OSCE Guest Observers. In the end the participants were divided into two groups as inspection and escort teams. The day was finalized with the preparation for the training inspection.

The third working day was reserved for the first practical part. A demonstration inspection was performed by lecturers in the military unit of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Visoko. Lecturers carried out the whole process of inspection (preparation of the inspection, execution of the inspection and debriefing) in such a way so as to allow participants to observe and ask questions at all points of the exercise.

The fourth day, Monday, 8 March, was once again the practical part in a military unit of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Kiseljak. Participants were tasked to demonstrate what they learned during the theoretical part and by observing the lecturers in the sense that a training inspection including an Inspection Report and Debriefing was carried out by participants under the supervisions of lecturers.
The Course was closed by an evaluation and a brief closing ceremony in which the participants were given certificates of successful completion of the Course.

**Conclusion**

Participants were highly motivated during the whole Course thus contributing to its overall success. That motivation was also highly appreciated and evaluated by the instructors. During the Course evaluation, as well as in the questionnaire the participants expressed their satisfaction with the activity and topics chosen and deemed the Course overall, and in specific to the two days of the practical exercise, valuable for their future work.

The lecturers were very well prepared and ready to share their experience and knowledge with the participants. They provided them with all the necessary information for their future work in Arms Control deployments.

As has been announced, henceforward, each year, the practical part of the Course will be conducted in another signatory state. Republic of Serbia expressed its willingness to host it in 2019.