



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Arms Control Symposium”

CSE-A1-CF-18

2-5 July 2018, RACVIAC

Introduction

The purpose of this event was to build on the experience of last year’s Symposium and to present the latest developments in Arms Control, with the aim to open up new perspectives on confidence-building measures in Europe. It also aimed to assemble national experts as well as expert NGOs to produce a vibrant and productive discussion on Arms Control issues, future developments, and tackle the possible challenges. An important element of its overall aims was the updating of relevant information regarding Arms Control topics and to discuss the way ahead.



Symposium Opening

The event lasted a day and a half and was divided into two thematic areas. The first day was dedicated to the Arms Control challenges in general, while the second day focused on the issues concerning Physical Security and Stockpile Management as well as Small Arms and Light Weapons.

There were 29 participants and lecturers attending the Symposium. Participants came from AL (2), BA (4), HR (4), MK (2), DE (1), ME (3), RS (1), TR (2), Kosovo** (1), and OSCE Mission to BA (1). Lecturers came from the following countries and

** This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

organizations: BA (1), DE (1), HU (1), SI (1), UK (2), OSCE (1), and UNDP (1).

Execution

The Symposium was opened with a Welcome address by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk who stressed the importance of a regional approach to security issues as a crucial element of peace and stability in the region and beyond. He also mentioned that this type of activity gives us an opportunity, together with the experts, to highlight the challenges and successes of the past whilst outlining the plans for the future in a very concrete way for the benefit of the SEE region.



Symposium participants

After the Opening remarks the first to take the floor was Ms Isa Ghivarelli, Counsellor, Deputy Head of Delegation for the Politico-Military Dimension during the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship, giving an overview of the 2018 Annual Security Review Conference organized by the Italian Chairmanship under the motto ‘*dialogue, ownership and responsibility to foster security in the OSCE area*’.

Mr Zoltan Bacs from the Budapest Public University addressed the audience on the topic of current Arms Control Challenges in

Europe and beyond touching upon both the social and scientific challenges from an academic standpoint.

Following Mr Zoltan Bacs Mr Richard Moyes, Managing Director of Article 36, a nongovernmental organization based in the UK, got on to the stage to talk about the future challenges in Recent Developments, New Technologies in Weapon Systems and New Threats reg. Armament, and drawing attention to the reasons behind the new weapon system's popularity and to the concerns about their use expressed during the New Conventional Weapon Law discussions on a UN platform.

The last presenter of the day was Mr Andrew Dolan, Expert on Non-Proliferation of WMDs, who talked about global challenges in this domain.

The intention behind all of the abovementioned lectures was to stress the importance of looking forward to the upcoming challenges in the Arms Control domain. The focus was put on the European, but also the global challenges in the control of conventional but also non-conventional weapons. This allows us to look at a bigger and comprehensive picture, and opens up more space for discussion, new ideas and new perspectives.

The second day started with a presentation by Mr Dragan Bozanić from UNDP SEESAC, who gave an overview of the Western Balkan's SALW Roadmap as well as the issue of mainstreaming gender in SALW control. He shared the draft results of the survey conducted by SEESAC stressing its importance in highlighting the gender aspect of SALW and in helping to endorse the gender-blinded approach.

The second presenter of the day, LtCol Jens Kermes from BWVC, provided an

insight into the BWVC's engagement in international SALW/CA Training as well as into PSSM projects while talking about the challenges they encountered, the methodological approach they used and the success they achieved during their work.

Mr Blaž Mihelic, an Advisor in the MoD of SI, took the floor after LtCol Kermes and introduced the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

The last presenter of the day and the Symposium, Mr Denis Selimović, Senior Expert at the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, gave an overview of the work of the BA Coordination Board for SALW and discussed the status of the implementation of BA SALW Control Strategy 2016-2020.



Group photo

Conclusion

According to the feedback received via the RACVIAC Questionnaire both the academic and administrative aspects of the Symposium were very well rated.

Thanks to excellent speakers and the participants' level of motivation the Symposium was a very successful event. Taking into consideration this year's results and proposals made by the participants, RACVIAC CSE Pillar will strive to build on this years' experience and organize another successful event next year.

Compiled by CSE Pillar
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