NEW AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO FORCE

SALW Workshop gathered more than 60 participants

Public Media and Security:
MoD Spokespersons and Media at the same table

First Cyber Security Roundtable
New Agreement on RACVIAC entered into force

On 15 November 2011, the Republic of Serbia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Agreement on RACVIAC with the Depository, Republic of Croatia. With this act the Republic of Serbia has become the fifth signatory State to ratify the document, which was the prerequisite for the Agreement to enter into force.

The Agreement entered into force on 01 December 2011.

This marked the end of the transformation process of the Centre, started in 2007, whereby RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation becomes legally and formally a very unique international organization promoting enhanced regional security and cooperation through the concept of regional ownership.

Background:

RACVIAC was established in 2000 within the Stability Pact as a successful project of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Croatia, later acceded by the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Italy.

As the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre, it had an aim to provide arms control training, promote confidence and security building measures and broaden cooperation in South Eastern Europe (SEE). With a view to enhancing the regional stability, the Centre later broadened its scope of activities to comprise a wide range of politico-military issues, including security sector reform, defence conversion and international and regional cooperation.

Developments and changes in the security environment in SEE, as well as the changing needs of SEE countries, necessitated a review of RACVIAC mission, objectives and structure. This led to the beginning of the transformation process of the Centre in 2007, which was concluded by the signing of the new Agreement on RACVIAC in 2010 by eight SEECP countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Serbia and Turkey) and subsequently by Romania in February 2011.

All those changes which enable the Centre to be better prepared for addressing emerging security challenges are also reflected in the Centre’s new name: RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Tailored to the needs of the region, situated in the region and comprising personnel from the countries of the region, RACVIAC perfectly embodies the expression “regional ownership“.

As a premier platform for dialogue on security cooperation, RACVIAC contributes to openness, transparency and predictability in the region by encouraging exchanges of information, views and ideas.

*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
Delegation of UNDP Croatia at RACVIAC

On 20 July 2011 RACVIAC had the pleasure to receive the visit of Ms Tamara Karaica and Mr Krunoslav Katic, UNDP Croatia, Human Security, Project Coordinators. The UNDP delegation was welcomed by RACVIAC Deputy Director Col Zeljko CEPANEC, accompanied by Major Sasa Konjevic, RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE. The main purpose of the visit was the common interest and goal pursued by both organizations, namely promoting and supporting regional cooperation in a number of security issues, including countering transnational security threats, illegal migration and tackling all aspects of cyber security threats. The UNDP delegation expressed their strong willingness to support RACVIAC, as co-organisers if possible, in conducting activities of mutual interest on the regional level. In line with that, the representatives of the two organisations discussed organising a joint activity in autumn this year on the topic of Cyber Security which, following the needs-assessment of the countries from the region and regional experts' conclusions, might lead to the development of a longer-term Cyber Security project. The visit was also a good opportunity for Col CEPANEC to express RACVIAC’s gratitude for the support received from the UNDP so far.

RACVIAC Director in Belgrade

Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, attended the „Final Conference of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Discharged Defence Personnel in the Republic of Serbia“, which took place in Belgrade from 13 to 14 September 2011.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia (MoD) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have been implementing the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Discharged Military Personnel within the Scope of Defence Sector Reform in Serbia (NTF project) since July 2006.

A final conference hosted by the Ministry of Defence was organised on 13 - 14 September 2011 to outline project results, share lessons learned and identify best practices to be used as a “model” for the development of similar programmes in the future. At the same time, the September event marked the end of the project and its formal handover to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia.

The Belgrade conference gathered more than 100 representatives and officials from Serbian Ministries, Armed Forces and institutions, donor countries, SEE countries, NATO HQ, International Organization for Migration, and other international and national organizations and institutions dealing with the transition of military personnel and defence reform.
RACVIAC activities presented to NATO SEEGROUP

On 30 September 2011, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski presented the Centre’s activities to the NATO South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP) in Brussels.

Ambassador Todorcevski briefed the delegates on the history of RACVIAC, its structure, programme, new Strategy and prospects for the Centre’s future. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session during which delegates enquired in more detail about RACVIAC.

The SEEGROUP was established in the second half of the year 2000 to support regional practical cooperation in the area of security and defense, as well as to improve harmonisation and coordination among regional countries. The SEEGROUP was established as part of the NATO South East Europe Initiative (SEEI) and, since its inception, it continues to be an important forum that contributes to the regional cooperation. The Group enables participating countries to work together in a very transparent way, to exchange experience related to the security and defence sector, and to launch joint projects and initiatives that contribute to the common goal of strengthening stability and security in the region. The SEEGROUP transparency and dedication to concrete projects and cooperation with relevant regional initiatives contribute to strengthening stability and security in the region and integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures.

The SEEGROUP meeting in Brussels was a perfect opportunity to raise the visibility of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and its role in enhancing the level of security cooperation among countries of the SEE region.

During his stay in Bruxelles, Ambassador Todorcevski had a meeting with H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, NATO’s Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, during which the two Ambassadors engaged in a conversation about possible future cooperation between RACVIAC and NATO’s Public Diplomacy.

RACVIAC Director at a SEDM meeting in Antalya

Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, attended a South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Process meeting in Antalya, Turkey, from 02 to 03 October 2011.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 16 SEDM member and observer countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, the USA, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine), the Commander of the SEEBRIG Multinational Brigade as well as by representatives of JFC Naples, the Regional Cooperation Council and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

SEDM is an initiative for cooperation and dialogue on security issues in the region, committed to strengthening cooperation between the countries of Southeast Europe, Italy and the United States on defence area, in order to support the Euro-Atlantic integration of SEE countries.

The priorities of the two-year Italian Presidency of the SEDM process (2011-2013), after taking the Chairmanship from Bulgaria in July this year, are, among others, further strengthening of the SEDM role as a key forum for cooperation and dialogue on the security issues of the region and beyond.

In their presentations, Ministers of Defence reaffirmed the importance of NATO’s and the EU’s open door policy and ongoing efforts for peace and stability. At the same time, they confirmed their dedication to the open door policy for all the aspirant states that want to be part of the SEDM initiative.

After the official part of the meeting, Ambassador Todorcevski had a bilateral meeting with the host country representative, H.E. Mr Ismet Yilmaz, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey. Ambassador Todorcevski used the opportunity to express gratitude for the long-standing support provided by Turkey to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.
Major General Torres (OSCE) visited RACVIAC

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office for Article IV, Annex B-1of Dayton Peace Agreement, Major General Michele Torres and his staff visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Wednesday, 26 October 2011.

The OSCE delegation was welcomed by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, accompanied by the Deputy Director, Programme Managers and Planning and Liaison Officers.

The main purpose of the visit was the common interest and goal pursued by both organizations, namely supporting and assisting the four signatory countries of the Dayton Peace Agreement (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia) in the execution and implementation of Article IV.

RACVIAC has been dealing with the Dayton Peace Agreement from the very beginning, having conducted 17 activities dedicated to this subject matter so far, thus providing a good platform for confidence building in the SEE region.

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office for Article IV expressed his strong willingness to support RACVIAC, recognized as ‘the focal point in the region for dealing with Dayton Article IV’. Ambassador Todorcevski availed himself of the opportunity to thank the OSCE for the longstanding support provided to RACVIAC and the countries of the SEE region.

Background:
At the 1995 OSCE Ministerial Council in Budapest, OSCE participating States decided to designate a Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to assist the parties in the former Yugoslavia in their negotiations and implementation of peace and arms control agreements.

The mandate for the negotiations and implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control Article IV, Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (also called the Dayton Peace Accords) - was to establish “...balanced and stable defence force levels at the lowest numbers consistent with their respective security”.

Major General Michele Torres was appointed to this position in September 2011. His main task is to assist the parties in implementing the Agreement, ensuring the appropriate verification of the data they provide during the Annual Exchange of Military Information, and supervising the collection and dissemination of all official notifications.

Major General Koteski visited RACVIAC

On 21 November 2011 Major General Goranco Koteski, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, visited RACVIAC. Major General was accompanied by Ms Mirjana Sterijova, Head of Department for International Cooperation, Colonel Zoran Sekulovski and Colonel Zvonko Atanasovski, non-resident Defence Attaché to Croatia. The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Deputy Director Colonel Zeljko Cepanec and RACVIAC senior staff. The occasion for the visit to RACVIAC was the desire expressed by Major General Koteski to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC and its staff.

Alongside the presentation of the current situation, organisational structure and past achievements of RACVIAC, the guests and their hosts engaged in a detailed discussion on RACVIAC’s Programme of Activities for 2011 and 2012 as well as on the prospects for mutual cooperation. Delegation of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* used the possibility to emphasize and praise the role of RACVIAC in the process of stabilization and development of the South East Europe region and to express strong support to efforts by RACVIAC in the forthcoming period.

Ambassador Todorcevski expressed sincere gratefulness for all the contribution and support RACVIAC received from former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* during past eleven years.

*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
US Embassy representative visited RACVIAC

On 28 November 2011, Mr Sean Moffatt, Political/Economic Officer at the US Embassy to the Republic of Croatia, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The occasion for the visit was the wish expressed by Mr Moffatt to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC, a unique international, regionally owned organization fostering dialogue and security cooperation in South East Europe. Mr Moffatt was welcomed by RACVIAC Deputy Director Colonel Zeljko Cepanec and RACVIAC senior staff members.

Following the presentation on the current situation of RACVIAC, its organizational structure, mission and achievements, Mr Moffatt and the hosts engaged in a fruitful discussion on RACVIAC’s scope of activities and plans for the future.

Subsequently, Mr Moffatt met with the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, who thanked Mr Moffatt for the interest showed in RACVIAC’s work and expressed hope that cooperation between the USA and RACVIAC would be enhanced in a time to come.

INTERVIEW

Interview with Major General Michele Torres, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords

General, could you please explain the main function/role of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords?

First of all, our mission is to assist the four signatory states of the Dayton Peace Accords, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, in the implementation of the agreed arms control measures, by providing support, advice and suggestions. We are also ensuring the proper verification of the data they exchange on annual basis and supervising the collection and dissemination of all official notifications. Generally speaking, my role is to ensure that the process of stabilization flows smoothly and that there are no obstacles in the path of Article IV implementation.

After 15 years of execution and implementation of Article IV, Annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Accords, how do you see its results reflected in the region and beyond?

We can proudly say that the mission of the Personal Representative is almost accomplished. Having reduced the armaments below the ceilings specified in the Agreement, the four countries confirmed their readiness to assume larger responsibility to implement Article IV of the Agreement on their own in the future. After 15 years of successful implementation, the parties have achieved such a level of mutual cooperation that the assistance of the international community will no longer be needed. This means that the countries are almost ready to take the regional ownership process that we started just two years ago in their own hands and proceed with the process without any kind of international support. This also shows the countries' strong willingness to affiliate themselves with other Euro-Atlantic integration processes.

After a very successful period of the implementation of Arms Control Treaties in whole Europe, Arms Control has fallen 'out of favour' of many policy makers. Considering the latest developments in the CFE-Treaty, can we also expect some major changes related to Article IV of the Agreement in the future?

Many definitions, provisions, procedures and categories for armaments reductions and limitations within Article IV were taken from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. However, the developments in the CFE-Treaty do not affect Article IV to a large extent. Since the signatory states are continuing to execute all the activities in the spirit of trust, transparency and cooperation, there is no need to introduce
any other procedures of implementation. However, the regional ownership process is not finished yet so we will continue with the verification activities and the trainings required. The regional ownership process is expected to be concluded by the end of 2014.

**Pursuant to Dayton Art IV, four acting parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia - are obliged to mutually conduct the verification regime. Given the latest round of NATO enlargement and the reasonable prospect of more countries from the region joining NATO in the near future, what is the future of the inspection regime when we know that NATO member states are not obliged to carry out such inspections?**

Yes, NATO countries do not conduct inspections among each other. However, all Article IV signatory states have reaffirmed their readiness to continue with the implementation of the Agreement and to further strengthen their full autonomy over its implementation. Croatia, as a NATO member, is the best example: it continued to fulfil its obligations in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement even after accession to NATO. We perceive this as a clear sign of the country's willingness to foster the spirit of cooperation. The credit for the successful implementation of Article IV, which helps the countries to advance towards fully-fledged Euro-Atlantic integration, goes not only to the OSCE, but primarily to the four countries themselves.

RACVIAC has been dealing with the Dayton Peace Agreement from the very beginning. So far we have conducted 17 activities dedicated to this subject matter, whereby we have tried to provide a good platform for confidence building in the SEE region. **Do you consider RACVIAC sufficiently embedded in the security cooperation in the region, especially in terms of Dayton Article IV?**

RACVIAC is a focal point for dialogue and cooperation on security matters in the region. In the eleven years of its existence the Centre has accumulated knowledge and experience on different aspects of security issues and confidence building measures, and especially on verification activities and arms control regimes. It is very important to find the most efficient way of cooperation between our two organizations. The OSCE should indentify new means and ways to gradually transfer full autonomy to the Parties in the following years. Whatever decision is to be made, I am sure it will be for the benefit of the Parties and the overall regional stability.

Major General Michele Torres has been the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords since September 2011. Prior to this he served as Deputy Commander of the Multinational Division South-East in Iraq; Chief of the Protocol of the Italian Army General Staff; Italian Army’s Spokesperson; Deputy Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Army General Staff; Commander of the Armoured Brigade; Chief of the General Affairs Office at the Army General Staff; Commander of the Artillery Regiment; Assistant Military Attaché at the Italian Embassy in Egypt; Chief of Staff of the Armoured Brigade and Commander of Artillery Group. He also served in NATO missions in Bosnia and Kosovo and is decorated with a number of medals.

Major General Torres holds an Academic degree in Political Science (University of Trieste) and Master’s degrees in Strategic Science (University of Torino) and Institutional Communication (University of Rome).

**Interview with Mr Zoran Sajinovic, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Over the past few years Bosnia and Herzegovina has had a significantly more active role in the field of international defence cooperation, both within the region and wider. We are familiar with the fact that the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been participating actively in UN missions for a number of years, that two units have taken part in the operation Iraqi Freedom and that your country’s forces are currently taking part in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Furthermore, Euro-Atlantic integration has been identified as one of the priorities of the foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this regard, would you be so kind to explain the current status of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of accession to NATO and what requirements are still to be fulfilled in this field?

It is correct that Bosnia and Herzegovina is actively contributing to international efforts to restore and keep peace in the world. Evidently, our contribution is in line with the available capacities and the objective status of Bosnia and Herzegovina in international relations. However, through its
participation in international peace-support operations, Bosnia and Herzegovina is demonstrating an ability to be a constructive and reliable member of the international community, thus signaling a clear message that its role has changed from being a beneficiary of international peace-support efforts into being an active contributor to the same processes. Participation in NATO-led operations effectively confirms the credibility of aspirations of a candidate country to become a fully-fledged member of the Alliance. In this regard, both the NATO head office and its member states welcome and acknowledge the role of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the ISAF operation.

As far as NATO membership is concerned, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made considerable progress through the utilization of so-called ‘tools of partnership’, namely IPP, PARP, IPAP, ID as well as MAP, a programme to which Bosnia and Herzegovina has been admitted on a single condition. The formal obstacle keeping us from becoming a full beneficiary of the MAP programme and from developing the Annual National Programme of cooperation with NATO (ANP) is the registration of prospective military locations as the state property to be placed at the disposal of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Intensive efforts are being made to reach political agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding different modalities of finding a solution to this issue and fulfilling the mentioned MAP condition. In this regard, I am optimistic and I do believe that the imminent progress in the fulfillment of that condition and the start of a new phase in the institutional relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Alliance through the MAP programme will give fresh impetus and necessary dynamics to the process of accession to NATO itself.

Mr Sajinovic, a year of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) Chairmanship is now behind you. Prior to that, you had been Bosnia and Herzegovina’s MAG POC. Therefore, it is needless to say that you are a good connoisseur of RACVIAC. Would you mind drawing a comparison between the original RACVIAC and the present-day RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation?

In the eleven years of its existence, RACVIAC has evidently gone through considerable transformation process, possibly as comprehensive as to make it hard to draw comparisons between RACVIAC in 2000, a pioneer Regional centre which primarily dealt with promoting cooperation through verification and arms control activities, and the present-day RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation which has gained recognition as an indispensable factor competently contributing to finding solutions to a broad spectrum of issues falling under the contemporary security threats, challenges and risks domain. Indeed, RACVIAC has evolved, just like our region as a whole has undergone a transition from the stabilization and confidence and security-building phase into the phase of integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures. RACVIAC’s flexibility in terms of its mission, structure and the work organization, led by a vision of RACVIAC management and supported by Members and Associate members, has proved to be essential for the past work of RACVIAC and the respectable reputation RACVIAC enjoys today. As I have personally taken part in the process of establishment and transformation of RACVIAC, I perceive the success of RACVIAC with a bit of personal emotion and, if you will pardon my lack of modesty, with a feeling of satisfaction. Furthermore, notwithstanding this professional side, I am personally involved with RACVIAC through a number of friendships, and I may say that this regional networking has enriched me, just as it has enriched many other RACVIAC staff members, MAG members and participants in our workshops, seminars and conferences.

As regards the MAG Chairmanship, I have taken it both as a responsible and personally honoring duty. I am proud of the fact that the common efforts of RACVIAC Members, Associate and Observer countries and the Centre’s management have brought visible progress in the last year in terms of adopting a number of conceptual, strategic and planning documents, forging new partnerships and finding at least an initial way out of the insufficient and uncertain financing of the Centre’s basic functions. The forthcoming period will require further commitment to this process as well as additional efforts in order to ensure political support and stable staffing with qualified and motivated personnel seconded from member states.

How would you evaluate the role of RACVIAC in the field of regional cooperation and assistance to SEE countries in their Euro-Atlantic integration processes?

RACVIAC is an important and an irreplaceable subject in the field of regional cooperation. Not only do its mission, programme of activities and even its internal organization represent a good model but also a verified instrument and a platform for practical forms of cooperation, the results of which are shared not only among its member states and in the region, but even beyond. Regional cooperation is one of important prerequisites and a test for verifying the capacity of member states to efficiently integrate into broader security, economic and political structures. The current structure of permanent members of RACVIAC is diverse and homogenous at the same time. Evidently, the countries have different formal statuses or different statuses in the fulfillment of their aspirations towards integration into Euro-Atlantic structures, as well as a different level of commitment to common goals demonstrated through a common project RACVIAC. This only confirms the strength and the potential of the Region which, despite being potentially the most unstable part of Europe, represents at the same time an area of immense progress and fruitful cooperation. Needless to say that RACVIAC deserves a part of the credit for the jointly achieved results.

Since the political and security situation in South East Europe (SEE) is subject to constant change, and by this I mean in the positive direction, where and how do you see the future role of RACVIAC in terms of regional security cooperation?

I have already emphasized the ability of RACVIAC to transform itself together with the region it belongs to and to which it offers its own professional expertise, experience and a climate propitious for cooperation. I am confident that the transformation of RACVIAC will continue in the same direction and that in each phase of further progress of the region towards enhanced stability and integration into Euro-Atlantic structures we will be able to count on RACVIAC, whose mission, structure and programme of activities are adapted to the challenges of the moment. Experience and lessons learned from RACVIAC might represent an interesting model for stimulating and enhancing regional cooperation in some other parts of the world.
Bosnia and Herzegovina has been supporting RACVIAC and its activities actively from the very beginning. Besides financial contributions and the active participation in the Centre's activities through provision of participants and lecturers, the secondment of officers to RACVIAC staff constitutes an important part of your country's support. Currently, RACVIAC staff members include three staff officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina's Armed Forces. Do you see those secondments as a good investment, and can RACVIAC count on a similar support in the future as well?

The scope and the content of Bosnia and Herzegovina's support to RACVIAC reflect clear political commitment and orientation determined by strategic governmental documents such as Security Policy, Foreign Policy Guidelines etc. Therefore, I perceive the support to RACVIAC not only as an act of responsibility relating to issues of common interest for the Region, but also as an efficient mechanism for the fulfillment of foreign-policy goals in the field of good neighborly relations and regional cooperation, and for promoting values and aspirations for EU and NATO membership. The financing of RACVIAC and the contribution to the structure of its permanent staff have been given high priority in my country so far. Current economic challenges and growing international engagement of military and civil personnel of Bosnia and Herzegovina in diplomatic and military missions impose a demanding task and a number of complex issues in terms of sufficiency of available resources. However, I am of the opinion that the relevant institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina will persist in ensuring the existing level of support for RACVIAC both in 2011 and 2012.

Mr Sajinovic has been the Assistant Minister for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina since June 2004. Prior to this he served as Head of the Sector for Internal and External Affairs at the Ministry of Defense, as Member of Directorate and Head of the Department for Foreign Cooperation at the Secretariat of the Standing Committee for Military Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Civil Servant at the Ministry of Defense of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as HVO Liaison Officer for international organizations accredited in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr Sajinovic holds a university degree in Mechanical Engineering, University of Sarajevo.

Interview with Brigadier General Massimo Panizzi, former Public Affairs and StratCom Advisor to the NATO Military Committee Chairman and International Military Staff, on the occasion of ‘NATO Enlargement: Integration and Security in SEE Region’ Conference

Rakitje, 16 November 2011

General, can you please tell us about the NATO Strategic Concept adopted at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, especially in the light of further NATO enlargement?

First of all I would like to commend Croatia’s efforts to integrate fully and practically into NATO after having joined the Alliance at the NATO Strasbourg - Kehl Summit. It was a very important step. Furthermore, initiatives like RACVIAC are very important to promote dialogue on security issues at regional level. That’s really good. So, congratulations to the RACVIAC Centre and to the Balkan countries which have participated in this event and which are supporting these initiatives. I hope RACVIAC’s work will continue well into the future.

Regarding the new Strategic Concept, NATO is in the process of implementing decisions taken in Lisbon in response to new security challenges. We are working on a number of different issues, trying to take advantage of new ideas for partnerships which enable us to better share information and operational culture. NATO is also trying to involve other partners in the common fight against terrorism, which is perceived as one of the major threats we are currently faced with.

Cyber defence is another important domain. In June, Ministers of Defence signed an important document entitled “NATO Concept on Cyber Defence”, complemented by an Action Plan. So, cyber defence has moved on from being just an idea. We are now putting in place the adopted measures, which should better enable us to fight this fast-growing and worrying threat to security.
Concerning the weapons of mass destruction, yet another serious concern for the international security, I can say that NATO's ballistic missile defence is very well prepared. In this regard, NATO is looking for the participation not only of NATO countries but other countries as well, Russia in particular. Our relationship with Russia, a strategic player, is very important. We are now trying to reach some practical decisions on this issue, which is perceived as one of the major priorities for the Alliance.

Other challenges fall under domains usually referred to as the common space system, common goods, and maritime space. For example, NATO is cooperating with the EU and other countries in order to counter the increasing piracy threat to our merchant shipping.

Furthermore, NATO is actively contributing to international community efforts to guarantee the freedom of maritime space, especially for commercial reasons. As you can see, these are all different domains and aspects of NATO's practical involvement within the framework of its new Strategic Concept.

What are the current challenges in the operation and transformation of the Alliance?

The global financial crisis makes it more difficult for NATO to counter the above-mentioned threats. As you know, we are fully involved in Afghanistan, we are still in Kosovo, we have just concluded the Operation in Libya and in a period of financial constraints it is very difficult for NATO and its member States to guarantee the same capabilities.

This is the reason why the Secretary General is looking to implement the idea launched under the name “Smart Defence”, which is a way of optimizing spending. The “Smart Defence” concept is primarily about “burden sharing” of capacities, and trying to convince nations to participate in more multinational projects. In order to save money, each nation can decide where and in which projects they want to put their efforts. So, multinational projects could be a very good solution to minimise the costs while at the same time they serve as a guarantee of keeping NATO capabilities at the same ambitious levels.

All these aspects of NATO's current activities are connected: the ongoing missions, the transformation of the Alliance into a more streamlined but effective and deployable organization from the military point of view and, of course, the “Smart Defence” concept. These initiatives are designed to ensure NATO remains a modern organization capable of facing new security challenges.

Concerning the NATO transformation, this is being carried out on different levels. As part of this process, the NATO Command Structure is also undergoing transformation. The number of HQ personnel is being downsized from around 13,000 to 8,900 in order to streamline the organization. NATO member nations, however, must fulfil their commitment to provide the Alliance with the right capacities, right capabilities and the right personnel.

How does the future enlargement fit into this transformation process?

You know that the open door policy is a reality. All the nations that aspire to be part of the Alliance as member states can apply for membership provided they meet certain criteria. Enlargement means that more nations participate in the same efforts of the NATO family in order to tackle global security challenges.

How do you consider the role of SEE countries in NATO-led operations, such as ISAF, Iraq and KFOR? Some of them, like Albania and Croatia, are NATO members, but others are still candidates. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has already completed the requirements for membership; Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro have been potential members since 2008. What are the benefits of their participation in such operations and how is this reflected in their NATO integration processes?

Many nations from the SEE region are contributing to NATO efforts in Afghanistan, and not only there. NATO appreciates their participation in the operations and considers it as highly valuable. In Afghanistan we now have a total of 49 nations: 28 NATO members and 21 partners non-NATO contributing nations, as we call them. Some of them are SEE countries and their contribution is held in high esteem.

However, there is no direct link between participating in NATO-led missions and becoming a NATO member. There are non-NATO contributing nations in Afghanistan which do not aspire to become members. But one of the prerequisites to become a Member is having security, armed forces that are modern. So, participation in NATO operations can help in modernising armed forces, making them more deployable and able to inter-operate with multinational forces, thereby fulfilling the membership criteria. Moreover, the ability of nations to work together is extremely important. Interoperability is an important NATO criterion. When soldiers work together in an operation, in the field, in Afghanistan for example, the integration moment is crucial. I would say, knowing each other, building trust, understanding each other and operating together is always essential for the success of a mission.

NATO has been contributing to the peace and security in SEE region from early 1990s. What could be the future NATO engagement in the SEE region?

With regard to the SEE region, NATO is still involved in Kosovo and after 12 years of commitment we can say that the operation is going well. KFOR has proved successful, and its role in Kosovo was fundamental for securing peace, stability and development. The next step will be more political than military. Although there are still some security problems in the north, we can say that our mission is achieved. We are monitoring the situation very closely. KFOR is involved, but the main issue is political. So, it is up to political leaders to find a solution while NATO is still there to guarantee a safe and secure environment.

Furthermore, NATO still has a small HQ in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but we see that the situation is now much better than some years ago.
How would you assess the role of RACVIAC in addressing different security challenges in the SEE region?

When I received the invitation to attend this Conference, to be frank, I was not well aware of the role played by the Centre. But, I was aware of the efforts Croatia had been making in exercising its new membership. Initiatives aimed at facilitating dialogue and fostering a culture of security and cooperation which are carried out by your Centre are every important for preventing security threats from turning into reality.

So, I think these Initiatives should be further expanded. Bringing together representatives of different countries of the Region is a great success, considering that not long time ago it was almost unthinkable. This initiative definitely deserves to be commended.

Is there any capacity for further closer cooperation between our two organizations?

NATO Public Diplomacy is fully involved in increasing and promoting these kinds of initiatives, studies, think tanks, universities etc. I hope that RACVIAC will continue to strengthen its cooperation with NATO. It is worth mentioning here that the Chief of NATO Public Diplomacy is a Croatian Ambassador who has a very active role in promoting NATO.

Brigadier General Massimo Panizzi has been the Public Affairs and StratCom Advisor to the NATO Military Committee Chairman and International Military Staff since July 2008. Prior to this, after finishing the Military Academy, he served as a Company Commander in the Battalion Alpini and the Alpine Military School, Deputy Chief of Public Information Cell within Multinational Division South East and Military Assistant and Interpreter in French to the Multinational North Brigade’s Commander in the missions “Joint Guardian” and “Joint Endeavour” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vice Director of the Public Information Agency of the Italian Army General Staff, Commander of the Alpini Battalion in the mission “Joint Guardian” in Kosovo, Chief Public Information Officer and the Communication Advisor to the KFOR Commander, Military Assistant to the Deputy Commander of the Multinational Corps in Iraq, Commander of the Alpini Regiment and the Multinational Regiment of the European Battle Group.

Brigadier General Panizzi holds several university and master degrees in Strategic Sciences, International and Diplomatic Relations, European Studies, Military International Studies and Peace Keeping and Security Studies.

2nd MAG POCs Meeting

Continuing the good practice of MAG POCs meetings started in the spring this year, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation organized the 2nd autumn MAG POCs Meeting on 8th September 2011. The purpose of the meeting, taking place at RACVIAC, was to discuss some current issues and make all the necessary preparations for the 26th MAG Meeting. The MAG POCs Meeting gathered representatives of twelve (12) Member and Associated member countries, namely from: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey, as well as RACVIAC staff.

During the meeting, the RACVIAC management and staff provided the participants with updates on the Programme 2011, draft Programme 2012-2015 and the current financial and personnel situation at RACVIAC, which was followed by very productive and constructive discussion. On their part, the representatives of the Signatory countries presented the current status of the ratification process in their respective Governments. The meeting also offered an excellent opportunity to discuss more intensive and far-reaching cooperation between Member countries, to raise awareness of the regional ownership concept and to strengthen ties among the RACVIAC Member countries and Associate members, in the best interest of security and stability in the region.

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The 26th semi-annual summit of RACVIAC steering body - the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) - took place in Raktije, Republic of Croatia, from 11 to 12 October 2011. The Meeting, held under the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina, gathered more than 40 representatives from the majority of RACVIAC Member States and a representative of the Regional Security Council (RCC). Officially opening the Meeting, MAG Chairperson Zoran Sajinovic stressed that, owing to the concept of regional ownership, RACVIAC continued to serve as a premier platform for dialogue on security issues in the region despite the financial constrains.

Pursuant to the Meeting Agenda, Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski gave a brief presentation of the Director’s Interim Report. RACVIAC Director underlined that in the reporting period „RACVIAC has acted as a promoter of common values, to be shared by all member countries, touching in a number of its activities the very essence of security cooperation of the region“.

In accordance with the Agenda, RACVIAC Programme Managers Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Miene and Mr Branko Kromar, and Mr Milan Janicijevic, acting IRC Pillar Programme Manager, took the floor in order to present the respective programme achievements in the first eight months of the year 2011 and the programme projections for the year 2012-2015. Following their presentations, Colonel Zeljko Cepanec, RACVIAC Deputy Director, informed the MAG about the current financial issues in the functioning of RACVIAC and the current personnel situation.

This Meeting was also a good opportunity for exchanging information on ratification procedures concerning the new Agreement on RACVIAC in the MAG Member States. The new Agreement had been signed during the 23rd MAG Meeting by eight SEECP countries, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, and subsequently by Romania in February 2011. The remaining Signatory countries informed the audience that their respective ratification processes were in the final stage.

As it is a common practice during autumn meetings, MAG also elected the new MAG Chairperson for the period 2011-2012. As approved by MAG, that position is to be taken by Brigadier General Zyber Dushku, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces. MAG used the opportunity to congratulate Mr Sajinovic on the successful Chairmanship and expressed hope that he would stay actively involved in the work of RACVIAC.

A joint conclusion by the MAG representatives that RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation is one of the most effective initiatives in the region, with good prospects for the future given the full implementation of the regional ownership concept, marked the end of the Meeting.

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Workshop on Military Base Conversion and Transition of Military Personnel

Co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia


After more than 20 workshops on Transition of Military Personnel (TMP) and Military Base Conversion (MBC) over the past six years, it was inevitable to finalise this phase of dealing with defence conversion issues and to produce a handbook reflecting the status of MBC and TMP aspects of defence in SEE countries, all within the framework of the project “Defence Conversion Modalities in SEE Specific Regional Model”.

The workshop brought together the Project Areas group members from six SEE countries, namely from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia, in order to finalise the project by producing a Project Paper, which is to be published in the first quarter of 2012.

The first working day started with the Welcome addresses delivered by RACVIAC Deputy Director Col Zeljko Cepanec and Mr Igor Nered, Director General, Logistics Directorate, Slovenian MoD, followed by a short welcome speech by Lt Col Jani Topolovec, BC, SAF, MAB HQ Cerklje. The afternoon session saw a presentation on the MAB Cerklje conversion project ‘Review of determinants important to military base conversion’ given by Mr Joze Lacko, Project Manager of the reconstruction of the airport Cerklje. This presentation was followed by a projection of the film made in support of the MAB Cerklje project.

Following the projection, participants engaged in the working sessions of their respective Project Area groups, covering the work on the project Defence Conversion Modalities in SEE Specific Regional Model. Divided in two Project Areas, one for TMP, chaired by LtCol Davor Kiralj (HR), and the other for MBC, co-chaired by LtCol Sergiu Railean (MD) and LtCol Neven Bajic (HR), national representatives, who had previously completed their work on TMP and MBC questionnaires on their national levels, discussed questionnaires, finalized information processing and harmonized requested papers.

The next working day saw a continuation of the Project Area groups’ working sessions during which the details regarding the final work were discussed and arranged.

Furthermore, it was agreed:
• To prepare an updated contact list for the purpose of more intensive communication;
• To complete the remaining work on the questionnaires and background papers by the end of October 2011;
• To release the project publication as scheduled in the project documentation.

The aim and the purpose of the Project publication is to provide a realistic reference point for future defence conversion projects not only in the six SEE countries which participated in the Project but also in other SEE countries sharing the defence conversion background, obstacles and problems, financial capabilities and Euro-Atlantic integration path.

Lastly, it should be pointed out once again that this unique and extremely important publication which will mark the end of the RACVIAC Defence Conversion project could open a whole new page in addressing, mapping and implementing defence conversion projects in the region of South East Europe.

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Seminar on Civil-Military Approach in EU Crisis Management

In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and TAIEX

In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX), RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation conducted a seminar on "Civil-Military Approach in EU Crisis Management" in the period from 19 to 20 October 2011.

The purpose of the seminar was to increase awareness of the importance of harmonized civil-military approach in Crisis Management among SEE countries in order to ensure a higher level of preparedness for prospective crises and to harmonize practical and operational solutions with EU standards and regulations in this field.

Intensified, extended and enhanced cooperation between civil authorities and the military has become an irreplaceable imperative in the field of Crisis Management. During the negotiation process for EU membership, the candidate / potential candidate countries are required to accept the acquis in a number of fields, including the CFSP and the CSDP of the EU. This implies implementing different EU strategies and other relevant reforms. In that sense, sharing the experience gained during the process of acceptance and implementation of EU standards in Crisis Management with and among SEE countries is of vital importance for their future accession to the EU.

The seminar gathered more than 30 participants representing Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Interior from different EU and SEE countries as well as representatives from relevant academic institutions and organizations. Opening the seminar, the Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski stressed that "many South East European countries are at the doorstep of full-fledged EU membership, being either candidate or potential candidate countries. Therefore, supporting their capacity-building process is of crucial importance, not only for the Region, but for whole Europe as well". The keynote speech, addressing the topic of the EU crisis management structures and tools, was delivered by Mr Dignus Hendrik Zandee, Senior Research Associate at the Netherlands Clingendal Institute. Other guest speakers included Ms Gordana Naumovska, Crisis Management Centre (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*), Mr Pieter Volten, Centre for European Security Studies, Ms Lidija Georgieva, the University of St Cyril and Methodius (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*), LtCol Guisepe Zirone, Arma di Carabinieri (Italy), Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., Ministry of Defence (Slovenia), and Mr Niklas Lindskog, Folkebernadotteacademy (Sweden).

The first working day was focused on the survey of the European crisis management structure and tools and the civil direction of the military. The second working day offered presentations on the development of civilian-military capabilities from national points of view and a case study related to the police development entitled "The role of carabineers corps in international missions".

The seminar successfully provided a comprehensive platform for exchanging experience and information on the SEE countries’ common priorities in the process of EU integration. This event has proved once again that RACVIAC’s efforts are part of the capacity-building process in SEE, in terms of fostering European standards and preparing the countries of the Region for their future accession to the EU.

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Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance

Co-organized with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre


The workshop gathered more than 60 participants, technical practitioners such as customs service risk analysts, customs service field officers, supervisory senior level inspectors and licensing officials from the issuing offices, representing Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey. Highly professional lecturers, coming from the OSCE, national ministries, national and international licensing offices and non-governmental agencies and institutions from the United Kingdom, the USA, Germany, Switzerland and Croatia, were ready to share their expertise, lessons learned and views during the entire course of the workshop.

This was the first RACVIAC activity on this topic and due to a particularly high interest, RACVIAC was constrained to decline some applications in order to reduce the number of participants to the most optimal one. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance information sharing between customs services and licensing officers at national and regional levels in order to effectively fight the trafficking of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and strategic dual-use commodities.

The 1st working day, comprising two sessions (The role of licensing in fighting proliferation and Intelligence or information driven risk management systems), was dedicated to the following topics: Licensing of Controlled and Dual-Use Goods; End Use Controls; Pre-delivery checks/Post-delivery checks; Reporting and Information Exchange and Intelligence or Information Driven Risk Management and its Role in Counter-Proliferation.

The 2nd working day saw presentations on: Customs Clearance / Strategic High-Tech Identification: The Supporting Role of the Licensing Authority; Regional Profiling and Targeting - Sharing Transactions; A presentation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime programme for WCO Container Control; The Risk Matrix and Proliferation; Technical Advice for Customs Officers; Officer Safety - Is Personal Worry Stopping Interceptions and Risk Ownership - Spreading the Wealth.

The end of the 2nd day and the whole 3rd day were earmarked for national representatives' presentations of their respective national points of view. They were given an opportunity to demonstrate the current capacities and initiatives of their respective nations in bringing together the most effective responses to proliferation and ensuring controlled, accountable and effectively communicated legitimate trade in small arms and light weapons.

The workshop enabled customs inspectors and customs risk analysts from all SEE states to come together with licensing officials (civilian and military), thus encouraging mutual dialogue and the creation of communication networks indispensable for essential information sharing. By examining national processes and international requirements as a group, these officials learn not only about their colleagues' work but also about the common efforts that should be expended towards meeting the legal necessities of a strategic trade movement. The workshop also established a knowledge base on the best practices in use within the region and raised awareness of the types of movements that can be expected in transit to and from neighboring countries.

Background: The participating States of the OSCE all have legitimate trade transactions involving the movement of conventional weapons and dual-use goods. Under the requirements of UNSCR 1540 these nations also must monitor, license, and control the export and import of strategic controlled commodities. Therefore, reporting and accountability are important factors that should be continually addressed. In order to be most effective, the multiple agencies of a government that are responsible for the actions should share information in the timeliest fashion, with least restriction. In the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) adopted in 2000, OSCE participating States agreed to combat illicit trafficking in all its aspects through the adoption and implementation of national controls on small arms, including effective export control and border and customs mechanisms, and through enhanced co-operation and information exchange among law enforcement and customs agencies at international, regional and national levels.
Physical Security and Stockpile Management Course, co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of the Republic of Austria, took place in Vienna, Austria, from 08 to 11 November 2011. RACVIAC organized this Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Executive Level Course in order to promote the proper management and security of national stockpiles in the SEE region. The purpose of the course was to train executive managers to assess national stockpiles, operational procedures and infrastructure, to provide ways for potential improvements to security and management, and to introduce best international practices in PSSM.

The course, designed for mid to high-level officials with management responsibility, brought together participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and representatives of EUFOR, the OSCE and the ITF. Lecturers represented the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from the USA, German Bundeswehr Verification Centre (ZVBw), Belgian Verification Centre and experts from the Republic of Austria.

Opening the course, Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski said: ‘Stockpiles of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Conventional Armament (CA) and explosives continue to be a matter of serious concern to all the countries in the world, including the South East Europe region. The recent explosions worldwide prove that continuous efforts are still required if we are to find a successful solution to this challenge. We believe that only a continuous effort, especially in terms of providing appropriate education and training, can ease the situation and contribute to finding a successful solution to this challenge’.

The course was conducted as a combination of presentations, lectures and a tabletop exercise. The presentations covered a wide range of topics related to PSSM: SALW Proliferation Threat, International Agreements, Risk Management, Internal Security, External Security, Arms Security, Emergency Planning and Response, Ammunition Basics, SALW Elimination, Net Explosive Weight Hazards, UN Hazard Classification, Ammunition Compatibility, Ammunition Paintings and Markings, Ammunition Storage, Container Markings, and Ammunition Surveillance. The tabletop exercise was focused on re-warehousing.

The highly experienced lecturers capable of sharing knowledge successfully captured the attention of the audience. The course provided participants with an excellent opportunity to exchange information and openly discuss accidents at ammunition depots and factories, and to address challenges posed by aging ammunitions and explosives.

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In cooperation with NATO, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation organised and conducted a conference entitled “NATO Enlargement - Integration and Security in SEE region” in Raktije, from 15 to 17 November 2011. The purpose of the conference was to examine the prospects of NATO enlargement in the region by informing the SEE countries about past and current developments concerning NATO integration and security in the region, especially in the light of the conclusions of the 2010 Lisbon Summit. Furthermore, the activity provided NATO member and candidate member states from the region with an opportunity to exchange views and lessons learned relating to the progress in NATO integration.

More than 30 participants representing Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Security from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as representatives from NATO, EUFOR, the Institute for International Relations, the Atlantic Council of Serbia and Faculties of Political Science from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia participated in the event. The keynote speech on the Emerging Security Challenges under NATO’s New Strategic Concept was delivered by Brigadier General Massimo Panizzi, Public Affairs and STRATCOM Advisor to the Military Committee Commander, NATO HQ Brussels. In his speech, General Panizzi pointed out that “NATO current security challenges are more unpredictable and potentially more complicated than ever before. NATO is addressing these new challenges and risks with a fresh perspective and a comprehensive approach that encompasses broad political, military economic and social dynamics to enable blended solutions to the root causes of these security challenges.”

The first working day was divided into three sessions: “NATO - EU cooperation in the field of crisis management after the Lisbon Treaty”, “The participation and the role of SEE countries in NATO-led missions: Lessons learned and the way ahead” and “Partnership for peace programme: an instrument for dialogue and cooperation”.

NATO’s new Strategic Concept, adopted at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, reaffirmed the Allies’ commitment to keep NATO’s door open to any European country in a position to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership and contribute to the security in the Euro-Atlantic area. It also paved the way for full NATO integration of South-East European (SEE) countries, as potential NATO member states from SEE have demonstrated willingness to take the necessary steps and meet the benchmarks set for their possible future membership.

The second working day of the conference started with a session titled “The accession experience after the last NATO enlargement” and proceeded with a session on “Prospects of NATO - membership: Building the confidence among the remaining non-members in the Region and the Alliance itself”. The session entitled “NATO membership - a security guarantee for increasing economic cooperation among SEE countries” concluded the working part of the conference.

The activity provided a successful continuation of information and experience exchange in terms of common priorities and challenges in the process of NATO integration. It succeeded to bring together representatives of NATO member and non-member countries in order to discuss the NATO Open Door Policy as an essential contributor to the security in the North Atlantic area, thus reaffirming the commitment of RACVIAC to promote open dialogue and security cooperation among the countries of South East Europe.

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From 22 to 23 November 2011 the Albanian capital Tirana hosted the Arms Control Symposium, jointly organised by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Albania, the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

The purpose of this event was to present the latest developments in the field of arms control and to open a new perspective in confidence-building measures for peace and stability in South East Europe.

Participants included thirty-four representatives of ministries, political institutions and national authorities devoted to the implementation of arms control treaties and arms control experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Turkey. Highly professional lecturers represented the OSCE, NATO, national ministries and verification centres from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Hungary and the USA.

The implementation of various arms control treaties in SEE plays a key role in strengthening cooperation and stability among the countries of the Region. Owing to its ten years’ experience and generous support from regional and international partners, RACVIAC is well placed to serve as the regional centre for training, education and capacity building in the field of arms control.

The opening session of the symposium, moderated by CSE Pillar Programme Manager LtCol Stefan Miene, started on 22 November 2011 with the welcome remarks by H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Director of RACVIAC. It was followed by an address by H.E. Ambassador Eugen Wollfarth, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania. In the course of the same session, Mr Arjan Starova, Albanian Deputy Minister of Defence, delivered a speech on “Efforts to reduce military arsenals - significant contribution to peace, security and mutual trust”.

The second session was conducted as a combination of presentations and discussions on: The significance of arms control and confidence building measures for peace and stability in Europe; Military aspects of the application of existing treaties in the interest of international stability; Further developments of goal-oriented OSCE commitments to tackling transnational threats; Perspectives of conventional arms control in Europe after the CFE Review Conference and Dayton Article IV and V and their role in the security and stability in South Eastern Europe.

The second day, moderated by Mr Wolfgang Richter, was conducted as a podium discussion on a number of issues, i.e. stock-taking of security risks, available instruments and future objectives of conventional arms control in Europe; sub-regional instability due to unresolved territorial status conflicts; security challenges to pan-European stability; new security risks and challenges originating from outside Europe; interim conclusions on the objectives and instruments for a future arms control regime in Europe; arms control tools - limitations, transparency and categories of armaments; regional aspects of arms control in South-Eastern Europe.

The final conclusion of the Arms Control Symposium panel was that dangerous technologies and conflict sources throughout the world couldn't be controlled exclusively through military action or other unilateral means. They require a coherent strategy which would imply a regulation of those harmful developments through coordinated international initiatives. In other words, they require arms control.

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“Public Media and Security in SEE” conference

Co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Croatian Radio and Television (HRT)

A two-day conference entitled “Public Media and Security in SEE”, jointly co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Croatian Radio and Television, was conducted in Rakitje from 22 - 24 November 2011.

The idea for the realization of a conference on this subject matter arose out of the need to promote the EU media and security related standards and to draw attention to the interconnection between public media services and security institutions. This relation was explored through dialogue and exchange of information, views and ideas, with the aim of building a more open, transparent and stable environment in the Region.

The purpose of this conference was to provide a platform for open dialogue and discussion on the role of public media services in the general safety of citizens, to foster media pluralism and to support cooperation between regional public media services and national security institutions. More specific objectives included analyzing the transparency of the relationship between public media and security institutions, examining the role of the media in crisis management operations, promoting the necessity of improving the standards and capacity building in the field of public media services, and sharing information, views, and experience on security issues and regional and international cooperation.

The conference gathered more than 50 participants: spokespersons from ministries of defense (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia), representatives from public media services (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia*, France, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Turkey), representatives of European Broadcasting Union, South Eastern European Media Organization, Regional Cooperation Council, Organization for Promotion of Euro Atlantic Integration, European Military Press Association and Regional Media Training Centre, as well as military journalists and representatives of the Faculty of Political Sciences in Zagreb.

Formal opening addresses were delivered by Mr Josip Popovac, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Croatian Radio and Television, and by Mr Zlatko Gareljic, Defence Affairs Advisor to the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Opening the Conference Mr Gareljic said that “the media have an important place and special role in contemporary societies. This refers to independent, professionally oriented media that are responsible to the general public and society in general. The public has the right to know what is going on and what the current situation in defence and the security system is, to know what is happening in international missions and operations and how ready their armed forces are to accomplish their missions”.

The conference was divided into three main sessions entitled: “Cooperation and commitment to the development and strengthening of the relations between security institutions and public media”; “The importance of building public media standards and capabilities in security issues” and “The role of public media in crisis management operations in SEE and abroad”.

The third session, comprising presentations delivered by representatives of the public media and spokespersons from regional Ministries of Defence on the topic of media-military cooperation, was the most interesting part of the conference. It led to underscoring the following common points:

- Transparency is one of the crucial moments in the relationship between the public media and national institutions/departments dealing with crisis management;
- Constant cooperation is necessary not only to timely inform the public, but to promptly prevent and warn of various types of risks, hazards and disasters;
- There is no cooperation without better coordination and mutual understanding;
- Exchanges of experience and opinions give way to finding best solutions;
- Joint work by security institutions’ PR departments and the public media contributes to the development of dialogue and confidence building in the region;
- Security institutions’ PR departments should provide quick, complete, objective and precise information on events, happenings and processes; their relationship with the media should be characterized by active communication and transparency.

At the end of the event, all the participants recognized the importance of further promoting this initiative. Therefore, they highly recommended organizing another activity on strategic communication, crisis communication or specific training (adverse situations reporting etc.) next year.

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A one-day seminar titled “Better Defence Resources Management - Polling and Sharing as Smart Defence” was conducted by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 08 December 2011.

This seminar was organized as a follow-up to the “First Regional Meeting of Heads of Procurement Departments” co-organized by RACVIAC and the Montenegrin Ministry of Defence in April this year. The mentioned meeting had identified pooling and sharing as an important segment of a successful defence resource management in times of depleted defence budgets and severe financial constraints.

The purpose of the seminar was to present the “polling and sharing” concept and to acquaint the participants with some successful projects based on its implementation.

The seminar gathered more than 25 military officials and staff members from defence policy, planning and procurement departments, representing Albania, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as lecturers from the European Defence Agency, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia.

In his opening remarks, Mr Dragan Lozancic, PhD, Head of Defence Policy Department, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, pointed out that, although the SEE region did not have any tradition in pooling and sharing, this concept could be the best instrument for defence cooperation among the countries in the future.

Focusing on the impact of the economic crisis on European defence budgets, Mr Phillipe Rutz, Project Officer for Pooling and Sharing in the European Defence Agency, emphasized that the main obstacle in pooling and sharing was fragmentation, i.e. diverging national requirements, different equipment and specific national production, which in turn resulted in a lack of standardization and interoperability, insufficient adaptability to a competitive market and a waste of money.

The seminar continued with a presentation entitled “New multinational capability development initiatives in Central Europe - good practices” by Mr Attila Demko, PhD, Head of Defence Planning Department, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Hungary. The presentation was focused on the current status of pooling and sharing in Central Europe and it gave the participants an opportunity to learn about good pooling and sharing practices in Central Europe and about possibilities for SEE countries to join some of those initiatives.

Mr Erik Kopac, PhD, University of Ljubljana, Republic of Slovenia, presented two aspects of pooling and sharing, the first from the perspective of the EU concept and the second from the perspective of NATO Smart Defence Strategy, thus giving the participants a wider picture of this type of defence cooperation.

The seminar was concluded with a common observation that the forthcoming NATO Summit in Chicago will help to define further steps in this field by laying out some new projects, and that RACVIAC's next defence resource management activity should be planned accordingly.

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A two-day round table entitled RACVIAC Cyber Security Project was conducted at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from 13-14 December 2011.

The round table, which has brought together around 50 experts on cyber security and representatives of SEE countries’ state institutions, has been designed so as to comprise presentations by internationally renowned experts in this field, including the representatives of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), NATO, the South East European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC), the US Naval Criminal Investigation Service, the Regional Cooperation Council, Cyber DefCon, the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of the Federal Republic of Austria and the Bundeswehr Transformation Centre of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The purpose of the round table was two-fold. Firstly, it was to bring together cyber security experts from the countries of the region and provide them with an opportunity to exchange relevant information and experience, as well as to expose them to the latest developments in this field. Secondly, it was to define the recommendations and guidelines for the future activity of RACVIAC in the cyber security domain.

The round table was divided into three sessions, namely: International and Regional Aspects of Cyber Security (Session I), The View from the Capitals (Session II) and RACVIAC Cyber Security Project (Session III).

The first session, moderated by Mr Ioan Landry (UNICRI), saw an analysis of the current global situation in cybercrime, information warfare and the contemporary asymmetric cyber threats against security, as well as the presentation of some achievements in combating cyber crime in South East Europe.

The second session, moderated by Mr Virgil Ivan-Cucu (RCC), was dedicated to exposés by the representatives of SEE countries.

The third session served as a platform for the collection of inputs from the participants regarding the RACVIAC Cyber Security Project and recommendations on the number and type of cyber security related activities to be conducted in the future.

The idea to organise the seminar, initially launched in December 2010 by the PSOTC and RACVIAC, was strongly supported by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) and the Centre for Security Studies Sarajevo. The seminar was envisaged as the first in a series of events addressing principal aspects of SSR in the context of participation of South East Europe (SEE) countries in Peace Support Operations (PSO). The purpose of the seminar was to enhance the understanding of and the involvement in the execution of SSR activities in the PSO mission area.

It successfully provided participants with insights into planning and implementation of an SSR programme in a PSO environment, specifically in terms of its theoretical and conceptual underpinnings, context and background, challenges and key facets.

The seminar gathered some 50 participants: military and civilian officials and representatives of ministries of defence, foreign and internal affairs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and the US, as well as representatives of NATO HQ Sarajevo, EUFOR, Centre for Security Studies Sarajevo, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Highly professional lecturers represented the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Joint Staff Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Background: In the last decade of the 20th century, PSO had been given a completely new design. Transformations to peace-building missions were directed to changes in their structure, establishment of new components and addition of new tasks. Their civilian component was strengthened with civilian police functions, monitoring of elections, provision of humanitarian aid, monitoring of human rights implementation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Just a few years later, development and democratization programs and SSR were introduced to the core of peace-building missions. Being members of international community, bound by alliances as well as their own security and defence strategies and agendas, countries of the region are equally expected to contribute to this global effort. Yet, with effective provision of security standing as one of preconditions to reconstruction and development, actors of PSO are facing increasing difficulties in planning their SSR related agenda.
After two years of service, Lieutenant Colonel Ewald Keller left RACVIAC to take up a new assignment in the Austrian Armed Forces. During his tour of duty at RACVIAC he worked as the Chief Planning & Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organisations, never hesitating to give his best in the tasks assigned to him. LtCol Keller was highly professional and devoted to his duty. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his work and friendship while wishing him success in his future career and private life.

After four years of service as the Chief of RACVIAC Service Branch, Captain Branko Lozancic ended his tour of duty at the end of October 2011. We would like to thank him for all the efforts he made in order to support all RACVIAC activities and ensure proper functioning of the Centre. As a very good and efficient organizer, Captain Lozancic successfully managed all procurement and logistical work, cooperating not only with all RACVIAC staff but with host nation institutions and several civilian companies contracted with RACVIAC as well. Captain Lozancic was an excellent team player and a good colleague, able to carry out his duties for the benefit of our organization. We wish him all the best in his future career at the Croatian Ministry of Defence and in his private life.

After four years of duty as a Public Affairs Officer at RACVIAC, 1Lt Igor Skenderovic ended his tour of duty in October 2011. We would like to thank him for his dedicated work in the course of which he supported all RACVIAC activities, proving himself a very good colleague and a team player. 1Lt Skenderovic’s enthusiasm, professionalism, discipline and devotion to his duty at RACVIAC were highly appreciated and working with him was a genuine pleasure. We wish him continued success in his future career and his private life.

After two years of service as a RACVIAC driver, Private 1st Class Sinisa Vranjes ended his tour of duty in November 2011. We would like to thank him for his remarkable contribution in the support of organisation and smooth conduct of RACVIAC activities. He was not only a good staff member, but also a very helpful and courteous colleague to all of us. During his employment with RACVIAC, Pte Vranjes obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Traffic engineering at the University of Zagreb. Thanking him for his professional commitment and friendship, we wish him all the best in the forthcoming deployment to ISAF mission in Afghanistan.
RACVIAC new Planning & Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organisations is Colonel Ferdinand Klinser, MSD, who took over the post from Lieutenant Colonel Keller in August 2011. Colonel Klinser was recruited to the Austrian Armed Forces in 1977 and in 1982 he graduated from Military Academy as an infantry officer.

For the better part of his military career Col Klinser served in various functions in the field of specialized mountain infantry and as a battalion commander of a high mountain infantry battalion. In that capacity he was deployed to various International Missions in Syria, Israel, Iraq, Kuwait, Kosovo and Africa.

Mr Klinser also held positions within the Austrian Ministry of Defence in the Strategic Intelligence Agency as the officer responsible for interdepartmental Crisis Management and Support Teams.

Col KLINSER devotes his leisure time to mountaineering, motorcycling and his family.

Staff Sergeant Zlatko Staresina joined RACVIAC in November 2011 as a new driver. He started his military career in the Croatian Armed Forces as a member of the 1st guardian brigade where he preformed several duties.

Staff Sergeant Staresina successfully finished the advanced NCO school and several military trainings and courses, such as NCO JMTT Management Course, Junior Staff Officer Course, CIS in PSO Course, PSYOPS and Military Police Course. He is highly skilled in parachuting, climbing and sniper shooting.

Staff Sergeant Staresina spent six months in an ISAF mission in Kabul and prior to joining RACVIAC he was assigned to the Croatian Army PSO centre as an instructor.

Forthcoming events

- Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar
- Basics of SSR, introducing the “Good Governance” Principle
- Integration and contribution of countries of SEE to CSDP
- Demographic trends and social economical challenges in SEE
- Vienna Document Compliance and Verification Course
- MAG POCs Meeting
- SSR and Gender: Implementation of the UN SCR 1325
- Open Skies Treaty (OST) Aerial Observation Course
Activity highlights 2011

In the 2011 we conducted:

- 23 activities in accordance with the Programme 2011 (two activities merged)
- two MAG and Budgetary Meetings, one of them hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo
- two MAG POCs meetings

We hosted:

- more than 950 participants, lecturers and visitors

We started:

- an annual Project on Defence Conversion Modalities in SEE
- four year planning cycle in accordance with the new RACVIAC Strategy

For the first time we:

- gathered MoD Spokespersons and Public Media representatives to discuss common points of interest
- started cooperation with EU Commision-TAIEX
- conducted: Aeronautical Search and Rescue course, regional meeting of the heads of Defence Procurement, seminar on 'pooling and sharing', Arms Control symposium and a Cyber Security roundtable

We continued:

- contributing to the established overall stability and security in the Region;
- building on the experience attained through arms control mechanisms and other confidence and security building measures;
- promoting Security Sector Reform and encouraging regional cooperation in the area of Defence Conversion;
- supporting European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes;
- communicating and supporting the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy and its relation to NATO’s Strategic Concept;
- cooperating with organizations, institutions and initiatives of the Region having similar objectives,
- encouraging regional and international security cooperation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Co-organizers</th>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CSE-02-S</td>
<td>Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar</td>
<td>OPCW</td>
<td>20-24 Feb</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>SSR-01-S</td>
<td>Basics of SSR, Introducing the “Good Governance” Principle</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>27-29 Feb</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>IRC-10-CF</td>
<td>Integration and Contribution of Countries of SEE to CSDP</td>
<td>TAIEX (EU Commission) (RS)</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>IRC-09-RT</td>
<td>Demographic Trends and Social Economical Challenges in SEE</td>
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<td>06-08 Mar</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>CSE-05-C</td>
<td>Vienna Document – Compliance and Verification Course</td>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>12-16 Mar</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>SSR-08-RT</td>
<td>SSR and Gender: Implementation of the UN SCR 1325</td>
<td>DCAF</td>
<td>20-22 Mar</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>CSE-04-C</td>
<td>Open Skies Treaty (OST) Aerial Observation Course</td>
<td>HR, HU, DE</td>
<td>26 Mar - 06 Apr</td>
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<td>IRC-02-S</td>
<td>Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) – EU’s Contribution to the Security and Possible Involvement of the SEE Countries</td>
<td>TAIEX (EU Commission) (MK)</td>
<td>10-12 Apr</td>
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<td>IRC-08-CF</td>
<td>Cyber Security</td>
<td>ENISA</td>
<td>02-04 May</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>SSR-09-S</td>
<td>SSR and OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security</td>
<td>OSCE, Vienna</td>
<td>07-09 May</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>IRC-03-C</td>
<td>EU Civil Protection Mechanism</td>
<td>TAIEX (EU Commission) (BA)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>CSE-03-C</td>
<td>Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course</td>
<td>OSCE, HR MOD</td>
<td>14-19 May</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>CSE-01-W</td>
<td>Workshop on Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions</td>
<td>MFEA HR</td>
<td>28-31 May</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>IRC-05-RT</td>
<td>Irregular Migration and its Effects on Security</td>
<td>MARRI</td>
<td>04-06 June</td>
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<td>SSR-04-S</td>
<td>Democratic Control of Armed Forces as Basic Principle for SSR: Regional Perspective</td>
<td>AT, DCAF</td>
<td>12-14 Jun</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>SSR-05-S</td>
<td>Security Sector Reform: Regional Experiences – Professionalization vs Conscript Systems</td>
<td>AT, HR, RS</td>
<td>10-12 Jul</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>SSR-07-P</td>
<td>Defence Resources Management: Procurement &amp; Outsourcing</td>
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<td>11-13 Sep</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>IRC-06-CF</td>
<td>The Open Door Policy and Smart Defence in the Context of the New NATO Strategic Concept</td>
<td>NATO</td>
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<td>Financial Aspects of Economic Crisis and their Impact on Security Sector</td>
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<td>SSR-02-S</td>
<td>SSR in the Context of PSO</td>
<td>PSOTC</td>
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<td>Ottawa Convention Seminar</td>
<td>CROMAC, ITF</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>CSE-08-C</td>
<td>Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Course</td>
<td>AT, DE, DTRA</td>
<td>05-09 Nov</td>
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<td>12-14 Nov</td>
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<td>DCAF</td>
<td>13-15 Nov</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>IRC-07-CF</td>
<td>Promoting Security Strategies and Emerging Policy Priorities in SEE</td>
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<td>03-05 Dec</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>MAG POCs Meeting</td>
<td>venue: RACVIAC</td>
<td>February</td>
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<td>27th MAG &amp; Budgetary Meeting</td>
<td>venue: Albania</td>
<td>17-18 Apr</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>MAG POCs Meeting</td>
<td>venue: RACVIAC</td>
<td>September</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>28th MAG &amp; Budgetary Meeting</td>
<td>venue: RACVIAC</td>
<td>October</td>
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</table>
RACVIAC Statistic 2000-2011

No of participants

No of activities


62 15 17 23 26 25 29 25 35 27 26 27

62 413 552 662 749 836 861 818 1131 800 722 920

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200
Centre for Security Cooperation

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