RACVIAC at Stability Pact Regional Table and WT III meeting

The Stability Pact’s biannual meetings of the Regional Table, its highest decision-making forum and the three Working Tables on Democracy, Economy and Security, met in the Romanian capital Bucharest on 15-16 November 2006 to move ahead with the implementation of the decisions taken by the Regional Table in Belgrade on a phased evolution of the Stability Pact into a new framework for regional co-operation in South Eastern Europe called the Regional Co-operation Council (RCC).

The meeting of the Regional Table took place on 16 November and was preceded by a day of theme-focused Working Table meetings (WTI, WTIi and WTIII) where the streamlining and transition into regional ownership of each of the 25 Stability Pact Initiatives and Task Forces were debated. Countries of SEE took another step forward towards the creation of a new regional co-operation framework that will gradually take over the responsibilities of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The newly established Regional Co-operation Council will be a regionally owned, streamlined and effective regional co-operation framework in SE Europe.

Maj Gen Stergios PAPOTIS, Director of RACVIAC and Col Dragan GOSTOVIĆ, P&L Officer for SEE, participated in the Working Table III meeting, which focused on the transition strategies for the initiatives dealing with Defence and Security cooperation. The discussion centered on the remaining impediments to the transfer to regional ownership, namely funding, staffing and political support. The participants agreed that, in order to make the transition a real success, the experts involved in each of the regional cooperative frameworks should be supported more strongly by the political and higher executive levels of their governments, with the backing of the international community. Secondly, financial contributions from SEE countries to the budget of these initiatives should be increased. Finally, qualified staff should be seconded to work within these frameworks and to liaise with colleagues in national administrations. The Special Coordinator for Stability Pact reminded that security as such is indivisible, and is a common interest and responsibility. Therefore, security /defence cooperation would be one of the five priorities of the RCC.

The Chair underlined the importance of RACVIAC as one of the key instruments developed by the Stability Pact partners in the area of SSR. Although RACVIAC has progressed on its transition towards regional ownership, RACVIAC’s potential, however, has not always been sufficiently acknowledged and utilized. The Chair welcomed that the international community represented by donor countries and international organizations, in particular NATO, EU and OSCE is supporting RACVIAC’s activities. He also noted growing interest of SEDM and SEEGROUP in RACVIAC’s program and invited them to support and actively use RACVIAC. As noted by the Chair, RACVIAC’s activities in the area of defence conversion were focused on helping to develop national strategies, corresponding to

continued on page 2
national needs, and on stimulating international and regional cooperation, project development and assistance in project implementation. The Chair underlined that RACVIAC’s efforts should now concentrate on generating concrete projects. Finally, the Chair welcomed information concerning continuation of the RACVIAC’s Defence Conversion activities in 2007. There were two panel discussions during the Working Table III meeting. One of them was devoted to security co-operation in SEE and the Director of RACVIAC was one of the panelists. He gave a presentation on contribution of RACVIAC on the ways towards strengthening regional ownership. Maj Gen Stergios PAPOTIS pointed out that the functioning of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) could be improved by broadening MAG delegations – currently almost exclusively composed from MOD personnel - to include experts from other relevant ministries, thus improving discussions and decisions on programming. He also stressed the need to regularly review RACVIAC’s priorities and adjust them to new challenges. The Director of RACVIAC pointed out that although RACVIAC’s dependency on international funding still exists, a number of SEE countries have already made small contributions to RACVIAC’s budget or contributions in kind. Providing qualified staff and taking into account RACVIAC’s new mandate and associated specific operational tasks would demonstrate political commitment. RACVIAC personnel are expected to be able to contribute themselves to the substantive development of RACVIAC’s programs and projects. Nominations for and selection of the new Director of RACVIAC by April 2007 is therefore extremely important in this context. Finally, the Director of RACVIAC asked the countries of the region to increase their political support to RACVIAC and take concrete steps to reinforce its capacities. He emphasized that the role of Croatia as the host country of RACVIAC and current SEECP CiO is crucial in this respect. Maj Gen Papotis and Col Gostovic had also many useful meetings with the participants from various countries and organizations. They presented RACVIAC’s plans for the future and tried to attract financial and other support.

The whole presentation given by MajGen PAPOTIS can be found on: www.racviac.org/news
• 8th November 2006 Commission’s progress report on Croatia and Turkey.

Issue related to the Western Balkans
• The Kosovo status negotiations: hopefully we will have results within the planned time frame.

Improving the union’s external action
• This is essential for any EU external policy.
• We are working on the implementation of the measures already agreed in the existing EU Treaty.

Relation with Russia
• EU summit in Finland a few weeks ago. With Russia, questions related to the frozen conflicts and presently to Russia-Georgia-relations are central.

The external dimension of energy policy
• Related to the two previous points, I am glad to note that the EU has been able to formulate more unified views on energy policy.

As I started, the focus on these five issues does not mean that the other issues were less important. Quite the contrary: all EU actions are parts of the whole.

Our Presidency team has also worked very hard to promote transatlantic relations, international trade, dialogues with various international organizations, regions, as well as to enhance intercultural dialogue. In the everyday CFSP work, the Middle East, Iran, Iraq, Kongo and Sudan require the most attention.

Last, but not at least, the ESDP is an essential element in CFSP. The demand for international crisis management is growing, and the EU, with its comprehensive set of civilian and military crisis management instruments, is a demanded actor in many crises regions.

During these two days, I am sure you will come to conclude that the ESDP is a very dynamic policy field. During the last 6 years, the development of the ESDP has been rapid and it surely will continue to be so."

Full report can be read on: www.racviac.org

Activities of RACVIAC outside

Maj Gen Stergios PAPOTIS and Col Dragan GOSTOVIĆ took part at The 8th CBSC WG Meeting on "Defence/Military Support to WMD Counter Proliferation, Border Security and Counter Terrorism", held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 23-24 November 2006. Director of RACVIAC offered to CBSC WG to host some of its activities in the next period. There is also a possibility of conducting joint activities, for example with NATO WMD Centre. Those possibilities will be taken into consideration in planning future activities.

On 7 December 2006 in Istanbul, Turkey Col Dragan GOSTOVIC participated at the Third SECI Antiterrorism Task Force Meeting. Major topics of strengthening the cooperation among the SECI States in close cooperation with their major partners in fighting against the terrorist threat and terrorist activities were discussed. Col GOSTIVIC gave a presentation about RACVIAC experience in the fields of dual use export control, border management and weapon trafficking and at the end he spoke with Mr. Alexandru Ionas, Deputy Director of SECI Center, about future cooperation between RACVIAC and SECI Center.

The European Parliament, in conjunction with the Stability Pact, held a Seminar on parliamentary control of the security sector, on 16 October 2006 in Zagreb. Col Rajko DU-MANČIĆ, COS and Col Dragan GOSTOVIC, P&L Officer for SEE, took part in the seminar on behalf of RACVIAC. Parliamentarians from SEE participated in the seminar and had a very interesting discussion among themselves and with representatives of the European Parliament, OSCE, Stability Pact, OECD/DAC, DCAF and other organizations and institutions. One of the background papers for discussion was the study ‘Parliamentary Control of Defence and Security Sector in South East Europe’ written by Dr Vladimir Bilandzic, OSCE Mission to Serbia. This study is one of a series of papers requested by the EP’s Committee on Foreign Affairs in connection with its role as (rotating) chair of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact for South East Europe in 2006. At the end of the seminar parliamentarians from the EU and South Eastern European countries adopted a joint declaration. “...The parliaments in South East

... continued on the page 4
Europe must develop the resources and the tools necessary to put in place independent and accountable judiciary systems and to exercise democratic scrutiny over the security sector and we in the European Parliament and in the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE stand ready to assist them in achieving these important goals...” stated Ms Doris Pack, chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with the Countries of South East Europe, who headed the European Parliament’s delegation.

Ltc Frank Odhendahl, RACVIAC P&L Officer for WE, participated the SALW Symposium, hosted by the Swiss Arms Control Center in Bern, Switzerland from 16th till 20 October 2006. Participants came from 15 nations (AU, CA, DE, DK, FI, FR, HU, IR, NO, PL, SP, SW, UK, US) & 4 organizations (NATO, RACVIAC, Small Arms Survey, GICHD). Particularly beneficial for RACVIAC is the fact that SALW (and Ammunition/ Explosives) is indeed an integral part of the Verification business, and RACVIAC in particular is well advised to gain / maintain sufficient knowledge and expertise to keep credibility in SEE.

LtC Vincenzo LAFASSANELLA did not hesitate to dedicate his energy, skills and knowledge to his best to fulfill his mission by professional approach during whole of his tour of duty in RACVIAC and finally became a perfect example for us... His extraordinary performance brought great credit upon him and his country. For sure it was a privilege to serve with a colleague like LtCol Lafasanella, but he was not only a colleague in Dialogue and Cooperation Division also a compatible, helpful and courteous friend for us too. We will not forget him. RACVIAC wishes all the best to him and his family.

RACVIAC also welcomes LtC Mario Stefano RIVA, the new Seminar Director of the Dialogue and Cooperation Division who jointed us the 1st December 2006. He was born in Turin, Italy, in 1965. He joined the Italian Army in 1984. He graduated in engineer in 1996 at the University of Rome- in 2001 he took a master in “Strategic studies” and in 2005 a master in “Peacemaking and security studies”. In his military career he was platoon and company commander in a logistic battalion – he served with the 3rd Alpine regiment from June to November 1999 in Kosovo, as transportation officer. His last appointees were military assistance of chief of staff in the NATO rapid deployable corps – Italy. He is 40 years old, married with Monica and has one son, one year old, Carlo Alberto.

Participants analyzed the range of actors that could be drawn into the process and saw strong possibilities for greater dissemination at the national, European and international levels. Dissemination strategies were discussed and a range of specific interlocutors were identified.

Col Dumančić had many useful meetings with the participants from various organizations. Among others, with Mr. Josef Reiterer, from the Civil-Military Coordination Section Emergency Services Branch Office for the Coordination Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva, about the possibility of future joint activities.

Hellos and Goodbyes in RACVIAC
RACVIAC would also like to thank LtC Victor SOTCHI for his kind assistance and friendly support and for everything he has been doing for last 2 years, as our WGIII Officer of DC Cell. He has proved himself as an excellent team player, able to carry out all spectra of tasks of our organization. We are very grateful for the nice and enjoyable time and the experiences RACVIAC has shared with him. At second half of January 2007 his successor, LTC Grigore CHIRICA will join RACVIAC. He comes from Ministry of Defense of Moldova, where he worked as a Head of UN, OSCE and other international organizations Division.

After three years of dedicated work, RACVIAC says an extremely sad farewell to Capt. Jürgen KLEIN who was Chief of Service Branch in RACVIAC. With his knowledge he provided to RACVIAC great benefit. During his mandate RACVIAC restaurant was renovated, all windows at a Staff Building were replaced, as well as old equipment and many more daily works that should be done, he did very well. We take this opportunity to thank Jürgen for all his work and friendship during this time in RACVIAC and wish him every success in the future.

RACVIAC welcomes Maj Davor KIRALJ, our WG I Director in DC Cell. He has 15 years of military service equally distributed in tactical units, academic military organization, General Staff a Ministry of Defense of Republic of Croatia. Besides his original infantry background, his career and professional developement includes functional area of manpower and personnel management research and development. Ten years of experience in this field include variety of projects. One of the major efforts was development of Croatian Military Personnel Transition System which never existed before. He is author of corresponding military personnel transition doctrine, transition system concept, original Program documents (SPECTRA), formal supporting documents and initial Program execution planning. Major Kiralj gained his knowledge trough international cooperation activities, education in the country and abroad. He is married and has two kids.

RACVIAC/CROMAC first joint course on regional approaches to demining programmes

The Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), in cooperation with the Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC), conducted a “Course on Regional Approach in the Planning of Demining Programmes - Implementation of the Ottawa Convention”, which was held in Zagreb and Sisak, Croatia, from 16 to 19 October 2006.

This course, attended by representatives from 11 countries, provided a thorough overview of the Ottawa Convention, which bans antipersonnel landmines and addresses mine use, production and trade, victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction. Participants included representatives from national Mine Action Centres (MACs) in the South East Europe (SEE) region, NGOs, UNMIK, the Croatian Foreign Ministry, and ambassadors of Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Norway. The course consisted of lectures and presentations as well as a practical component through a visit to the CROMAC site near Sisak.

Speeches and discussions included both regional and international perspectives. Dr. Dijana Plešîina, the Croatian Foreign Minister’s Advisor for Demining, provided opening remarks and representatives of regional MACs delivered presentations on the current situations in their countries regarding mines. The Ambassador of Australia to Croatia, Ms. Tracy Reid, delivered a talk on developments in implementation and administration of the Ottawa Convention in 2007 and commended SEE country and NGO delegations’ commitment to including landmine survivors in their international delegations. In her talk on resource mobilization for adequate implementation of the Ottawa Convention, the
Ambassador of Norway to Croatia, Ms. Elisabeth Walaas, addressed among other things the need for the mine action sector to pursue new technical and administrative methodologies and to adapt to a changing donor environment.

Mr. Kerry Brinkert of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), presented on the challenges to convention implementation in SEE, and also drew attention to some important treaty-related obligation deadlines coming up for countries of the region while offering practical advice on how to address them. Ms. Vanja Sikirica of Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) in her talk noted the link between demining and other security problems in SEE, like the need for mine clearance of border areas to enable police to better tackle trafficking.

In Sisak, CROMAC representatives provided detailed descriptions of their organization, their operations, and their results. They demonstrated techniques in machine- and dog-based mine clearance at a demining site in Petrinja. Course participants involved in more theoretical aspects of the Ottawa Convention expressed appreciation for this window on the practical side of mine clearance. A participant from German NGO Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB), an organization active in mine clearance work in SEE, described CROMAC’s achievements as “uncommon” and expressed the hope their model might be exported to other mine-affected parts of the world.

Participants concluded with proposals for future cooperation, like strengthening ties between regional MACs and following up on the successes of internationally-commended regional demining projects with the establishment of further such projects, especially in border areas.

The seminar was geared towards MOD staff and included participants from all regional countries as well as from the EU and NATO, and military attachés in Zagreb. The seminar opened with a keynote speech by LtC Antonios Nomikos from NATO School-Oberammergau, who provided a comprehensive overview of NATO education and training institutions and programming. Another lecture was given by Dr. Jochen Rehrl, Political Advisor to Austrian Military Representative, who explained the key role played by the European Security and Defense College (ESDC) in European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) training. The lectures were followed by short presentations about candidate officer education/training systems of the countries in the region.

The information exchanged over the course of the seminar generated new and useful ideas and established a basis for better cooperation between the countries concerned regarding challenges of officer candidate training now and in the future. The seminar concluded with participants jointly compiling a list of recommendations for increased regional cooperation in the field of military education.

Some recommendations were as follows:

- for bilateral and multilateral agreements between regional countries for officer-student or cadet exchanges;
- for all military education systems in the region to meet the Bologna process;
- for harmonization of military education curricula in the countries of the region (while acknowledging the progress already made in that regard through the existence of English language components in all training systems);
- for curricula exchange between regional military institutions as a tool of regional cooperation;
- for the creation by neighbouring or regional countries of joint training centres or other forms of cooperative initiatives in military training (especially important for countries in the region regarding, potentially, training areas like foreign languages, peace support operation training, parachute training, artillery training, mountain training, and exchanges of cadets/teachers);
- for regular dialogue and consultation among high-level/expert military personnel of regional countries as a tool of regional cooperation (as in the identification of regional capacities and assets that can be used for mutual training).
### VISITS OUTSIDE OF RACVIAC

- **16th October** - European Parliament/Stability Pact seminar, *Zagreb, Croatia*
- **16th – 20 October** - SALW Symposium, *Bern, Switzerland*
- **20th –21st October** - CIMIC Group South "Great Result 06" Exercise VIP Day, *Motta di Livenza, Italy*
- **25th – 26th October** - Visit to military facilities and visit to air base, *Brussels, Belgium*
- **10th November** - Meeting of SEEGROUP, *Brussels, Belgium*
- **12th –14th November** - 7th Annual PfP Training and Education Centres Command’s Conference *Ankara, Turkey*
- **15th November** - SP RT and WT III Meeting, *Bucharest, Romania*
- **13th - 17th November** - SEESIM 06 Exercise, *Bucharest, Romania*
- **23rd - 24th November** - 8th CBSC WG Meeting, *Zagreb, Croatia*
- **1st December** - Informal meeting in Stability Pact, *Brussels, Belgium*
- **5th – 07th December** - High-Level Seminar on Civil-Military Related Guiding Documents, *Schloss Seggau, Austria*
- **7th December** - Third SECI Antiterrorism Task Force Meeting, *Istanbul, Turkey*
- **8th December** - Conference on Security Sector reform -the role of EU, *Zagreb, Croatia*
- **20th - 21st December** - Visit to MAG Chairperson, *Sofia, Bulgaria*

### VISITS TO RACVIAC

- **24 Oct** - Mr. Dijuro Poldruđač, Director of the Croatian State Agency for Protection and Rescue
- **31 Oct** - MajGen Marcos L. Ardiles, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Republic of Chile
- **08 Nov** - MG (ret’d) Christian Millotat, Director of Departement of Security Cooperation, OSCE Mission BA
- **08 Nov** - Capt Navy Giorgio Guiduzzi and Col Roberto Domini, new Italian Defence Attaché to Croatia
- **29 Nov** - H.E. Mrs Nienke Trooster, new Ambassador of Netherlands to Croatia

---

**RACVIAC at SEESIM 06 Exercise in Bucharest**

Col Dragan GOSTOVIĆ, RACVIAC P&L Officer for SEE participated in a simulated Computer Assisted Exercise SEESIM 06, as a part of SEDM process. It was conducted 13-17 November 2006 in Bucharest, Romania. The general aim of the SEESIM 06 Exercise was to promote cooperation, coordination and interoperability among the SEDM nations and the SEDM Initiatives. The specific aim was to develop the procedures of national and regional coordination, cooperation and mutual assistance among the SEDM nations in the face of natural disasters and devastating terrorist attacks.

It is very useful for RACVIAC to be involved in SEDM activities. RACVIAC was in the group of international organizations – observers (with OSCE, INTERPOL and DPPI). UNOCHA, EADRCC, IFRC, SECI nd WHO are regular participants. Col GOSTOVIĆ was involved in the work of the International Response Cell (IRC). The IRC included representatives of selected organizations that have a regional or global response role for the simulated exercise events. Participation of RACVIAC in the SEESIM 06 Exercise was very welcomed.

Maj Gen Stergios PAPOTIS attended the Distinguished Visitors (DV) Day that was organized simultaneously in Bucharest and Skopje at exercise locations on 16th November 2006. RACVIAC representatives had many useful meetings with the participants from various countries and organizations. They tried to promote RACVIAC activities and to present our aims and plans. We can expect RACVIAC to be a regular participant in the next exercise (SEESIM 08).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency Seminar/Training Course (C-1)</td>
<td>15 - 19 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Nominated participants are expected to be from customs, border security forces,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security Sector Reform –goals, expectations, challenges (S-1)</td>
<td>22 - 26 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Parliamentarians, Staff from MOI and MOD, Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WG1 Meeting (1) – on retraining and resettlement of military personnel (WS-1)</td>
<td>28 Jan - 02 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Permanent WG1 members (AL, BA, BG, HR, MK, MD, RO, RS), other MAG countries and organizations (SP, DCAF, IOM, NATO, OSCE, Nordic Initiative.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Weapons Convention (C-2)</td>
<td>05 - 09 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WG2 Meeting (1) – on Base Conversion (WS-2)</td>
<td>12 - 16 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Permanent WG2 members &amp; organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar - Cooperation against terrorism (S-2) - in coop. with SEESAC &amp; DCAF</td>
<td>19 - 23 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Parliamentarians, Staff from MOI, MFA, MOD, NGOs dealing with this issue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Arms Control Terminology (C-3)</td>
<td>12 - 23 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Civilian or military personnel dealing with arms control who already attended the basic English language grammar course, coming from MOD, MFA, MOI, GS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irregular migration, and its effects to the security (S-3) -in coop. with ICMPD &amp; MARRI</td>
<td>26 - 30 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience:</td>
<td>Staff from MOI and MOD, High level Police border NGOs dealing with this issue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>