NEW RACVIAC STRATEGY ENDORSED

First Regional Meeting of the Heads of Defence Procurement Departments

The Changing Face of Organized Crime in SEE

Workshop on Cluster Munitions
Director’s visit to German Embassy

On 1 February 2011, Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, accompanied by Col Stefan Miene, RACVIAC Programme Manager, visited the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Zagreb, Croatia. RACVIAC’s delegation was welcomed by Mr Andreas Haack, Deputy Chief of the Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to Croatia. The purpose of the visit was signing of the Financial Agreement between RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation and Germany for the year 2011. Germany’s allocation of up to 60,000 Euro will be used to support seminars, courses and workshops included in the “Programme of Activities 2011” within RACVIAC Cooperative Security Environment (CSE), with focus on Arms Control Pillar. The German hosts availed themselves of the opportunity to emphasize the prominent role of RACVIAC in the process of stabilization and development of the South Eastern Europe region. RACVIAC representatives, on the other hand, acknowledged the cooperation with Germany as a mainstay of SEE region’s progress and security for over a decade. Owing to German continuous contributions, RACVIAC focused primarily on the training of verification experts in order to lay the groundwork for implementing Arms Control agreements such as the Dayton Agreement, the Vienna Document, the Open Skies Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Oslo Convention. In this way, RACVIAC and Germany significantly contributed to enhancing trust and cooperation among security forces in the region and beyond. Adapting to an ever-changing landscape of security threats in our region, RACVIAC has subsequently broadened its scope to develop into a veritable regional forum for cooperation and dialogue on a variety of security issues, ranging from Arms Control and Security Sector Reform to aspects of Euro-Atlantic integration.

RACVIAC’s delegation in Bucharest

RACVIAC Deputy Director Col Cepanec, accompanied by Lt Col Nedim Ulasan, Programme Manager, and Mr Milan Janicijevic, Subject Matter Expert, paid an official visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Romania and the SECI Centre in Bucharest. The first meeting, held in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was hosted by Mrs Anca Jurcan, RO MFA Deputy Director. Speaking on behalf of her Ministry, Mrs Jurcan expressed Romania’s support to RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation and their readiness to help the integration. In that direction, they are willing to prepare the ground for hosting one of RACVIAC’s activities in Romania. The second meeting was held at the facilities of the SECI Centre where RACVIAC’s delegation was welcomed by SECI Director Mr Gurbuz Bahadir, who chaired the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was the initial coordination regarding the conference entitled “The Changing Face of Organized Crime in SEE”, to be jointly co-organized by RACVIAC and SECI - Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime.

New Norwegian POC visited RACVIAC

On 16 March 2011 RACVIAC had the pleasure to receive the visit of Mr Fin Christian Ruge, new Point of Contact for RACVIAC in the Norwegian Ministry of Defence. Mr Ruge was welcomed by RACVIAC Deputy Director, Col Zeljko Cepanec, RACVIAC Program Managers and Planning and Liaison Officers. Mr Ruge was comprehensively acquainted with the RACVIAC Structure, its Programme 2011, forthcoming activities and the prospects for the Centre’s future. Col Cepanec expressed RACVIAC’s gratitude for the long-standing support RACVIAC had received from Norway. Expressing his satisfaction with the detailed information provided by his hosts, Mr Ruge complimented RACVIAC on previous achievements and ensured the Centre’s Management of the continued support from his country.
Visit of Slovenian Staff College

On 13 May 2011 Slovenian Command and Staff College representatives visited RACVIAC. The delegation was welcomed by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, together with higher RACVIAC staff members.

LtCol Ewald Keller, Planning and Liaison Officer, first briefed the delegation on the RACVIAC structure, its history and Programme 2011 and subsequently provided them with detailed information on the forthcoming activities and prospects for the Centre's future. Ambassador Todorcevski expressed gratitude for the long-standing support RACVIAC had received from Slovenia, especially in terms of the personnel secondment. Following the presentation, members of the Slovenian delegation and the hosts engaged in a lively conversation on the role of RACVIAC in the SEE region.

Interview with H.E. Ms Beverly Mercer, Ambassador of Australia to the Republic of Croatia on the occasion of the workshop on Cluster Munitions

Your Excellency, it is my great honour to welcome you here at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. However, this is not the first time you are taking part in activities organized by RACVIAC. Could you please explain your engagement in this activity?

I've been invited here today to speak at the opening of the workshop on Cluster Munitions, which is jointly organised by RACVIAC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia. I will speak about Australia's commitment to the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions and also about the work Australia has been doing both internationally and in the Asia-Pacific region to support the Convention with practical assistance to help clear cluster munitions and to provide assistance to victims.

I have previously spoken at similar workshops organised by RACVIAC on the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Ottawa Convention (on Landmines).

Australia is strongly committed to supporting a range of multilateral objectives including global security, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. You are also personally very much involved in different kinds of activities related to global security and implementation of conventions regarding humanitarian activities and protection of civilians. When and how did you get involved in those issues?

That's right. Australia is a founding member of the United Nations, an active participant in UN institutions and the 12th largest contributor to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets. We have a track record of achievement in international peace and security, including playing a leading role in bringing about the Cambodian peace settlement; playing a leading role in the negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention; initiating the Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and more recently with Japan, the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Australia has also contributed over 65,000 personnel to more than 50 UN and multilateral peace and security operations worldwide.

My own involvement in these issues began when I was posted to our mission in Cambodia during the peace settlement period in the early 1990s. In the late 1990s I served as Director of the UN Section of our Foreign Ministry. I also participated in a year-long strategic studies course at the Australian Defence College in 2001, before becoming Director of the Anti-Terrorism Taskforce in the Foreign Ministry after September 11.

In Croatia our Embassy has had a long involvement in supporting projects associated with demining or with a peace/security focus: since the financial year 2003-4 we have supported 9 projects in Croatia through our Direct Aid Program (which supports small scale projects) with funding of almost $A35,000. I have personally visited many of these projects and met with the NGOs and individuals working in these fields.
Can you please explain what the Australia Group is and what its purpose and objectives are?

The Australia Group was formed in 1985 with the aim of harmonising export controls on chemical weapons precursor chemicals. The Australia Group charter was subsequently extended to include controls on chemical production equipment and technologies which might be misused for chemical weapons purposes. The scope of Australia Group activities was extended again in 1990 to include measures to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons.

The lists of items controlled by Australia Group participating countries are reviewed regularly to minimise the risk of relevant dual-use materials being diverted to chemical or biological weapons programs. The Group contributes to the fulfillment of national obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). In particular, given the absence of an international organisation to facilitate implementation of the BWC, Australia Group participants’ licensing requirements are the only current form of harmonised control over transfers of biological weapons items. The Australia Group currently consists of 40 countries and the European Commission. All Australia Group participants are State Parties to the CWC and the BWC. Australia is chair of the Group and also provides its Secretariat. The Australia Group convenes annual plenary meetings and experts meetings on an ad-hoc basis to consider issues relating to policy, information sharing, implementation and enforcement.

Referring once again to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we know that it entered into force in August last year and currently it has 57 State Parties. Can you inform us on Australia’s current status?

Australia was one of the first countries to sign the Convention and we are committed to ratifying it as soon as possible. Before we can ratify the Convention, we must complete our domestic treaty processes, including enactment of legislation to give effect to the Convention in domestic law. The Criminal Code Amendment (Cluster Munitions Prohibitions) Bill 2010 was passed by the Australian House of Representatives (Lower House of Parliament) on 18 November 2010 and is currently before the Australian Senate (Upper House of Parliament). Once all of the legislative and administrative measures to give effect to the Convention are in place, we will move as quickly as possible to lodge our instrument of ratification.

On the one hand, there are countries strongly upholding the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions while, on the other hand, we have recently witnessed the use of cluster bombs in the conflict in Libya. Can you comment that?

The Australian Government is deeply concerned by reports that Colonel Qadhafi’s forces have used cluster munitions in residential areas in Libya. While Libya is not a signatory to the Convention, if these allegations are correct, it is concerning that it has chosen to use munitions that are the subject of such widespread condemnation. The Convention emphasises the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention and contains responsibilities for State Parties to promote the universalisation and full implementation of the Convention. Australia takes these responsibilities seriously. This incident underlines the need for all states to become a party to the Convention to end for all time the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions.

What is your opinion on RACVIAC? Do you consider RACVIAC a good platform for addressing security issues in the region? Is there any room for extending its activities or scope of activities?

I, like my predecessors, have strongly supported the work of RACVIAC and am pleased to participate in the work RACVIAC does to address security issues in the region. I hope it will continue to address these issues and also continue to include the perspectives and experience of others from outside the region.

Your Excellency, you have been the Australian ambassador to Croatia since January 2010. How do you like Croatia and its people?

My posting to Croatia is my first time to visit this part of Europe. I have previously had two postings to Germany, so I am more familiar with northern Europe. Croatia is a beautiful country and the people are very welcoming. As you note there is a significant Croatian community in Australia, most of whom are dual Croatian/Australian nationals, and I have had many opportunities to meet and work with people of Croatian heritage throughout my career.

Ms Mercer has been the Ambassador of Australia to the Republic of Croatia since January 2010. Prior to that she was Director, United States Political and Strategic Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a position she held since October 2008. Ms Mercer has extensive experience within the Department and has served in Jakarta, Berlin, Phnom Penh and Bonn.

Ms Mercer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours from the University of Sydney and a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies from the Australian Defence College.
On Friday, 18 February 2011, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia hosted the signing ceremony of the Agreement on RACVIAC by the Republic of Romania. The celebration ceremony was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Croatia as the host country, as well as by distinguished representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Germany, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, and RACVIAC senior staff. In his welcome speech, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Mr Mario Nobilo emphasized that Croatia, as the host country and a member to RACVIAC, was strongly devoted to the prosperity and success of the organization. “During the ten years of the activities of the Centre, significant results in confidence building have been achieved”, Mr Nobilo said, adding that good relations with neighbours and beyond were of utmost importance for Croatia.

Mr Nobilo used the opportunity to express his sincere thanks to Germany as a strong supporter to RACVIAC from the very beginning, reminding that Germany was the first bilateral partner to Croatia in establishing RACVIAC. He was also keen to mention that “it is our common interest to have all the SEECP members as State Parties to the Agreement on RACVIAC. Therefore, we call upon all states from this Process to make additional efforts to become full members as soon as possible”. State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, Mr Pjer Simunovic, emphasized that the Centre is a unique international organization continuously contributing to the stability and security in the region. He stressed that Croatia was happy to see Romania actively involved in RACVIAC’s activities and he thanked Romania for their significant contribution towards enhancing trust and cooperation among security forces in the region.

Singing the Agreement on behalf of Romania, H.E. Ambassador Cosmin George Dinescu availed himself of the opportunity to emphasize and praise the prominent role of RACVIAC in the process of stabilization and development of the SEE region. He promised that “Romania will stay reliable partner to RACVIAC also in the future”. RACVIAC Director Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski said that RACVIAC would continue pursuing the goals of enhancing regional security cooperation on a variety of security issues, ranging from Arms Control and Security Sector Reform to different aspects of Euro-Atlantic integration. He also used the opportunity to express his "genuine appreciation to all member countries and partner organizations for their outstanding and very considerable on-going support to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation". Having signed the Agreement, Romania became the ninth country to do so. According to the information available, four Signatory countries have completed the ratification process, which means that there is only one more missing for the new Agreement on RACVIAC to legally enter into force.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

In the light of the new RACVIAC Agreement and ever-greater regional ownership, RACVIAC organized the first-ever meeting of the MAG Point of Contacts (POCs). The meeting took place on 22 February 2011 for the purpose of bringing the MAG POCs up to date with the new challenges ahead of RACVIAC, and making the necessary preparations for the forthcoming 25th MAG Meeting, scheduled for April 2011 and to be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The MAG POCs’ Meeting gathered 16 participants representing relevant ministries from 14 MAG countries, namely from: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey, as well as nine RACVIAC representatives, all ready to actively engage in discussions.

During the Meeting, the participants were provided with the Programme 2011 and the updates on the current financial and personnel situation at RACVIAC, which was subsequently followed by a lively and productive debate. The representatives
of the Signatory countries, expressing their satisfaction with the Romanian signing of the Agreement on RACVIAC, used the opportunity to present the current status of the ratification process in their respective Governments. Next on the Agenda was the draft paper called “RACVIAC Strategy 2012 - 2015”, which had been sent to the MAG POCs prior to the meeting, along with the related comments received from Albania and Slovenia. The participants examined the proposed version and drafted a proposal which will be sent to the MAG for endorsement.

In the final session of the Meeting, the participants were acquainted with the proposal of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and CYBER DEFCON to establish, within RACVIAC, a SE European Regional Cyber Defence Centre. In principle, the idea of increasing the number of educational activities (conferences, seminars, workshops and courses) in the field of Cyber Defence was welcomed by all participants. However, in order to be developed in the right direction, this proposal will require careful deliberations and consultations with the national authorities, as well as the subsequent MAG approval. Therefore, this as well as some other issues and questions still remain open for the upcoming MAG Meeting. The participants agreed that such working gatherings of the MAG POCs could ease the way for better and more comprehensive discussions during the annual assemblies. It should be mentioned that, thanks to the generous contribution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, this meeting was the first event held in the refurbished Conference room.

Inauguration of RACVIAC Conference room

22 March 2011 - RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation officially inaugurated the fully renovated Conference room, courtesy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr Davor Bozinovic, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Ms Stella Ronner Grubacic, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Croatia, LtCol Frederik Besselink, Netherlands Defence Attaché to the Republic of Croatia, Ms Sanja Bujas Juraga, Head of the Department for International Security, Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Col Drazen Bartolac, CAPSOC and barracks commander, as well as by other distinguished guests and all RACVIAC staff.

In his welcome remarks, Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski underlined that from the very beginning RACVIAC had been fully supported not only by RACVIAC core members, but also by associate ones. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, a RACVIAC associate member, had always been perceptive of the Centre’s needs, and the opening of the renovated conference facility was the most tangible sign of their commitment to RACVIAC mission in the SEE region, Ambassador said, adding that the new Conference room would cater better to the needs of a growing number of lecturers and participants in the Centre’s activities. He used the opportunity to once again express RACVIAC’s most sincere appreciation to the host country, Republic of Croatia, for all the generous support “RACVIAC was almost subscribed to”.

Speaking on behalf of the donor country, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Ms Stella Ronner-Grubacic said that RACVIAC “needs to be applauded for the way how, over the past 10 years, it has adjusted to developments in the region, it has taken on new initiatives and has proved itself to be an institution that matters and that expands.” She emphasized that the Netherlands had always been supportive to RACVIAC and that, although never in the forefront of decision-making, they had found a pleasant role in supporting, advising and providing some of the means to keep RACVIAC on the track.

Being in RACVIAC for the first time as Minister of Defence, Mr Davor Bozinovic was pleased to see that RACVIAC, originally established as a place for joint training of the regional countries in arms control, had over time transformed in order to keep abreast of the changing needs of the region, both at national levels and in terms of Euro-Atlantic integration. “RACVIAC today covers a broad area of cooperation - security - which means constant modification and adaptation towards new security challenges and overall international development in the area of security, in order to make greater contribution to the needs of the countries”, the Minister said. He used the opportunity to call upon all the SEECP members to make additional efforts to become full members of RACVIAC in the near future, adding that RACVIAC enjoyed full support at the highest level of the Croatian government. Thanking the Netherlands for the noble donation, he also expressed the host country’s great appreciation for their overall support provided to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and for their long-standing commitment to security and stability in the region.
The 25th MAG & Budgetary Meeting, the semi-annual summit of RACVIAC steering body - the Multinational Advisory Group, took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 12 - 14 April. The meeting, gathering the majority of member countries to MAG, was organized by the MAG Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It started on Tuesday 12 April with the Budgetary Meeting, which gave an opportunity to MAG representatives to discuss all relevant issues regarding RACVIAC Budget for 2011 and 2012.

Mr Zoran Sajinovic, the MAG Chairperson, officially opened the MAG meeting, stressing that the mandate of the Chairman to the Multinational Advisory Group of RACVIAC Centre would contribute to build a positive image of Bosnia and Herzegovina and confirm its status of a reliable and valuable partner in South Eastern Europe. “We will do our best to prove that Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to provide a new impetus for increasing regional security and cooperation through the concept of regional ownership”, Mr Sajinovic said.

The meeting Agenda consisted of a brief presentation of the Director’s Annual Report provided by the Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, which was followed by the presentation of RACVIAC annual programmes for 2011 and 2012 and beyond for each of its three pillars, presented by Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Miene, Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc. and Mr Milan Janicijevic. Colonel Zeljko Cepanec, Deputy Director, informed all the participants about the proposal to establish a Cyber Security Cell within RACVIAC. In that regard, RACVIAC was subsequently tasked to convene an event (workshop, conference, round table) within existing capacity in which Cyber Security threats, challenges and available resources would be further analyzed.

In addition to that, Colonel Cepanec informed the MAG about the current financial issues in the functioning of RACVIAC and the current personnel situation in the Centre.

During the meeting MAG also endorsed the RACVIAC Strategy 2012-2015, presented by Lieutenant Colonel Ewald Keller, which provides RACVIAC with a basic framework, vision and guidance for the upcoming four-year period, and prolonged the tour of duty of Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski for one additional year (until October 2012).

The whole event finished on the snow-covered mountain Jahorina, where all the participants had an opportunity to continue their conversation in a less formal and more enjoyable atmosphere. In that regard, compliments go to the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina for organizing the dinner and providing unstinting support to RACVIAC in conducting the 25th MAG Meeting.
Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar
In cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Introduction
Pursuant to RACVIAC 2011 Programme, Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar organized and carried out the Seminar “Chemical Weapons Convention” (CSE-02-S) in the period from 28 Feb - 4 Mar 2011. The Seminar, eighth so far, was co-organized with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as the follow up of the last seminar on the CWC, which was held in RACVIAC in 2010. The Seminar was carried out in English.

The purpose of this Seminar was to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC.

Its objectives were:

- to provide an overview of the CWC, its current tasks, activities and challenges;
- to update the participants on the OPCW activities in the field of assistance and protection against chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals in accordance with Article X of the CWC;
- to inform the participants about the OPCW concept and developments in preparedness for Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU) and Delivery of Assistance operations in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals;
- to emphasize the importance of capacity building in the field of protection against a possible use of chemical weapons and toxic industrial chemicals, through projects on national and regional levels;
- to provide information about the assistance offered by countries in the region under Article X of the CWC, as well as about their preparedness, reaction time and provision of logistic support;
- to present information and lessons learned related to the third OPCW delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3, held in Tunisia in October 2010;
- to provide an update on issues related to the OPCW verification activities, inspection activities and procedures;
- to execute training with a tabletop exercise for typical Schedule 2 and OPCW inspections.

The participants who attended the Seminar came from the following countries: Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (7), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (3), Hungary (2), Montenegro (2), Slovenia (1) and Serbia (3). They were either senior and junior military or civilian recommendation makers dealing with the CWC issues, responsible for escorting inspections from the Secretariat of the OPCW. The content of this Seminar was of particular interest for members of National Authorities dealing with declarations.

The Seminar was conducted with the assistance of four (4) lecturers from the OPCW: Mr Gennadi L., Mr Muhammad K., Mr Sathish K. and Mr Laurentiu L.

It was carried out as a combination of lectures/presentations followed by discussions, and a tabletop exercise at the end. This Seminar was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring the way ahead. The Seminar also provided a favorable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.

Execution
The CWC seminar was opened on 1 March 2011 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Deputy Director Colonel Zeljko Ćepanec, which was followed by the keynote speech delivered by Gennadi Lutay, Chief representative of TS-OPCW.

During the 1st day (Tuesday, 1 March) the following topics were presented:

- The CWC and the establishment of the OPCW. A short overview of provisions of the CWC related to assistance and protection against CW by Gennadi Lutay. This presentation was an overview of the CWC with emphasis on Article X, including major achievements and challenges. It also covered the structure of the organization and its activities.

During the plenary session...
Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

- **Chemical agents and toxic chemicals. Threat assessment** by Mr Sathish Kokkula and Mr Laurentiu Lazar (OPCW). The two (2) presentations introduced the participants to the main types of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. Subsequently, the participants were provided with an analysis of modern threats related to the possible use of warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals as chemical weapons.

- **The establishment of the Australia Group (AG) and their efforts in harmonizing export controls on chemical weapons (CW) precursor chemicals** by H.E. Ms Beverly Mercer, Ambassador, Embassy of Australia to the Republic of Croatia. The Ambassador presented a brief overview of the Australia Group (AG) formed in 1985 with the aim of harmonizing both export controls on chemical weapons (CW) precursor chemicals and chemical production equipment-technologies which might be misused for CW purposes.

- **Croatian Experience in Joining AG and in Implementation of CWC** by Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Head of Department for International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia. The presentation informed the participants about Croatian experience in joining the AG and implementing the CWC as part of a policy for effective multilateralism.

- **National protection programmes, databank for assistance and protection and TS preparedness for assistance and protection** by Mr Muhammad Kazi (OPCW). The presentation provided the participants with details about the OPCW’s efforts in increasing the transparency of national programmes related to protective measures. It also gave a brief overview of the databank on assistance and protection and OPCW concept/ developments in preparedness for Delivery of Assistance (DA) operations in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

During the 2nd day (Wednesday, 18 February) the following topics were presented:

- **Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU) by Mr Sathish Kokkula (OPCW).** The lecturer portrayed the OPCW’s leading role among international actors for investigation of Alleged Use of CWs. This role may vary considerably, depending on other major actors involved, the scenarios encountered and the region where assistance needs arise.

- **The OPCW third delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3**. Annual exercises improve the OPCW’s reaction capabilities. The 2010 exercise Assistex 3 dealt with the threat and use of chemical weapons against a country (Tunisia). Both the presentation and the movie provided valuable information about the execution of the OPCW’s third delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3 and lessons learned there from.

- **OPCW verification procedures** by Mr Laurentiu Lazar. The presentation served to emphasize the aims, facilities, challenges and procedures related to OPCW inspections (Articles IV, V, VI).

- **The end of the 2nd day was earmarked for the National Representatives’ presentations of their respective national points of view on practical issues regarding controlling and declaring chemicals.**

- **The OPCW third delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3, Tunisia.** Annual exercises improve the OPCW’s reaction capabilities. The 2010 exercise Assistex 3 dealt with the threat and use of chemical weapons against a country (Tunisia). Both the presentation and the movie provided valuable information about the execution of the OPCW’s third delivery of assistance exercise ASSISTEX 3 and lessons learned there from.

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- **The end of the 2nd day was earmarked for the National Representatives’ presentations of their respective national points of view on practical issues regarding controlling and declaring chemicals.**

The 3rd day included the execution of a tabletop exercise for typical Schedule 2 and OPCW inspections. The aim of the exercise was to provide practice and training for relevant government representatives who might be involved in the provision of assistance under Article X of the CWC and to train and instruct them in the procedures, methods and mechanisms to be followed by an inspection team during this kind of inspection. The final part of the Seminar was devoted to the evaluation of the seminar and the Closing ceremony.

**Conclusion**

The cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW ensured the presence of high-level instructors. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants. The practical part proved to be particularly useful, not only for the participants, but for the lecturers as well as they gained valuable feedback by running the exercise in “real” circumstances.

According to the participants’ assessments provided at the end of the event, the Seminar was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of the national authorities dealing with the chemical weapons in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.

The participants were highly motivated during the Seminar and they showed deep interest in the subject matter. They expressed various ideas regarding the topics for possible future activities, which may prove to be a valuable source of needs assessment. In particular, they supported the need to prolong the practical phase of the Seminar and to shorten the theoretical part, as it had already been covered during the previous seminars. The following topics were singled out as interesting for future seminars:

- **Advanced training on Electronic Declaration tool for National Authorities (EDNA) and the request of assistance by the OPCW in case of a CW attack.** The participants asked for more exercises of this kind to be included in next year’s activities, as they are an important source of valuable experience.

- **Discussion on control/proliferation of chemical substances’ trade with the participation of the appropriate personnel apart from the State Parties’ representatives (i.e. customs personnel).**

- **Updated information about terrorism topics related to CBR substances and security measures.**

- **Report on activities of the OPCW and State Parties during 2011, with special focus on the SEE region.**

These recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration by the co-organizers in the course of preparations for next year’s activity.

RACVIAC will continue to promote the CWC in all appropriate international and regional forums, as well as in its bilateral communications. It is the only multilateral treaty to ban an entire category of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), to provide for international verification of their destruction and conversion of their production facilities to peaceful purposes, and to actively involve the world chemical industry in treaty negotiations and ongoing verification.

Finally, the CWC promotes the international cooperation and coordination in the peaceful use of chemicals and in protection against chemical weapon attacks or threats. However, it needs to be continually adapted to evolving circumstances, since CWs, as part of a wider area of hazardous materials, are being increasingly used by criminal organizations or terrorists. The CWC is a universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable and enforceable model for multilateral undertakings to build global consensus on security through arms control, create confidence and deter treaty violations.

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Seminar on the “Basics of SSR, introducing PSO related aspects”

Abstract
This was the first seminar on the basics of Security Sector Reform (SSR) introducing one of its specific aspects. This time it was the Peace Support Operations (PSO) aspect. During two working days, 21 participants from 6 countries, including representatives of the OSCE Mission, Sarajevo, the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Belgrade School of Security Policy (BCSP) were given a set of presentations on the basics of Security Sector Reform (SSR) concept with specific highlights on their effects in Peace Support Operations. In addition to the mentioned, three presentations addressed regional-specific matters related to participation in PSO.

The necessity for the implementation of various aspects of Security Sector Reform (SSR) in SEE countries was recognised years ago. Apart from the work done at national levels, a number of supporting seminars, courses and conferences in the field of SSR have also been organised by RACVIAC. Issues such as conversion of military bases, transition of military personnel, parliamentary control of armed forces, human resources management, defence procurement systems and their transparency are only a portion of these activities.

The SSR concept is not a disposable, one-time matter. Contrary to that, its proper implementation permanently improves the overall status of security of societies, as well as the countries’ effectiveness, efficiency and accountability. Therefore, this seminar has been envisaged to serve as the provider of SSR basics to military, parliamentary and governmental staff dealing with or being engaged in Peace Support Operations (PSO), both on the national (preparatory) level and upon deployment of personnel in the mission area. This Seminar can also be considered as a regular RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation activity and, in this case, as the ground level activity for a regional, PSO-specific SSR seminar which will combine academic SSR knowledge with practical implementation in field operations.

Activity Facilitators
The Seminar was planned, organised and executed by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, with initial support from the Austrian Armed Forces Verification Centre, Security Sector Reform / Defence Reform Section.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation
The Seminar was conducted in RACVIAC CSC facilities. The event started with the welcome dinner on 23 March 2011. It extended for the next two working days and was officially closed on 25th March 2011 at 1400 hrs. The seminar participants were representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Belgrade School of Security Policy (BCSP) were also represented by one participant each.

Activity Description and Contents
The Seminar was comprised of presentations addressing basic principles of SSR, followed by presentations covering regional or mission-specific subject matters related to participation in PSO. The first day of the Seminar included the participants’ arrivals, administrative processing and the initial welcome gathering and dinner hosted by H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC - CSC and Col Zeljko Cepanec, Deputy Director of RACVIAC - CSC.
The working part of the seminar started with the opening address given by H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, RACVIAC-CSC Director. Subsequently, the participants had an opportunity to hear the presentations delivered by: Mr Kurt Meissner, Austrian Armed Forces Verification Centre, Security Sector Reform / Defence Reform Section, Mr Vlatko Cvrtila, Ph. D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb, Mr Sandro Knezovic, Ph. D., Institute for International Relations, Zagreb and Mr Bogdan Catalin Udriste from the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, who delivered the presentation instead of the scheduled presenter Ms Laura Furuholm from the OSCE HQ in Vienna, who was not able to arrive due to an accident. The topics covered by the mentioned presenters were:

- Introduction to the concept of SSR
- How was security perceived until recently and how is security defined today?
- Basic Principles of SSR as viewed by the OECD DAC
- SSR programming in post-conflict contexts (PSO)
- What is the whole-of-government aspect of SSR?
- From concept to implementation - three essential dimensions of SSR

The second working day was devoted to mission and regional-specific issues delivered by: Mr Rohan Maxwell, Chief, Political-Military Advisory Section/Senior Political-Military Advisor, NATO HQ, Sarajevo, Mr Zeljko Grubesic, Senior expert advisor for defence and security issues, Joint Committee for Defence and Security B&H, Parliamentary Assembly of B&H, and LtCol Rudolf Vucic, Deputy Cmdr Croatian Army Peace Support Operations Centre (CAPSOC). During this session the following presentations were delivered:

- Relations between SSR and participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO)
- Evaluation of justification of B&H’s participation in peace support missions: “Role of the Parliamentary Assembly and Joint Committee for Defence Security B&H”
- SSR concept in the mission area (NATO perspective).

Presentations were followed by short and sometimes very lively discussions which showed indisputable interest in SSR matters and regional outcomes of specific SSR projects or programmes.

Conclusions and Recommendations
In conclusion, we may say that this seminar served its purpose and can be considered as a good and fertile ground for a regular activity which will provide basic knowledge on Security Sector Reform and each time address different aspects of Security Sector Reform.

The EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy: Institutional Framework, Policies and Instruments

Co-organized by: RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), DG Enlargement, European Commission

Mr Milan Janicijevic

The EU’s integration process has gained new momentum since the Commission adopted its last progress reports. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty enabled the EU to pursue its enlargement agenda, keeping thus the initial momentum towards European integration going. The EU’s enlargement process contributes to stability in Europe and to the security and well-being of its citizens. It provides a unique incentive for a political and economic reform in the enlargement countries. The EU’s commitment to the enlargement process reflects the Member States’ conviction that it is in the mutual interest of the Union and the aspirant countries. This message needs to be presented and explained clearly to the public in order to invigorate understanding and support for enlargement. RACVIAC, whose mission is to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe, along with its international partners, stands committed to SEE’s progress toward membership in the European Union.

The activity supports the capacity-building process in the countries of Southeastern Europe that are either official or potential candidates for full EU membership. This event will help SEE countries to better understand the capacity-building process in terms of accepting EU standards and values which are indispensable for their future accession to the EU.

Acknowledgements
RACVIAC wishes to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia for their organizational and financial contribution, which made this Seminar possible.
The purpose of the Seminar was to support the capacity building process in the Southeast European countries that are either candidates or potential candidates for acquiring full EU membership and to facilitate their future accession to the EU by enhancing their understanding of the capacity building process and the acceptance of EU standards and values.

Objectives were:
- to give an overview of the post-Lisbon institutional setting;
- to present working relationship between the EEAS, the Commission and the Council;
- to discuss and learn about the EEAS and its implications for national diplomacy;
- to work towards reaching possible synergies between civilian and military tools;
- to discuss the CFSP and the CSDP policy and instruments;
- to analyze the main challenges on the path to the EU and to foster the EU integration of the SEE countries by enabling exchanges of opinions and lessons learned.

Venue, duration and participation
The Seminar was held at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, from 30 to 31 March 2011. It was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The Seminar gathered a total of 37 participants from SEE candidate or potential candidate countries.

Seminar Agenda
The Seminar agenda comprised speeches by high-level representatives, which were followed by exchanges of experiences and points of view on common priorities and challenges as well as by open discussions.

The opening session started with the welcome remarks by H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, RACVIAC Director. “Since many of South East European countries are at the doorstep of full-fledged EU membership, being either candidate or potential candidate countries, supporting their capacity-building process is of crucial importance not only for the Region, but for the whole Europe as well”, Ambassador Todorcevski said. He also emphasized that precisely that - helping the SEE countries that are either EU candidate or potential candidate countries to better prepare for future accession to the EU by enhancing their understanding and acceptance of the capacity-building process - was the real aim of the gathering organised at RACVIAC.

The keynote speech was delivered by Mr Andrej Plenkovic, State Secretary for EU Integration in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) of the Republic of Croatia. Mr Plenkovic drew attention to the civil-military approach of the EU in CSDP missions and its connection with today's situation and events throughout the world. He also referred to the Croatian experience and participation in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration, highlighting Croatia's contribution to peace support operations through its military and police elements. He used the opportunity to reiterate that by participating in the EU CSDP missions and operations, Croatia had gained valuable international experience, practical knowledge and the possibility to be recognized as a credible contributor to CSDP civil and military missions. Mr Plenkovic also emphasized that the Croatian defence policy was harmonized with the EU and that in that field Croatia had developed all the necessary instruments for the EU integration. Furthermore, State Secretary Plenkovic underlined that Croatian activities in regional organisations and initiatives had always promoted and supported the principles and instruments of the EU's policy towards the SEE region.

After the opening part, the first speaker, Deputy Head of CSDP Division in the German Federal Foreign Office Mr Jens Beikufner,
The EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy: Institutional Framework, Policies and Instruments

took the floor. He addressed the audience on the topic “CSDP: Institutional Basis and Challenges”. During his presentation, he gave an excellent overview of the latest developments in the EU regarding the CSDP, including: civil-military approach planning; main CFSP instruments; CSDP objectives and tasks; CSDP instruments; civilian CSDP missions; CSDP-open to third part for participation; EU-NATO relations; problems and way ahead concerning EU/NATO relations; European Defence Agency; Lisbon Treaty - a new CSDP instrument. Following Mr Beikufner’s address, the floor was open for questions and answers, which gave the participants an opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions.

The next speaker was Mr Vidal y Delgado-Roig, Police Expert from the European External Action Service, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). Mr Delgado’s presentation on the European CSDP civilian missions and the CPCC explained and provided more detailed information about the genesis of the civilian CSDP missions, main CSDP actors, civilian chain of command and future challenges.

The event continued with a presentation on TAIEX, delivered by Mr Sebastian Knoke from the European Commission. Mr Knoke explained that the role of TAIEX was to serve as a catalyst and an instrument for facilitating and channeling requests for assistance and delivery of appropriate tailor-made expertise between the concerned institutions and the European Union Member States. The main tasks of TAIEX are: to provide technical assistance and advice on the transposition of EU legislation into the national legislation of beneficiary countries and on the subsequent administration, implementation and enforcement of such legislation; to provide technical training and peer assistance to the officials of the administrations of the Member States; to provide programmed technical assistance to the countries of our Region and to identify further technical assistance needs.

The event moved forward with presentations on the CSDP: Mr Vidal y Delgado-Roig presented a Case study on the EU's Rule of Law Mission in Iraq, while Mr Jens Beikufner delivered a presentation on the Civil-military approach in EU crisis management. Mr Beikufner's presentation addressed the main challenges to the development of civilian and military capabilities, balanced development of civilian and military capabilities in Member States and Brussels, harmonization of civilian and military Headline Goal processes, refinement of procedures according to the operational needs, strengthening the civilian and military planning and conduct capabilities of the EU at all levels and promoting interaction between different actors and institutions of the EU in crisis management.

Following the speakers' presentations, the floor was open for the participants' questions and open discussion, which marked the end of the first working day.

The second working day started with an address by Ms Ina Schutt PhD, European Correspondent’s Division, German Federal Foreign Office. Ms Schutt’s presentation dealt with the CFSP: Instruments, Structures and Financing. More specifically, she addressed the history of the CFSP development, the CFSP aims and characteristics, the CFSP players, structures, instruments and financing. In addition to that, Ms Schutt also delivered a current case study concerning Libya, with the aim of presenting a real picture of the way in which the CFSP works, by providing the participants with a practical, present-day example.

Following this interesting presentation, the floor was given to Ms Patricia Galvao Teles, Legal advisor at the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU, who delivered two presentations. The first one provided an overview of the EU’s institutional setting following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Ms Galvao Teles drew attention to the following novelties: the European Council becomes an Institution with a Permanent President; Council/European Parliament: more co-decision and new areas of Qualified Majority Voting (QMV); HR/VP: five-year term of duty, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Council, Head of the EEAS; disappearance of the Pillar structure, but maintenance of Special Features in the CFSP; simplification of the procedures, but with more actors and more coherence in External Relations. Ms Galvao Teles’s second presentation dealt with the European External Action Service (EEAS): State of Play. She highlighted that the EEAS was one of the most innovative features of the Treaty of Lisbon, which would ensure more consistency and visibility in the EU external action. The EEAS, consisting of officials from the Council, Commission and Member States (MS), assists the High Representative (HR) and works closely with the diplomatic services of MS.

Seminar closing remarks

The Seminar entitled “The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Institutional Framework, Policies and Instruments” was the first event organized by the European Commission in RACVIAC. The Seminar successfully provided a comprehensive framework for exchanging experience and valuable information. The seminar’s initial objectives and main goals were all successfully achieved. The Seminar represented an excellent platform for sharing knowledge of the EU institutional setting, structure and policies. It allowed the national representatives to engage in open discussion and to exchange different national and individual best practices and points of view.

This event has proved that RACVIAC efforts are part of the capacity-building process in SEE countries, in terms of promoting EU standards and values and preparing the countries for their future accession to the EU. RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation once again confirmed itself to be a hospitable setting for engaging in fruitful dialogue.
Introduction
In accordance with the RACVIAC 2011 Programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar (CSE) organized and carried out the “Vienna Document 1999 Formation/Unit Commanders Course” in the period of 03-08 April 2011.

The Course was carried out on the territory of the Republic of Hungary in two parts. The theoretical part was held at the Hungarian HDF Central Training Base (CTB) in Szentendre, while the practical part took place at the Airbase in Kecskemét. The working language of the Course was English.

The purpose of this Course was to provide Formation/Unit Commanders with an overview of the VD ’99 and to give a comprehensive theoretical analysis of and guidance for the practical implementation of activities. It was organized in the spirit and the letter of the VD ’99, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of Formation/Unit Commanders engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned document, thus demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures. The Course objectives were:

- To overview the specified elements of the VD ’99, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its implementation;
- To provide participants with information about the current status of the Document (and the "VD ’99 +") and the implementation of inspections and evaluation visits according to the VD ’99;
- To train Formation/Unit Commanders in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities based on the best practices;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national armed forces engaged in the accomplishment of Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures;
- To provide the participants, especially during the practical part of the course, with an opportunity to exercise an inspection and a visit to a military unit, thus showing representatives of the SEE region ways of working that in the future should constitute a platform for cooperation on the national, regional and international level.

Participation
Twenty-two participants from nine countries, namely from Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (2), Greece (1), Hungary (8), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2), Montenegro (2), Serbia (1) and Slovenia (2) participated in the Course.

Lecturers represented the national Arms Control agencies and verification centres of Austria (1), Germany (1), Hungary (1), Serbia (1), the Mission of Hungary to the OSCE (1), the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (1), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1) and the Ministry of Defence of Hungary (1).

During the Course, Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski met with Mr Peter Siklosi, Deputy State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, which was a good opportunity to discuss issues of cooperation between Hungary and the Centre.

Overview of the Course
This Course, organised for the third time in Hungary, was designed for military personnel of the Southeast European region. The four-day Course provided the participants with an opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region and representatives/experts from the OCSE countries, organizations...
and agencies, all dealing with the execution of the VD ’99 and/or other Arms Control regimes. During the theoretical part, lecturers delivered presentations on the following topics:

- RACVIAC and the future of Arms Control in the SEE region;
- Hungarian Foreign and Security Policy;
- Challenges and Priorities of the Hungarian Defence Policy;
- OSCE and the Hungarian Mission to OSCE;
- Background of CSBMs in Europe and their Contribution to the International Stability and Peace;
- Challenges of VD ’99 & VD+ (Hungarian approach);
- VD’99 Contents, Main Parts of the Document, Basic Definitions;
- Information Exchange Provisions and Notification Formats;
- Risk Reduction;
- Prior Notification & Observation of Certain Military Activities;
- Annual Calendars, Constraining Provisions, Regional Measures;
- Inspection and Evaluation Visit;
- Local Escort and Logistic Support of an Inspection or Visit;
- Safety Measures and Regulations During Inspection and Evaluation Visit.

During the practical part of the Course, the participants carried out a training evaluation visit in cooperation with the Defense Threat Agency (DTRA), USA, at the Kecskemet Airbase. The programme of the training evaluation visit included:

- Air Base Commander’s presentation;
- Tour of the Airbase facilities;
- Static display of major weapon and equipment systems.

Conclusion
The majority of the participants had intimate knowledge of the VD ’99 and/or other Arms Control regimes and CSBMs, but there were newcomers amongst them as well. All of them were satisfied with the topics chosen and were impressed by the high level of knowledge of the lecturers. Both the theoretical and the practical part of the Course were well-organized thanks to the professionalism and preparedness of the Hungarian hosts, as well as to close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Hungarian Ministry of Defence. This Course provided participants with an opportunity to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge of the Vienna Document 1999 and to exercise an evaluation visit, which added a special value to the Course. According to the participants’ assessments, the Course proved to be successful and well organized. They stated that this Course was valuable for their future work and agreed on the necessity of conducting in the future as well such activities aimed at contributing to the CSBMs in the region.

Having financed and hosted this Course, which is one of the major activities of the RACVIAC programme, the Republic of Hungary, associate member of RACVIAC, demonstrated its commitment and continuous support to our organisation and the security of the SEE region.

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

First Regional Meeting of Heads of Procurement Departments
Hosted by Montenegro

LtCol Neven Bajic

Amb Nikola Todorcevski, Col Rifet Kosovac, Mr Frank Boland

Abstract
The idea of organising an event like this had been in the air for almost two months in discussions between the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), RACVIAC-CSC, Montenegro as current SEECP chairing country and NATO-Defence Policy and Planning Division. Although the co-operation over defence procurement issues between SEE countries has been in place for some time now, that collaboration was bilateral and did not go beyond two-country affairs. Therefore, it seemed natural to try to bring together a somewhat wider group of countries whose representatives would address procurement issues during an event aimed at further confidence building and providing a broader picture of needs and providers as well as more information on current acquisition priorities in each of the
First Regional Meeting of Heads of Procurement Department

participating countries. The first of the benefits accrued from this meeting in Budva proves to be the clearly expressed willingness of the participating countries to collaborate on specific defence procurement projects, including training and maintenance needs. The second benefit is the deliberation of the countries represented at the meeting to make efforts to obtain national support in producing a preliminary list of their actual procurement interests and needs which could be executed within the region. If more SEE countries had been represented at the meeting, its overall success would have been even greater.

The co-operation in defence procurement area in the SEE region is an ongoing process, yet of a smaller scale and without the general approach which would ensure the access to relevant information to all parties that may possibly find interest in the subject matter. Several bilateral projects had previously been executed and the idea of bringing all interested parties together was subsequently raised between the four facilitators of this “First Regional Meeting of Heads of Defence Procurement Departments”.

Activity Background
The meeting was comprised of countries’ presentations and individual elaborations of the procurement status in participating countries. The working part of the meeting started with the opening addresses given by Mr Rifet Kosovac, Deputy Minister for Material Resources of the Montenegrin MoD, H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC CSC and Mr Frank Boland, Director of Planning, NATO.

Activity Description and Contents
The meeting was comprised of countries’ presentations and individual elaborations of the procurement status in participating countries. The working part of the meeting started with the opening addresses given by Mr Rifet Kosovac, Deputy Minister for Material Resources of the Montenegrin MoD, H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC CSC and Mr Frank Boland, Director of Planning, NATO.

Activity Facilitators
This “First Regional Meeting of Heads of Defence Procurement Departments” was planned, organised and executed by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Montenegrin Ministry of Defence, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and NATO Defence Policy and Planning Division.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation
The meeting was conducted in the hotel Maestral, Budva-Przno, Montenegro. The participants were representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro. The working sessions were moderated by Mr Efrem Radev, Head of Security Co-operation Unit, Regional Co-operation Council (RCC) and Mr Frank Boland, Director of Planning, NATO Defence Policy and Planning Division.

Mr Efrem Radev, Head of Security Co-operation Unit, Regional Co-operation Council (RCC) delivered an introductory speech to the working sessions. Mr Radev pointed out that, in order to achieve possibly stronger regional procurement activities, national interests, implementation constraints, interoperability and the control over military assets should have a common denominator, i.e. co-operation.

The morning session, moderated by Mr Radev, was focused on identifying procurement needs, priorities and difficulties, while the afternoon session addressed possible obstacles in the execution of multinational procurement projects such as national regulations, financial difficulties, training needs and maintenance of out-of-date equipment.

Countries’ presentations reflected different national situations and priorities when it comes to defence procurement. Mr Jorgo Mino, Procurement Department Chief (AL), stated that his department had the authority to purchase from NATO member states and that they were definitely given a green light regarding possible regional defence procurement projects. Col Josip Pikaus, Supply Department Chief (BA), stated that B&H’s current priorities were destruction of ammunition and other surpluses of military materials. He also pointed out the restrictions on procurement issues imposed by the current national purchasing regulations. BGen Milan Knezevic, Director of Department for Development, Equipping and Modernisation (HR), presented current Croatian capabilities within the area of defence industry and procurement, expressing Croatia’s readiness to share
information on weak points and obstacles while running a specific project, in this case an off-set arrangement.

Mr Drasko Jovanovic, Deputy Minister for Defence Policy (ME), stressed the need for designating a mechanism for SEE multinational defence co-operation, suggesting that an expert group could serve the purpose.

LtCol Saso Meshkov, Deputy Head of Logistic Sector (MK), delivered a presentation on the current status of Macedonian regulations and procedures in the area of defence procurement, pointing out that there were no legal obstacles for regional co-operation in procurement issues.

The morning session was concluded by Mr Boland's remarks regarding the possibility of establishing a co-operation process in terms of long-term multinational procurement projects. He drew attention to the fact that the concept of "confidential acquisition" could serve as fertile ground for corruption. He also pointed out that the "confidential acquisition" concept suffered definition ambiguities since it was not clear whether purchasing helicopter spare parts could be regarded a military acquisition or not. Furthermore, Mr Boland proposed to representatives of PIP and MAG countries to include some projects on this subject matter in PIP or MAG plans for the future.

The afternoon session saw discussions reflecting the actual status of national procurement issues.

Mr Jovanovic (ME) pointed out obstacles in legal procedures and raised the question whether it was possible to share procurement information on a long-term basis by means of an expert group that would have RACVIAC - CSC as the place for meeting and information-sharing. He also emphasized that the sharing of information and lessons learnt should reflect national experience in executing acquisition projects, including information on the parties to those projects that deliver material and provide services.

Col Pikaus (BA) suggested harmonisation of legal experiences with companies that had already been engaged in regional defence procurement projects.

BGen Knezevic (HR) stated that the meeting was to identify projects and needs and not to serve as a binding event. Mr Jovanovic (ME) further explained the sole technical focus of the idea of multinational cooperation in procurement issues, without entering the policy area in any way. This was the point when the consensus was reached. Basically, the idea is to see why private companies want certain clauses of the contract or project elements to be made confidential.

As to the policy perspective, it is worth mentioning here that Mr Boland (NATO) expressed his opinion that running the defence system should be in harmony with the country's capabilities and that the way of executing procurement projects should be done in a rational and economic way, using the most affordable partners which in this case comes down to regional, bilateral or multinational co-operation in defence procurement issues.

Mr Cutic (HR) remarked that it would be good if NATO could send a strong and clear message to countries not to neglect their existing national capabilities because participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO) is not the single scope of operations and activities of national defence systems.

Col Kosovac (ME) suggested that it would be helpful if procurement departments could have relevant information in terms of what is available for acquisition in each of the countries, i.e. who is producing what or which projects could start at once?

The last segment of the session was a discussion on how to engage the policy-makers into supporting regional procurement co-operation initiated during this meeting.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The idea of organising the “First Regional Meeting of Heads of Procurement Departments” proved to have hit the target right in the centre. The impact of the global economic and financial crisis on national economies is one of the most important reasons which led the participants to agree on the necessity to continue with such kind of cooperation in SEE. The challenges of the moment call for a more relevant mechanism of planning, budgeting and coordination of the procurement processes best implemented through the pooling and sharing concept. Five participating countries expressed their firm willingness to gather around the common interest of defence procurement co-operation. In order to achieve effective co-operation, the harmonisation of this initiative with national policies is essential. It is also important to try to attract interest of other countries of the region for that would definitely bring considerable benefit to all.

With a view to gaining political visibility, it was recommended that the information about this initiative should be passed on for support both at the AS ministerial meeting in Montenegro in May this year, as well as during RACVIAC-CSC activity on logistic issues to be held at the end of May this year in Croatia.

Providing that its member countries agree, RACVIAC could also serve as a forum for further developments in the field of defence procurement issues in SEE countries.

Finally, some other concrete topics were also addressed:

- exchanging national issues on helicopters, training and maintenance and taking into consideration the establishment of a virtual store for old equipment spare parts (trucks);
- making this regional procurement initiative public through a coordinated press release.

A preliminary expression of interests regarding projects which could be jointly realised through regional, bilateral or multinational collaboration in procurement issues serves as the greatest achievement of this meeting.

The general idea behind this meeting has been fully realised and the good will regarding operational collaboration in procurement issues between the countries of the region has been clearly expressed. What remains is to obtain political support on the national level and prepare a list of potential joint projects for bilateral or multinational collaboration with focus on specific procurement issues.

The main purpose of the meeting, bringing together Heads of Defence Procurement Departments within Ministries of Defence of the countries of South Eastern Europe to exchange current information on procurement issues in their respective countries, was fully achieved.

The meeting confirmed the willingness of participating countries to continue with collaboration in defence procurement projects in a more concrete way in the near future.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
Behind the last 10 years, we may conclude that the beginning of the new millennium has brought a new understanding and perception of ways and approaches to combating trans-border organized crime. The new era has also seen the prevalence of the “free but secure” concept of trade. In light of these new approaches, concepts and developments, law enforcement agencies, such as customs authorities and the police and organized crime departments, have been involved in the process of revision and reorganization of their administrative structures with a view to increasing their administrative and technical capacities and improving national, regional and international cooperation.

Both the SECI Centre and RACVIAC, Centre for Security Cooperation with the mission to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe, recognized the necessity of building a more open, transparent and stable environment in the region by encouraging exchanges of information, views and ideas.

The Conference was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The event gathered a total of 43 participants from SEE countries.

The Conference agenda included speeches given by national representatives, as well as national presentations, exchanges of standpoints and experiences on common priorities and challenges, followed by open discussions.

Acknowledgements
RACVIAC would like to express heartfelt appreciation to the SECI Centre for their collaboration in the successful organization of this Conference.

Conference co-organizers, venue, duration and participation
The Conference was planned, organized and executed as a joint event by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the SECI Centre. The event was held at RACVIAC from 3 to 4 May 2011. It was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The event gathered a total of 43 participants from SEE countries.

Conference Agenda
The Conference agenda included speeches given by national representatives, as well as national presentations, exchanges of standpoints and experiences on common priorities and challenges, followed by open discussions.

The working part of the Conference started with a welcome address by H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, RACVIAC Director. Emphasizing that this event served as a forum for open and constructive discussion on joint cross-border cooperation among SEE countries in tackling organized crime threats which endanger the overall security of our region, Ambassador Todorcevski said that in the era of globalization, organized crime knew no borders and was becoming all the more and stronger networked. Therefore, it required close cooperation and a joint response of all security organizations in the world and South East Europe alike. This Conference, as Ambassador said, was a fruit of such increased cooperation of two organizations recognizing the importance of close cooperation on security matters in SEE.

On behalf of the SECI Centre, Director Gürbüz Bahadır delivered another welcome speech. Mr Bahadır emphasized that the SECI
The Changing Face of Organized Crime in South Eastern Europe: Trends and Developments

Centre was providing valuable support to national customs and law-enforcement agencies in the field of trans-border crime. Together with RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation it recognized the necessity of building a more open, transparent and stable environment in the region by encouraging exchanges of information, views and ideas. In line with that, he concluded, this Conference was an excellent result of the mutual readiness of the two Centres to support and improve open discussions on joint cross-border cooperation among SEE countries in an attempt to fight against organized crime, primarily by sharing information and best practices. After the opening addresses, the event proceeded with a presentation on "Promoting Regional Cooperation" by Mr Virgil Ivan Cucu from the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). Mr Cucu outlined the main needs of SEE countries and ways in which they could be supported in their capacity building process and their efforts to counter organized crime evolution and new trends. He drew attention to the following:

- Organized crime and corruption are perennial presences of the national/regional, political and social climate, publicly recognized and criticized;
- New forms of criminality have emerged, e.g. cyber, public money and EU funds frauds;
- Migration, both legal and illegal, increases pressure on borders and endangered post-visa liberalization process;
- Trafficking in human beings, drugs and stolen vehicles and smuggling of cigarettes, arms and other merchandise are flourishing;
- Radicalization and recruitment of terrorists especially in immigrant and impoverished communities or ethnic minorities is becoming a threat;
- Security and justice sectors reforms are slow;
- Public trust in justice and administration is diminishing.

The next speaker was Mr Stanislav Veniger from DCAF/PCC SEE. Mr Veniger's presentation covered the role of the PCC SEE Secretariat as an effective instrument for fighting against organized crime in Southeast Europe. As he explained, the main tasks of this network are:

- To collect and receive information about the best practices, as well as about obstacles and problems encountered in cross-border surveillances and controlled delivery, with a view to finding a regional answer to regional problems;
- To facilitate cross-border surveillances by disseminating information about the legal framework;
- To be the point of contact which competent national authorities and authorities from the EU member states dealing with cross-border surveillance and controlled delivery could ask for expertise and information regarding different national legislative frameworks.

The next speaker in the course of the first working day was Ms Elizabeta Nikoloska, Specialized Crime and Analysis Directorate, ICPO Interpol. She delivered an informative presentation dealing with all the relevant issues related to the prevention and fight against organised crime.

Following the mentioned presentations, the floor was open for questions and answers, which gave the participants and speakers an opportunity to present their opinions and comments and to engage in lively discussions.

The event proceeded with participating countries' presentations about the structure of their respective national systems.

Namely, different national representatives presented an overview of the measures / structures and instruments / capabilities established in their respective countries for the purpose of fighting against organized crime. The common topics of interest were:

- Necessity of a cross-border dimension;
- Necessity of identifying legislative needs and challenges within the context of a more effective approach to fighting organized crime;
- Enhancing cooperation in the fight against organized crime by improving and aligning countries' national regulations;
- Efficient cooperation through effective national point of contact officers;
- Promoting dialogue on organized crime and related security issues through these kinds of events.

Closing remarks

The Conference entitled “The Changing Face of Organized Crime in South Eastern Europe: Trends and Developments” was the first event co-organized by RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation and the SECI Centre. The Conference successfully provided a comprehensive framework for exchanging experience and valuable information. At the end of the Conference, the participants agreed on the following final remarks and recommendations:

- The Conference brought together national representatives from the region with knowledge and experience in supporting the fight against organized crime;
- During the event, comments and discussions were on a high, professional level;
- The event was successfully conducted and the aim of the Conference - to encourage and prepare the ground for further development of regional cooperation among the countries of Southeast Europe in the field of organized crime - was successfully accomplished;
- All the objectives were efficiently achieved;
- Satisfied with the RACVIAC - SECI Centre co-organisation of the event, participants recommended taking into consideration organizing similar joint activities in the future;
- With this event, RACVIAC and the SECI Centre effectively contributed to the overall security in SEE.

This event proved that RACVIAC and SECI Centre's efforts and missions were complementary and part of the same capacity-building process in SEE, in terms of promoting peace and security matters in SEE and beyond.
Introduction
Pursuant to the RACVIAC 2011 Programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar carried out the "Dayton Article IV" Course in the period of 09-13 May 2011. The Course was organized in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords. It was carried out in the English language.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct designated individuals on 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, confidence and transparency during the performance of inspections.

The Course objectives were:

- To inform and educate the participants on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust, confidence and transparency during the performance of inspections.

The Course was attended by twenty-six participants from eight countries and two organizations, namely from: Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), Croatia (3), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (3), Germany (2), Montenegro (2), Serbia (2), Slovenia (2), Poland (2), Switzerland (1), OSCE (1) and PSOTC (1). They represented relevant ministries and agencies involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

The Course lasted 5 days and it consisted of a theoretical (first three days) and a practical (one day) part, with a debriefing on the 5th day. The theoretical part comprised lectures about the history of Arms Control and the Dayton Peace Agreement. The practical part included a training inspection on a declared site in Petrinja, "Pukovnik Predrag Matanovic" barracks, which enabled the participants, divided into two teams, to practice both the roles of inspectors and escorts.

The Execution
The welcome address by Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, marked the opening of the Course.

The theoretical phase included the following topics:

- Information about historical and conceptual basics of Arms Control, Office of Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO for Article IV, the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords) and detailed analysis of Article IV of the Agreement.
- Preparation of a training inspection on a declared site and practical advice about inspection and/or escort duties.

During the practical part the participants were divided into two teams. Each team conducted a training inspection - one in the role of the inspection team and the other in the role of the escort team in the selected OOI (Objects of Inspection) under the following procedures:

- Preparation of the inspection
- Execution of the inspection
- Debriefing - Evaluation of the Inspection - Lessons Learned.

Conclusion
According to the participants’ assessments provided at the end of the event, the course proved successful, very interesting and well organized. Generally, they were satisfied with the topics
chosen and considered the overall course very valuable for their future work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting in the future as well such courses aimed at contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region.

The lecturers covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in a satisfactory way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants. Two lecturers, one from Bosnia and Herzegovina and one from Croatia, were observers during the practical part in Petrinja.

Participants’ interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that most of them had little or no experience in inspection procedures. During the practical part, participants showed exceptional professionalism in performing their mission both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a remarkable spirit of cooperation and fulfilling the standards of a real Inspection. The experienced observers expressed very positive comments about the participants’ progress.

The practical part of the Course was well-organized, much owing to the excellent preparation of the Declared Site and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Verification Centre of the Republic of Croatia.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

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**Civil Protection in the EU and in South-Eastern Europe**

*Co-organized by: RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), DG Enlargement, European Commission*

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**Mr Milan Janicijevic**

**Background**

The rising number of potential threats has led many countries to recognize the importance of civil protection capacity building and, consequently, to include it on the list of their top priorities. Community co-operation in the field of Civil Protection aims to better protect people, their environment, property and cultural heritage in the event of major natural or man-made disasters. The improvement of Civil Protection is a specific, continuous, long-term process which heavily relies on strong political and legal commitment, public understanding, scientific knowledge, careful development planning, accountable enforcement of policies and legislation, effective disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

In South East Europe (SEE), Civil Protection is a security issue that requires very close regional cooperation, including a timely exchange of information, views and ideas. It involves constant improvement of national regulations and their alignment with EU
The objectives were:

- to promote increased awareness of the importance of Civil Protection against possible natural, technological and environmental disasters;
- to present EU standards in the field of Civil Protection and to harmonize the SEE countries’ practical and operational solutions with EU standards and regulations;
- to lay the groundwork for establishing a common framework for effective and rapid cooperation of national Civil Protection services;
- to provide and exchange information, views, and experiences with regard to the established EU Civil Protection standards and systems;
- to gain and share knowledge of EU’s Civil Protection strategies and regulations;
- to propose the way for future cooperation in the field of Civil Protection.

Acknowledgements

RACVIAC wishes to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) from the European Commission and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia for their organizational and financial contribution, which made this event possible.

The goal of the Seminar was to increase awareness of the importance of Civil Protection among SEE countries in order to ensure a higher level of preparedness for averting the prospective natural, technological or environmental disasters. This will eventually lead to reduced human and infrastructure losses.

The objectives were:

- to promote increased awareness of the importance of Civil Protection against possible natural, technological and environmental disasters;
- to present EU standards in the field of Civil Protection and to harmonize the SEE countries’ practical and operational solutions with EU standards and regulations;
- to lay the groundwork for establishing a common framework for effective and rapid cooperation of national Civil Protection services;
- to provide and exchange information, views, and experiences with regard to the established EU Civil Protection standards and systems;
- to gain and share knowledge of EU’s Civil Protection strategies and regulations;
- to propose the way for future cooperation in the field of Civil Protection.

Venue, duration and participation

The Seminar was held at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, from 18 - 19 May 2011. It was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The Seminar gathered a total of 33 participants, from SEE’s EU candidate and potential candidate countries.

Seminar Agenda

As the Seminar Chairman, Mr Brunsveld welcomed all the participants and subsequently gave the floor to RACVIAC Director Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski for his opening remarks.

Ambassador Todorcevski emphasized, among other things, the importance of exchanging experiences and knowledge especially in crisis management, as it is crucial to know each other in times of crises. Ambassador also stressed the importance of Civil Protection not only in saving human lives and preventing economic damage but also in safeguarding cultural heritage of the region.

The keynote speaker was Mr Damir Cemerin, Deputy Head of Civil Protection from the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Republic of Croatia. Mr Cemerin delivered a presentation on the Croatian national civil protection system and challenges and perspectives in the field of Civil Protection.

Addressing the seminar participants, he emphasized the importance of subsidiarity and the need for Civil Protection to be organized at the local level.

The event proceeded with overviews on national civil protection systems in AL, BA, MK, RS and TR. Different national delegations presented the organization of civil protection systems in their respective countries. Common topics were:

- Improving cooperation within and between departments;
- Importance of good communication and ICT systems;
- Establishing good links with the scientific community and engaging civil society;
- Importance of prevention;
- Need of good risk assessment at the local and national level - EU;
- Importance of damage assessment (being able to win the political level over);
- Importance of timely access to relevant, reliable and comparable data.

Following the opening part, Mr Branko Dervodel, Deputy Director General, Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, was the first to take the floor. He addressed the audience on the topic “Improving the efficiency of prevention of and the response to river floods in Slovenia”. Mr Dervodel emphasized the importance of good prevention measures in averting damage to cultural heritage, citing the washed-away Partizan Hospital as an example. Since prevention measures, besides being costly, are not always very visible, politicians are often reluctant to spend money on them. However, they represent a more cost-efficient solution than covering the repair costs in the response phase. Mr Dervodel was also keen to point out the importance of regional cooperation initiatives such as RACVIAC, the DPPI and others in reaching the required standards and promoting increased awareness of the importance of Civil Protection. The next speaker was Ms Ivana Ljubojevic, Head of Secretariat, DPPI for South East Europe. Ms Ljubojevic presented the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South East Europe. The DPPI is a regional leader in the field of CP training and tries to serve as a bridge towards the EU. Their agenda is set every year by the participating states and organizations and they have an extensive, demand-driven Disaster Management Training Program. The DPPI has focused on enhancing education in the field of sustainable disaster-risk reduction, for which the participation of local communities is crucial. Following the speakers’ presentations the floor was open for participants’ questions and open discussion.

The second working day started with an address by Mr Ruben Brunsveld, former member of the Civil Protection Working Party, on the topic “Civil Protection, from Albufeira to Lisbon”. Mr Brunsveld wanted to make the participants aware of the history of the civil protection dossier and the sensitivities between different EU Member States in the period 2006 - 2011. He gave an overview of the political discussion in the Council after the release of the Barnier report (May 2006) and the position of Member States. He used this practical example to illustrate the difference between that situation and the situation under the Lisbon Treaty. Subsequently, he went on to highlight some specific changes that came into force with the Lisbon Treaty such as the legal base (shared competence, Articles 6 and 196), the Solidarity Clause (Article 222) and the role of the European Parliament and QMV. He concluded that Lisbon had brought a
shift in power from individual Member States to the Commission, thus making for European solidarity and common responsibility, as long as Member States maintained operational subsidiarity and acted locally when dealing with crisis management.

The Seminar proceeded with presentations by Ms Susanne Wacht, Senior Advisor at the Operations Department, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, dedicated to the Community Civil Protection Mechanism I: Basics and the Community Civil Protection Mechanism II: Operations. Ms Wacht gave a presentation on the functioning of the Mechanism and the way it had been implemented in Germany, drawing attention to the increase in the number of interventions over the last years. She emphasized that the Mechanism dealt not only with response, but with prevention and preparedness as well. Furthermore, she clearly illustrated the importance of the MIC as the communication hub and the information distribution centre, as well as its role in coordination & technical support. Highlighting experts’ exchange programmes of the EU, also mirrored in the IPA programme, Ms Wacht touched upon the question of cooperation between the EU Mechanism and non-EU instruments such as UNOCHA.

Since the Mechanism is also important for Member States' pooling of transportation, the Moderator Mr Brunsveld added that it was important for the countries to work through the

Mechanism not just in order to enhance the EU coordination, but in order to be eligible for a 50% reimbursement of transport costs as there was no retroactive reimbursement by the Commission. Ms Wacht demonstrated the workings of the modules and their self-sufficiency and autonomy using the German High Capacity Pumping Module as an example. Finally, she emphasized the importance of knowing each other during crises and urged the participants to make use of the possibilities of the IPA Programme.

Following Ms Wacht’s presentation, the floor was taken by Mr Paulo Vaccari, Desk Officer at the Civil Protection Department, Italian Council of Ministers. He presented the lessons learned from the Abruzzo earthquake, stressing that Civil Protection implied learning from each other’s experiences, trials and errors. Furthermore, he underscored that assisting a population after a major crisis meant staying there for a short, mid or long term and making the necessary plans for the future. Mr Vaccari’s presentation led to the discussion of the following issues:

- Human and social factor;
- Local command and control in case of a major emergency;
- Importance of self-sufficiency;
- Simple issues leading to huge problems;
- Transport;
- Psychological effect and the media pressure;
- Cultural and social sensitivities;
- Avoiding “Too many cooks spoil the broth” effect;
- Equal treatment for all the persons involved (modules and standardization);
- Involving the whole population in the management of the camp.

The last speaker was Ms Patricia Gaspar, National Operations Assistant at the Portuguese National Authority for Civil Protection. Ms Gaspar explained how the Portuguese authorities succeeded in diminishing the amount of forest fires by 20% - 25% in the last few years. The main points were:

- A cross-sectoral approach involving all players at the national and local level;
- Engaging and educating the whole population;
- Strong punishment and fines for people making open fire in summer and making sure people are aware of that;
- Good system of command and control on site (mobile command centers);
- Improvements in the institutional coordination and information management;
- Annual revision of the main policy documents;
- Strong preparation for incoming assistance, including a welcoming, pocket-size guide for fire-fighting planes pilots;
- Strong media information policy, including weekly press conferences and Rules of Engagement agreed on with the media on what they can and can not do during an emergency.

After Ms Gaspar’s presentation, the participants were given an opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions.

Seminar closing remarks

The seminar entitled “Civil Protection in the EU and in SEE” was an event organized by the European Commission in RACVIAC. The first working day was focused on the analysis of different Civil Protection systems in the participating countries, the importance of regional organizations and the significance of disaster prevention. The second working day offered an insight into the role of the EU, Civil Protection under the Lisbon Treaty and the functioning of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Throughout the Seminar, all the participants actively took part in discussing the following issues:

- Importance of sharing national experiences;
- Importance of improving national administrative structures;
- Importance of involving all actors: public, private, NGO’s & Media;
- Knowing the EU political landscape (the Lisbon Treaty) and the internal functioning of the Commission;
- Importance of acting local in dealing with crises;
- Knowing the operational landscape, how the modules work and how the EU operational cooperation functions;
- Importance of regional development and cooperation with the EU through different programs such as the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance.

The aim of this Seminar was fully achieved as it contributed to fostering joint cooperation in the field of Civil Protection among SEE authorities, as part of the overall security cooperation in SEE.
Introduction
Pursuant to RACVIAC Programme for 2011, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar organized and executed the “Oslo Convention - Workshop on Cluster Munitions” in the period of 23-26 May 2011, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia.

This was the third activity related to Cluster Munitions organized by RACVIAC and its partners. The Workshop’s timing proved to be excellent, having been held between the 1st and the 2nd Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, in a period when the implementation of the Convention is in the most intensive phase.

The purpose of this Workshop was to share the latest developments related to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Objectives included the following:

• To provide an overview for the participants about the provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, particularly the obligations of the States Parties;

• To inform the participants about the results of the first meeting of States Parties held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from 9 to 12 November 2010;

• To provide a forum for discussion on implementation of the Convention in South Eastern Europe with focus on national strategies, plans for implementation, progress reports, possible international and regional cooperation and needs for support from outside the region.

The Workshop comprised presentations, panel discussion and group work.

Participation
Altogether 37 participants attended the Workshop, representing 21 countries or organizations including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Lao PDR, Moldova, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Serbia, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU) Geneva, Assistance Advocacy Access Serbia, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Landmine Survivors Initiatives Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mine Action Centres of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHMAC), Croatia (CROMAC) and Serbia (SERMAC), Mine Aid - Croatia, OSCE Mission Tajikistan, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma Croatia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Croatia, and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Overview of the Workshop
The Workshop opening ceremony comprised the speeches by the following distinguished guests: Mr Mario Nobilo, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, Head of Arms Control/Disarmament Department, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, Ms Louisa Vinton, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Croatia and H.E. Ms Beverly Mercer, Ambassador of Australia to the Republic of Croatia.

The Workshop was divided into four main segments, followed by group work. The 1st segment focused on the general background and importance of the Convention and its practical impact. Mr Christopher Clark (UNMAS) presented a solid picture of cluster munitions used in different countries, consequences of their use, key problems regarding their clearance and the harm they cause to civilian population. Ms Anesa Kundurovic (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina) informed the audience about the draft Protocol VI on Cluster Munitions to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). She pointed out a contradiction in the new protocol, which would limit users and producers, while on the other hand it might legitimize certain

In the 2nd segment, representatives of international organizations shared their experience in international assistance and cooperation. It included presentations by Mr Michael Creighton (GICHD) on cluster munitions survey and clearance operations, Mr Hans Risser (UNDP) on the role and position of the UNDP in the implementation of the CCM, Mr Sorin Sterie (RCC) on the role of the RCC in the SEE region, and Mr Michael Storey (OSCE Office in Tajikistan) on the OSCE efforts in other regions.

At the beginning of the 3rd segment, Mr Visasacksith Snookphone (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR) briefed the participants on disturbing facts related to cluster munitions and UXO challenge in Laos and presented the results of the 1st Meeting of the States Parties to the CCM. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion on the Vientiane Action Plan and Vientiane Declaration, NGOs' perspective on the 1st Meeting of the States Parties, national perspectives, universalization of the CCM in SEE and a photo presentation of cluster munitions stricken area in Laos. The panel of speakers included representatives of SEE countries and organizations who participated in the meeting in Vientiane.

The 4th segment was dedicated to the implementation of the CCM and exchange of national perspectives and experiences. Mine Action Centres (BHMAC, CROMAC, SERMAC) presented the current situation with cluster munitions contamination and the role of mine action centres in their respective countries. The issue of victim assistance was reviewed from both the international and the national perspective. Mr Kerry Brinkert (ISU) shared lessons learned from the Ottawa Convention for the CCM, while Mr Hrvoje Debac (Croatian MFAEI) touched upon the frameworks, policies and implementation mechanisms of victim assistance in Croatia. In the same section, Mr Ramiz Becirovic (Landmine Survivor Initiative Bosnia and Herzegovina) briefed on the challenges and positive practices in provision of victim assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Ms Zdenka Pantic (International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims) described the psychological aspects of injuries caused by cluster munitions.

The last part of this segment included briefings by experts from Moldova, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Montenegro on the stockpile and destruction of cluster munitions in their respective countries. SSGt Ed Batlak (MoD Croatia) provided an insight into the national reporting process and the stockpile reduction.

Finally, participants were divided into two working groups according to their professional preferences. The first group focused on victim assistance and education, while the second dealt with stockpile destruction, clearance and international assistance. Both working groups provided a short summary of their work.

Summary/Recommendations

The event successfully covered the issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and provided an opportunity for frank and open discussions between the representatives of the countries of the SEE region, the international organizations supporting the efforts of implementation and the NGOs involved.

Despite significant steps already made and considerable results achieved so far in eliminating the danger caused by cluster munitions, the countries of the SEE region are still seriously contaminated with cluster munitions, as clearly showed by the presentations. Therefore, clearing and destruction of stockpiles remain tasks of high priority and urgency.

In addition, further actions related to cluster munitions identified in Vientiane are also required in the fields of partnership, universalization, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, and exchange of information.

According to the participants’ assessments provided at the end of the event, the Workshop proved to be successful and well organized. All participants evaluated the Workshop as valuable for their future work and beneficial to the security in the region. Participants also agreed on the necessity of conducting similar workshops in the future.

The cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia was excellent. In particular, their contribution in preparing the agenda and inviting the experts was certainly the most important factor in the success of the Workshop.

The implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions requires genuine, long lasting efforts. Aware that goals can be achieved more easily through cooperation and exchange of lessons learned, RACVIAC stands ready to continue the series of Workshops on Cluster Munitions in 2012, serving as a platform for discussions and initial point of cooperation.
Aeronautical Search And Rescue

Hosted by the Republic of Serbia

Background

Search and rescue (SAR) is the search for and provision of aid to people who are in distress or imminent danger. The general field of search and rescue includes many specialty sub-fields, mostly based upon terrain considerations. These include mountain rescue; ground search and rescue, including the use of search and rescue dogs; urban search and rescue in cities; combat search and rescue on a battlefield and air-sea rescue over water. Search and rescue services, especially aeronautical ones, are organized to respond to persons apparently in distress and in need of help. Nowadays, in order to ensure successful aeronautical search and rescue operations, close coordination and cooperation among countries has become mandatory for each country.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the Danish Defense Command and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Serbia have recognized the importance of aeronautical SAR as one of the security issues that should be further discussed and explored for the benefit of the region.

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Acknowledgements

RACVIAC owes a debt of gratitude to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia for hosting a RACVIAC activity for the first time and to the Kingdom of Denmark for both their organizational efforts and financial contribution, which made this Conference possible.

Conference co-organizers, venue, duration and participation

The Conference was planned, organized and executed as a joint event by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and Tactical Air Command Denmark (TACDEN).

The event was held in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia (RS) from 23 to 25 May 2011. It was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The Conference gathered a total of 59 participants from SEE countries.

Conference Agenda

The Conference agenda comprised lectures, national presentations and exchanges of views and experiences on common priorities and challenges, followed by open discussions.

Mr Zoran Jeftić, State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, delivered the Welcome Address on 23 May, which officially marked the opening of the working part of the Conference. After having welcomed the participants and wished them fruitful work and a pleasant stay, Mr Jeftić used the opportunity to say that it was a matter of exceptional honor for his Ministry to be one of the co-organizers of the SAR Conference, which once again confirmed the readiness of the Region to utilize the regional cooperation and dialogue as the best way to achieve lasting stability and prosperity.

On behalf of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation,
participants were welcomed by Colonel Zeljko Cepanec, Deputy Director. Col Cepanec emphasized that the subject matter of Search and Rescue was growing in importance in the light of recent major natural disasters and accidents and the size of human losses resulting there from, thus making close coordination and cooperation among countries indispensable if not mandatory. He expressed his hope that this event would encourage further development of regional cooperation in Search and Rescue issues and outline possible courses of action to follow, while also proving beneficial and valuable in terms of providing the participants with a deeper insight into the current situation in the field of SAR.

The event proceeded with a presentation by Mr Dusan Lovre from the Civil Aviation Directorate (CAD), RS. His presentation comprised an overview of the SAR system and the related legislation and documents. More specifically, he addressed the following issues:

- Basic elements of search and rescue and rescue services: legal framework, responsible authority, available resources;
- Communication facilities and a workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions;
- Defining a search and rescue region;
- Involvement of other search and rescue units for assistance in a SAR action;
- Defining equipment for implementation of a SAR action.

The next speaker was Maj Ove Urup-Madsen from the Tactical Air Command Denmark (TACDEN). Besides presenting the Danish SAR Service, Maj Urup-Madsen provided further information on the definition of SAR, its objectives and organization, Rescue Council of the National Rescue Secretariat, International regulations, SAR Agreements, SAR Alerting System and SAR Agencies.

Following Maj Urup-Madsen's presentation, the floor was open for questions and answers, which gave the audience an opportunity to engage in lively discussions.

As part of the first working day, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia organized a visit to the Air Force Museum in Belgrade. The curator of the Museum made a comprehensive presentation of the exhibits, from historical weapons arsenals and aircraft to air force as a whole and historical excerpts on its development. The visit sparked particular interest among the participants and made a strong impression on them.

At the beginning of the second working day, the host nation organized a visit to the military Airport Batajnica, where the Air Force Brigade personnel executed a presentation of SAR service equipment and capabilities. During the visit, the participants had an opportunity to observe a compelling SAR exercise involving two GAZELA type helicopters and one MI-8. The exercise demonstrated the Air Force Brigade's ability to successfully execute a SAR mission, which left the participants positively impressed.

The Agenda resumed with a presentation by Mr Sefik Muhic, PhD, from the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) on the topic: Crisis management and SAR System: A platform for risk assessment and preparedness planning at different levels.

Subsequently, the event proceeded with countries' presentations on national search and rescue systems in AL, BA, HR, MK, SI and RS. Different national delegations presented overviews on the organization, structure and capabilities of SAR systems in their respective countries.

Following the national presentations, the floor was taken by Colonel Predrag Bandic, Air Brigade Commander (RS), whose

Case study provided the audience with a concrete example of a search and rescue action. Col Bandic used a traffic accident occurred in one of the neighboring countries as an example of a disastrous event in which it was necessary to use aeronautical search and rescue means in order to help and transfer the injured. Col Bandic concluded that, in order to have effective and timely rescue operations and to simplify the procedures, it was necessary to ensure:

- a common approach
- official diplomatic clearance for declared SAR aircraft
- common technical agreement.

The last speaker at the Conference was Maj Ove Urup-Madsen, Tactical Air Command Denmark (TACDEN). His presentation was dedicated to the procedures of coordination/cooperation among countries in the field of SAR from the Danish point of view, and possibilities for its simplification/administrative acceleration. Maj Urup-Madsen highlighted the following necessities:

- Cross border dimension;
- Setting high standards;
- Emergency management: Preparedness-Response-Recovery-Mitigation;
- Ensuring a safe and efficient response in the best interest of the individual in need;
- Optimizing SAR and testing national systems;
- Effective and timely exchange of information;
- Minimizing the time framework - diplomatic clearance.

After Maj Urup-Madsen's address, the floor was open for panel discussions on possibilities for establishing a SAR service network in SEE and enhancing cooperation among SAR services in the use of capacities in a crisis situation.

Conclusions

The Conference brought together national representatives from the region with knowledge and experience in supporting the SAR capacity-building in SEE countries.

The purpose of the Conference, encouraging further development of regional cooperation and preparing the ground for additional improvements in the field of Search and Rescue within the SEE region, was successfully achieved and the Agenda objectives were fully accomplished.

It is recommended to the regional SAR cooperation initiative should be further promoted in the time to come. Within the framework of this initiative, the following areas of interest were proposed for further discussion:

- Developing and establishing an aeronautical search and rescue functional network in SEE;
- Enhancing mutual assistance among search and rescue services and optimizing the use of search and rescue resources in case of disasters with a view to meeting the challenges;
- Simplifying the procedures for requesting mutual assistance among countries in aeronautical search and rescue;
- Drafting the text of a technical agreement, potentially implemented in a regional SAR plan or bilaterally between States.
Activity Background

With the aim of bringing together representatives of logistics, policy/planning and finance departments in ministries of defence of the regional countries and providing them with an opportunity to exchange relevant information and experience regarding disposal of excess weapons and ammunition, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, organized and carried out the “Towards a Sustainable Solution for Excess Weapons and Ammunition: Policy, Logistical and Financial Aspects of Excess Weapons and Ammunition Disposal” Conference.

Aging, excess, and unstable stockpiles of conventional weapons and munitions are recognized as posing a dual threat of illicit proliferation and accidental explosion, both of which can lead to causing humanitarian disasters and destabilizing individual countries or regions as a whole.

Indeed, it is impossible to neglect a number of incidents involving uncontrolled explosions of obsolete ammunition surpluses which have taken place in the SEE region over the last decade, causing tragic losses of human lives and destruction of property.

Furthermore, stockpiles of conventional weapons and munitions pose a potent security threat even if an explosive incident does not take place: they represent tempting bait for individuals and organized groups who either seek an illegal economic gain by selling stolen weapons and ammunition, or need them for perpetrating other forms of illegal activities. Thus, it is necessary to constantly guard such stockpiles with no defence value and maintain the storage sites, which represents an additional burden to often already tightened defence budgets.

However, the most logical solution to the problem of excess and unstable stockpiles, their disposal, inevitably brings enormous financial expenses for each state in the Region. One of the main reasons is to be found in an inadequate information exchange among the countries of the Region on their existing disposal capacities, especially if we take into account the existing independent quests towards development of disposal capacities. In this light, regional approach to excess weapons and ammunition disposal is seen as the key to finding a lasting solution to this problem.

RACVIAC is trying to serve as a forum for both raising the awareness of the excess weapons and ammunition disposal, and facilitating the process of finding a sustainable solution to this problem.

Thus, developing a shared vision of a future solution to this problem was the desired outcome of the Conference, while more specific objectives were:

- to exchange information on the current status of national stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition and capacities for their disposal;
- to present national excess weapons and ammunition related policies and plans for the future;
- to examine how excess weapons and ammunition disposal process is connected with national cycle of defence budget planning and realization;
- to identify possible areas of regional / international cooperation in this field;
- to prepare a paper highlighting issues of regional importance in the field of excess weapons and ammunition disposal.
The Ambassador concluded the welcome address by wishing the participants from six countries and five organizations, namely: Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (5), Serbia (3), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2), Montenegro (2), International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance ITF (3), NATO HQ Sarajevo (1), Regional Cooperation Council RCC (2), Small Arms Survey (1) and RACVIAC (6).

Conference Opening
Opening the Conference, Ambassador Nikola Todorovski, Director of RACVIAC, emphasized that RACVIAC recognized the importance of this topic and thus the necessity of bringing together experts from the regional countries, as only by providing them with an opportunity to exchange relevant information and lessons learned regarding disposal of excess weapons and ammunition could a shared vision of a future solution to this problem be developed.

The participants were subsequently welcomed by the representative of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, Logistic Command Commander, Major General Mate Ostovic. He briefly presented the Croatian situation in terms of stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition and Croatia’s view on how to deal with the issue. In his final words, General Ostovic wished the participants a pleasant stay in Croatia and successful work.

Keynote Speech
Following the welcome addresses, the Conference participants had the honor to hear the keynote speech delivered by Mr Zoran Sajinovic, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the current MAG Chairperson.

During his speech, Mr Sajinovic offered a comprehensive, yet succinct picture of the current situation in the SEE region concerning stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition. He once again stressed the multifaceted nature of hazard posed by these stockpiles: from accidental explosion, through illicit proliferation to theft by criminal individuals or groups seeking to make economic gain or facilitate other forms of illegal activities they undertake.

Mr Sajinovic cautioned that even if none of the above-mentioned scenarios happened, stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition still represented a heavy burden for ministries of defence and armed forces. Therefore, in order to minimize accidental explosions, stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition have to be stored properly, and armed forces compelled to maintain more weapons and ammunition storage sites than they actually need for storing operationally indispensable weapons and ammunition. Besides that, as Mr Sajinovic pointed out, armed forces frequently deploy soldiers to perform guard duties in order to prevent theft, whereby their training and performing of operational duties might be obstructed. Such essentially improper use of armed forces further reduces the amount of financial means for the necessary modernization.

Mr Sajinovic reiterated that excess weapons and ammunition disposal was a highly relevant issue for the SEE region. Despite a number of similarities, individual countries still face country-specific problems and different disposal capacities. In that light, he wrapped up his speech by expressing hope that the Conference would bring about bilateral or other forms of international cooperation related to specific problems and capacities to deal with them.

Session I. Towards a Sustainable Solution for Excess Weapons and Ammunition: Regional and International Perspective
Ms Jasna Lazarevic acquainted participants with the Small Arms Survey (SAS) and its projects addressing threats of inadequately managed weapons and ammunition storage sites and stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition. Special attention was given to the reports, papers and other products resulting from SAS activities and projects. Ms Lazarevic also presented the Regional Approach to Stockpiles Reduction (RASR) initiative and explained the SAS support to RASR. It is noteworthy to mention that RASR maintains a website where numerous useful materials in languages of the SEE region can be found. Ms Lazarevic spared no effort to share the wealth of her personal as well as SAS excess weapons and ammunition related experience.
gathers around the world, thus adding a special value to the conference.

The ITF Director, Mr Dorijan Marsic, acquainted participants with the ITF in general and its activities. He pointed out that the ITF had broadened not only the area, but the scope of its activities as well from dealing exclusively with demining in the beginning, to reducing threats to human security from post-conflict challenges other than landmines, supporting conventional weapons destruction programs and reducing threats to human security from disruptive challenges. Mr Marsic also addressed the issue of the ITF support to RASR initiative. Mr Blaz Mihelic complemented the ITF presentation by providing details on its activities.

LTC Alexander Bauer from NATO HQ Sarajevo concluded the first session by informing the participants on the NATO support to reduction of small arms, light weapons, ammunition and ammunition storage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Session II: Logistical Aspect of Excess Weapons and Ammunition Disposal

During this session representatives of the participating countries had an opportunity to present the current status of stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition in their respective countries and to provide information on their national disposal capacities. All the countries’ representatives provided details on current amounts and types of excess weapons and ammunition as well as on national disposal capacities, and shared information on the problems and challenges they were facing, unable to solve them on their own. Such fruitful information exchange paved the way for international cooperation, as it led to identifying a lack of disposal capacities for certain types of ammunition in some countries on the one hand and the excess of the same capacities in other countries on the other hand. During the lively discussion, a majority of participants agreed that in this area bilateral cooperation would be more productive than any other form of international cooperation. However, it was stressed that conferences of this type created the propitious atmosphere and indispensable preconditions for such cooperation to be developed.

Session III: Policy Aspect of Excess Weapons and Ammunition Disposal

During the third session, it was concluded that a common approach to solving the problem of excess weapons and ammunition included, in order of priority, selling, donation and finally their destruction / disposal. This conclusion coincides with the findings of Small Arms Survey's researches in other regions of the world.

Subsequently, attention was drawn to the fact that besides becoming obsolete for technical reasons, e.g. through aging, new amounts of excess weapons and ammunition were created through the normal process of armed forces restructuring. Therefore, the frequently present opinion that the process of excess weapons and ammunition disposal is relatively short and with a clear end in sight is misleading and inadequate as it may result in reluctance to commit funds to disposal capacities development. On the contrary, creation of surplus weapons and ammunition in armed forces is a normal and constant process and, thus, disposal capacities and processes have to be a standing part of the armed forces' structure and procedures.

Session IV: Financial Aspect of Excess Weapons and Ammunition Disposal

During this session all representatives stated that they were facing lack of financial means which would enable them to continually carry out excess weapons and ammunition disposal. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, a calculation was presented showing that the cost of guarding locations with excess and non-prospective weapons and ammunition amounted to around 1 million Euros annually.

It was also noted that the disposal process can create revenue for the countries, as a result of selling weapons and ammunition or materials remained after demilitarization. However, due to specifics of legislation, not in all countries can these financial means be used to directly enhance the disposal process. In order to fill the financial gaps, countries are seeking various forms of international cooperation, either directly with individual partner countries or through international organizations. For instance, a NATO Trust Fund was established on Albania's initiative to assist the country to carry out disposal of its once huge stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition. The country is currently trying to initiate a second cycle of the NATO Trust Fund.

Conclusion

The Conference proved to be worthwhile, as it provided an opportunity for experts dealing with disposal of stockpiles of excess weapons and ammunition to share experience and know-how, and to initiate crucial partnerships. In addition, the participants had a unique opportunity to acquaint themselves with regional and international organizations dealing with the subject matter and providing assistance, as well as to get a deeper insight into existing programs and initiatives in the region, such as RASR. Social events organized during the Conference played an important role in establishing and fostering network of experts dealing with the same issues.

As a result of the Conference, a paper highlighting issues of regional importance in the field of excess weapons and ammunition disposal was prepared. The goal of this document is to, within the RASR framework and with the support of the RCC and the SEE Defense Policy Directors, identify an appropriate ministerial meeting, such as the SEECP Ministers of Defence Meeting, where the defined forms of regional cooperation would be endorsed.
Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector:
“Deployment of Armed Forces Abroad - Lessons Learned and Practical Experiences in SEE”

Hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc. & LtCol Neven Bajic

Abstract
The organisation of this Seminar ensued after the Conference on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: “Positive Experiences and Examples of the Parliamentary Committees for Security in SEE”, held in the period of 27-29 June 2010 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The seminar form of this follow-up activity reflected the fact that the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been in session yet - however, the event proved to be much of a conference considering the efforts made and interest shown by participants regarding the issue of deployment of Armed Forces abroad.

Activity Background
The implementation of parliamentary oversight of the Security Sector in the Region started no longer than a decade ago. Various countries have adopted different systems of the Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector and Democratic Control of Armed Forces, as reflected in differences in legislation and institutions involved. Parliamentary Defence or Security Committees have been developed as institutional tools for overseeing the Security Sector activities. Their efficiency is directly fenced by their capabilities to work in accordance with the following preconditions: clearly defined constitutional and legal powers, customary practices, resources, expertise and political will.

Activity Facilitators
The Seminar was planned, organised and executed as a joint event by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Joint Committee for Defence and Security of Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with crucial support from the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and NATO HQ Sarajevo.

The main purpose of the Seminar was to bring together representatives of South East Europe Defence/Security Parliamentary Committees in a forum for comprehensive discussions on parliamentary oversight and procedures and obstacles in the field of deployment of Armed Forces abroad.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation
The Seminar was held from 14 to 15 June 2011 at the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was comprised of three sessions, each followed by questions and answers, which encouraged the participants to exchange views and openly discuss the issues raised.

The participants and lecturers were representatives from six countries and six organizations or institutions: Bosnia and Herzegovina (18), Croatia (6), Serbia (1), Slovenia (2) Montenegro (1), NATO HQ Sarajevo (1), OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), OSCE HQ Vienna (1), Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) Geneve (1), EUFOR-ALTHEA (2), Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC), Sarajevo (1), the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1) and the University of Primorska, Slovenia (1).

Activity Description and Contents
The event started with the Opening session, during which the first to welcome the audience were Mr Milorad Zivkovic, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia & Herzegovina, H.E. Gary Robbins, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC - CSC.

Keynote Speeches
Following the welcome addresses, the Seminar participants were addressed by two respectable keynote speakers. Ms Teodora Fuior, DCAF Project Coordinator (Geneva), delivered an excellent presentation on „Parliamentary Oversight of International Missions: Challenges and Good Practices” during which the Policy-Paper-No 28: «Parliamentary Oversight of ESDP Missions» was distributed to participants. In her presentation she outlined the phenomenon of “democratic deficit” at the EU and national level and the related trends in EU countries. Ms Fuior stressed the importance of «democratic legitimacy» and its positive effect on the quality of the decision-making process and the moral aspect of PSO.

The second keynote speaker, professor Lada Sadikovic, PhD, University of Sarajevo, presented a very interesting lecture on „National Security under Parliamentary Scrutiny: Conditions and Mechanisms”. Ms Sadikovic drew attention to the protection of human rights as another important aspect of Peace Support Operations. She emphasized the necessity of armed forces personnel being well informed about human rights protection standards in democratic countries, adding that the adequate level of knowledge in this matter was indispensable not only for the experts in parliamentary bodies, but for the respectable parliamentarians as well. Closing her very interesting lecture, she said that it was of crucial importance to ensure a balance between the interests of the states to protect citizens' human rights and adequate measures taken by the states to achieve that goal.

Both keynote speeches, better described as lectures, served as an excellent introduction to more detailed discussions on the specific aspects of the subject matter.

Session 1 - Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector
The moderator of Session 1 was Ms Sadikovic, PhD, and presenters were Mr Dusan Zoller from the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colonel Franz Sitzwohl from the EUFOR-ALTHEA mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr Rohan Maxwell from the NATO HQ Sarajevo. Their presentations addressed the following issues: Challenges of the Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector as International Obligation,
Civil - Military Relations through the EUFOR ALTHEA Experience and Defence Reforms and their Consequences on the Civil-Military Cooperation.

**Session 2 - Deployment of Armed Forces Abroad**

Mr Zeljko Grubesic, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was the moderator of this session, while the presenter was Lieutenant Colonel Hazim Hodzic from the PSOTC Butmir, Sarajevo. He delivered an excellent lecture on “Legitimacy as an Essential Condition for Deployment of Armed Forces Abroad”, prepared by Mr Heinz Vetschera, PhD, Academic Lecturer, PSOTC, Butmir.

This engrossing and comprehensive presentation acquainted participants with the importance of legitimacy and with different levels of decision-making process both at international (UN Resolutions, EU, NATO initiatives…) and national levels (political: DPD-MoD/MFA-Parliament; military level: AF/GS).

This presentation was followed by national presentations at the level of ministries of defence, which addressed national military experience related to the deployment of Armed Forces abroad. The Research Section of the Secretariat in the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, besides other materials preprepared for informative purposes, provided an excellent paper-survey of «Procedures Regarding Deployment of Armed Forces Personnel to ‘Operating Abroad’».

**Session 3 - Decision-making Procedures, Mechanisms and Practices in SEE Countries**

The moderator of this session was Mr Davorin Kajfez, Defence Committee of the Croatian Parliament, and the presenter was professor Beno Arnejecic, PhD, University of Primorska. His interesting lecture on “Democratic Control of Armed Forces - The Question of Accountabilities and Responsibilities” introduced participants to Session 3. In his lecture he stressed the importance of a clear division of accountabilities and responsibilities among the main players in the national decision-making process.

The next to take the floor was Ms Laura Furuholm from the OSCE HQ Vienna, who gave a short overview of national legislation as a basis for decision-making procedures on deployment of Armed Forces abroad and highlighted some important aspects of this process: public opinion, subject matter experts’ level of knowledge, appropriate resources needed etc.

The last, equally interesting presentation was given by Mr Bosko Siljegovic, Parliamentary Military Commissioner of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who provided an overview of his duties and competences as well as procedures and outcomes of his official activities. In addition, Mr Siljegovic presented some interesting cases in the process of assessment and protection of human rights of military personnel in different, sometimes very difficult circumstances.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

1. This year’s Seminar on “Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector” was focused on a very important and sometimes politically sensitive security issue not only in SEE countries, namely: “Deployment of Armed Forces Abroad-Lessons Learned and Practical Experiences in SEE”. It was the first time that parliamentary representatives, experts from various ministries and high representatives of international organizations had an open and productive exchange on such an important and concrete issue.

2. Looking at the history of SEE countries’ involvement in PSO in last decade, it is evident that SEE countries are steadily moving towards assuming the role of genuine security providers. What is more, their legislation, practice and instruments for the Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector and Democratic Control of Armed Forces are constantly being developed and permanently improved.

3. In the future, RACVIAC will try to introduce a more ambitious, research approach in the assessment process of the Parliamentary Oversight. Furthermore, RACVIAC will continue with the efforts to implement a more academic approach in selecting main panel participants for our future events.

4. Due to the importance of the Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector, RACVIAC has an ambition to organize such events at a Conference level in the future.

5. Supporting organizations, namely the OSCE, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the NATO HQ in Sarajevo, DCAF and EUFOR provided to RACVIAC all the necessary support in the organization of this two days’ seminar. RACVIAC staff had an excellent opportunity to work together with the staff representatives of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina who provided unstinting professional support in the organization of the Seminar from the very beginning.
Goodbyes & Hellos

Captain Mehmed Halilović and Majors Dobrislav Bilos and Slobodan Vujovic, representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ended their tours of duty at the end of January 2011. Captain Halilović left RACVIAC after four, and Majors Bilos and Vujovic after three years of service. We would like to thank them for their remarkable contribution in the organisation and smooth conduct of RACVIAC activities. Enthusiastic and devoted to their duties, they fulfilled all tasks very professionally and in a supportive and cooperative manner. They were not only excellent staff members, but also helpful and courteous friends to all of us. Thanking them for their professional commitment and friendship, we wish them all the best in their future military careers and private lives.

After nine years of service at RACVIAC as Chief of Car Pool, Sgt Dalibor Gugic ended his tour of duty. We would like to thank him for his dedicated work in the course of which he supported numerous RACVIAC activities. Sgt Gugic was a very good organizer, always on time, never hesitating to give his best in all the tasks assigned to him. He successfully cooperated with all RACVIAC staff and proved himself an excellent team player, able to carry out his duties for the benefit of our organization. The time we spent with him passed very quickly and we will remember him as a dear colleague and a friend. We wish him all the best in his future career and private life.

Major Kasim Podzic joined RACVIAC’s International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euroatlantic Integration Pillar as a Subject Matter Expert on Counter Terrorism. He was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. After obtaining a Military Associate degree in Asia, he subsequently acquired a master’s degree from the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo. Since he joined the military in 1993, Major Podzic has served at the battalion and brigade level. In 2005 he served in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in DR Congo and prior to joining RACVIAC he held a position at the Operational Command in Sarajevo.

During his career Major Podzic has completed numerous courses such as: To Secure the Peace (Croatia), Military Diplomacy (Croatia), Crisis management (USA), NATO Evaluation and Feedback programme (Finland). His hobbies include body building and jogging.

Major Sasa Konjevic is RACVIAC’s new Chief Planning and Liaison Officer for South Eastern Europe.

Major Konjevic was born in 1972 in Vinkovci, Croatia. He finished Military Gymnasium and graduated at Military Academy in Belgrade as an Electronic Warfare officer. After completing the Command and General-Staff Course at the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia, he went on to acquire his Master of Arts degree in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. During his studies at the Naval Postgraduate School, he was awarded with Jim and Tina Heldman Award for Excellence in Regional and Security Studies.

He started his military career as an Electronic Warfare platoon commander and deputy commander of an independent EW Company. From there he was transferred into the liaison officer business, where he worked with international Stabilization Forces, representing his military at various levels. From 2004 to 2006, he served as an advisor to the first Defence Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr Nikola Radovanovic, after which he briefly worked as a staff officer in the J2 Department of the B&H AF Joint Staff. Prior to RACVIAC, he served as a Chief of Cabinet for two consecutive Deputy Ministers of Defence.

Major Konjevic is married to Daniela, a pharmacist. Both Daniela and Sasa enjoy trekking, which helps them a great deal to catch up with their never stopping six-year-old son Marko.
Goodbyes & Hellos

Major Zdenko Vidakovic joined RACVIAC in January 2011 as a Subject Matter Expert on Military Base Conversion, after serving in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was born and grew up in Brcko, where he finished high school. Subsequently he moved to Sarajevo where he graduated at the Faculty of Political Science. Since he joined the military in 1992, Major Vidakovic has served a number of important duties, from the Signal branch to the Joint Staff AF B&H. His last position was that of a Public Information Officer in the 5th InfBde, where he was posted in mid-2009. During his career, Major Vidakovic has completed several military courses within Signal and CIMIC branches in different countries: English Language Course (Canada), Signal Course (USA), NATO Tactical CIMIC Course, (Turkey). In 2008, after having completed a course organized by EUFOR in B&H, he was responsible for establishing the Radio Frequency Management in AF B&H. In 1995 he was promoted to 1st Lt, while the last promotion was in 2009. His hobbies include reading, cycling and wooden ship modelling.

RACVIAC warmly welcomes Mr Darko Urek, who joined us in May as our new Chief of Car Pool. Mr Urek was born in Zagreb and has been serving as a driver in the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Armed Forces for more than twenty years. This is not his first engagement with RACVIAC as he had already been appointed to the Centre in the period of 2003-2009. We are very happy to have him as our staff member again.

RACVIAC welcomes Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., new Programme Manager in Security Sector Reform Pillar. Mr Kromar comes from Ljubljana, Slovenia, where he finished the Faculty of Public Management and subsequently postgraduate State and European Studies with Master’s thesis on “Ethics and Armed Forces”.

He has a rich research background either as advisor or head of different research projects. Prior to RACVIAC, he served as the Undersecretary in the Defence Policy Directorate in the Slovenian Ministry of Defence. Mr Kromar has also held several leadership positions in MoD RS: Head of Military Schools Department, Head of Defence Administration Department in Vrhnika, Head of Department for Civil-Military Relations, Deputy Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies and Head of Multilateral Affairs Department.

His professional CV includes membership, as National Representative of the Slovenian MOD, in several international organisations, initiatives and associations such as DCAF, CENCOOP, SEDM, SHIRBRIG, MLF, Euro-Atlantic Council and Foundation Council in GCSP.

On 20 June 2011, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation organized a farewell reception for LtCol Frederik Jan Besselink, Defence Attaché of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Croatia, and LtCol Soren Knudsen, Defence Attaché of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Croatia, who are both finishing their tours of duties and leaving Croatia. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, expressed sincere gratitude, on behalf of all RACVIAC staff and his own, for all the generous support provided to the Centre by the Dutch and the Danish Defence Attaché and their countries, emphasizing that RACVIAC was deeply indebted to them for their unstinting support and unselfish work in promoting RACVIAC in the international community. He also expressed hope that both of them would continue to be involved in RACVIAC’s activities in the future, either as lecturers or guest speakers.
Forthcoming events (September 2011 - December 2011)

Autumn MAG POCs' Meeting
26th MAG Meeting
Defence Conversion Modalities in SEE Project
NATO - RACVIAC Conference on Better Defence Resources Management
Annual Workshop on MBC and TMP
Regional Approach to Integrated Border Management and its Impact on Countering Smuggling and Illicit Trafficking
Civilian-Military Approach in EU Crisis Management: Experience, Challenges and Possible Options
SALW - Conventional Armament Seminar
CFE/ACFE Course - Part I
Bringing Standards, Challenges and Lessons Learned towards EU Integration
Climate Change and Security
Security Sector Reform in Context of PSO Course
Security Sector Reform and OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security
Physical Security and Stockpile Management Course
NATO in SEE: Reconstruction and Security in SEE
Centr for Security Cooperation

"fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe"