



MAG DECISIONS ON FUTURE STATUS OF RACVIAC 17th (EXTRAORDINARY) MAG MEETING

-THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RACVIAC -



At the 17th (Extraordinary) MAG meeting on 27th June, the MAG continued its discussions on RACVIAC's future status and, taking into account the Croatian Chair's conclusions from the two meetings of the Working Group on RACVIAC's Status initiated by MAG, agreed on the following:

MEMBERSHIP

All countries of South Eastern Europe (SEECF members) are eligible to be Core Members of RACVIAC. All other countries wishing to support and contribute to security dialogue and cooperation in SE Europe can participate in RACVIAC as Associate Members. The Core Members and the Associate Members will participate on an equal footing in the discussions of the MAG, which will take its decisions on the basis of consensus. Other interested countries, institutions or organizations may participate in RACVIAC activities as Observers after approval by the MAG. The MAG Terms of Reference will have to be amended accordingly.

MAG CHAIR AND RACVIAC DIRECTOR

The Core Members may nominate candidates for the chair of the MAG and the position of Director of RACVIAC.

LEGAL STATUS

RACVIAC has legal status, which allows it to function as a regional center and to fulfill all its tasks. The Director of RACVIAC, in accordance with the MAG Terms of Reference, can enter into agreements and contracts with other legal entities.

RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC)

RACVIAC will function in close cooperation with the RCC and will inform the RCC on RACVIAC activities.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The mission of RACVIAC is to foster dialogue and cooperation on security issues facing South Eastern Europe through a partnership between

the countries of the region and their international partners with a special focus on European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In this connection, RACVIAC facilitates strong practical cooperation with European Union, NATO, OSCE and other international organizations.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Security dialogue and security sector reform, as well as arms control, confidence and security building measures and defence conversion are core activities of RACVIAC. RACVIAC continues to explore cooperation with other partners on such issues as disarmament, non-proliferation, export control, counter – terrorism, combating international organized crime, integrated border management, and civil emergency planning, issues which deserve to be maintained as part of a wider regional security cooperation agenda. In preparing RACVIAC's program of activities, systematic consultation by RACVIAC with RACVIAC's main partners, such as NATO, the European Union, OSCE and bilateral partners is needed. RACVIAC will also foster dialogue with civil society, academia and opinion makers.

RACVIAC STAFFING

RACVIAC staffing is crucial for its ability to fulfill its functions adequately and in a credible way. RACVIAC's staff is expected to be able to contribute to the substantial development of the agreed priority areas and operational tasks. In proposing staff for secondment, member states should carefully select personnel well qualified to the specific tasks who meet the requirements of the job description including fluency in English. When required, the Director of RACVIAC may consult with the nations regarding the secondment of personnel in order to ensure that they fulfill the requirements for specific functions. After such consultation, the Director of RACVIAC is to take his decisions on staffing.

RACVIAC FINANCING

RACVIAC should have a stable financial basis to ensure its sustainability. RACVIAC's core budget, covering its "running costs", should be financed by its regional Core Members with effect from 1 January 2008. Associate Members should contribute to RACVIAC's program activities. International partners, organizations and donor countries could make a general financial contribution to RACVIAC's program/operational budget and/or support certain specific program activities.

Details concerning the RACVIAC financing are addressed in Annex A- Annual Contribution to the Core Budget of RACVIAC.

RACVIAC NAME

As RACVIAC's name is well known in the international community, "representing a brand", it would not be wise to change it. Rather, to clarify its broader mission, the following should be added to the name, on a separate line: "*Centre for Security Cooperation*".

During this meeting the MAG members elected the new Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina who will take over the position after the next MAG meeting in October in RACVIAC. Croatia has introduced the new RACVIAC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Col Vladimir SUPERINA.

full Chairman's Conclusions can be read on [www.racviac.org/news/17th MAG Meeting](http://www.racviac.org/news/17th%20MAG%20Meeting)

Chairman's address to the MAG members



"Dear MAG members,

On the eve of the seventeenth meeting of the group, allow me to share with you some of my thoughts regarding the topics of our forthcoming discussion.

Seven years after its establishment, RACVIAC is facing considerable changes in its structures and tasks, due to the new realities in Southeastern Europe. Where do these changes come from?

To begin with, one of the causes for these imminent changes is the firmly expressed intention of the states of our region to press on and continue our Euro Atlantic integration;

Secondly, it is the transformation of the Stability Pact in Southeastern Europe and the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Council, in which the regional states will be given the leading role;

Thirdly, it is the need for international cooperation and assistance among the countries of our region for solving similar or mutual problems on the road to carrying out reforms for further enhancing our adaptation in the conditions of the contemporary politico-military and economic situation in Europe. As an organization of proven merit, RACVIAC has served and will continue to serve in good faith the concepts of good neighborhood, regional security, arms control and the other fields of politico-military cooperation.

We are the ones who should instill new, fresh and more applicable ideas for the development of

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the Center, who should make it more useful to its member-states.

You have already received the agenda of the meeting, together with countries comments and proposals and we will have the opportunity to discuss all of them. As a basis for discussion I am going to put drafts, prepared by RACVIAC Director. As you can see, we are facing questions that are of great importance for our discussion. It is my firm belief that as a result of our deliberations we will be able to reach consensus and to adopt the necessary decisions for the future of RACVIAC."

Mr. Yordan Bozhilov
Director of International Cooperation
Directorate, MoD Bulgaria
MAG Chairperson

Dayton Article IV Training Course in RACVIAC

According to the RACVIAC programme 2007, the Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Course from 28 May to 08 June 2007.



The purpose of this Course was to prepare designated individuals to perform duties as inspectors and/or escorts regarding the Dayton Agreement, Article IV and to establish a common approach to the Agreement in order to ensure a mutual behavior of confidence and transparency during the performance of their tasks.

The Seminar was conducted in two phases, theoretical phase (28 May-01 June 2007) in Rakitje and practical phase (03-08 June 2007) in Serbia.

The Course Objectives were:

- To provide the participants with all necessary information about the DPA and especially for Article IV.
- To give to the participants the opportunity for practical training in the role of inspectors and escort in the frame of the DPA.

Twenty-two participants attended the Course from

Albania (1), Belgium (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (3), Germany (2), Montenegro (2), Serbia (4), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (1), Switzerland (1) and USA (1).

The seminar was conducted with the assistance of seven lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (1), Italy (1), Serbia (1), UK (1) and OSCE (1).

RACVIAC conducted the Course for Dayton Article IV, in cooperation with OSCE for the thirteen time. The Course was conducted in English language with simultaneous translation to local languages in both phases.

The theoretical phase included the following topics:

- Information about OSCE and the history of Arms Control and the DPA
- Detailed analysis of the Article IV
- Syndicate work related to Article IV
- Overview of CFE Treaty and comparison to Dayton Article IV
- Preparation of the 1st training inspection

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams and conducted two training inspections as inspection and escort teams and vice versa in two different OOI (Objects of Inspection) in Pozarevac and Kraljevo (Serbia) under the following procedures:

- Preparation of the inspection
- Execution of the Inspection
- Debriefing

The Course was proved to be successful by the participants' assessments given at the end of the event. Issues to be highlighted:

- The invited lecturers covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in a satisfactory way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants. Two lecturers, one from Bosnia & Herzegovina and one from Croatia, were present during the whole activity as observers.

- Participants' interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that most of them had low or no experience in arms control. During the practical phase, participants showed an exceptional professionalism performing their mission both as inspectors and escorts and demonstrated a remarkable cooperation, by which they approached the standards of a real inspection.

Generally, the participants were satisfied with the topics chosen. They suggested having in the future similar seminars, because it's important for the regional countries.

- The practical phase of the seminar was well-organized thanks to the preparation of the declared sites and the work of the local escorts, as well as the good and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the relevant MODs and Arms Control Agencies.

RACVIAC presentation at the Forum for Security Co-operation of the OSCE

On May 2, 2007, MajGen Stergios PAPOTIS, Director of RACVIAC and LtCol Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER, P&L Officer for SEE, participated on the 513th session of the Forum for Security Co-operation of the OSCE. This session took place at OSCE Headquarters in Vienna/Austria.

MajGen Stergios PAPOTIS, invited from the Croatian Chair of the Forum, Ambassador Vladimir MATEK, as a guest speaker made a presentation on the role and perspectives of RACVIAC, present and future, under the agenda item Security Dialogue of the Plenary Meeting.

The aim of the Security Dialogue is to provide a format for exchange of information with other international bodies on issues of international security. It represents an important component of Confidence and Security Building Measures under the Vienna Document 1999.

Major General PAPOTIS high-lighted the concept of RACVIAC' future role in view of the fact that the political and security situation in the region has changed significantly in the last years. He underlined successful role of RACVIAC in the region on AC issues and RACVIAC movement forward in a new area of SSR – developing a regional support networks and to concentrate know-how on Defence Conversion.



Address of Mr. József BALI, State Secretary for Defence Policy, Hungarian MoD at ESDP seminar in RACVIAC

The seminar on “European Security and Defence Policy” Module 3, has been held in RACVIAC on 10 - 15 June 2007. The Module is a joint activity of The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Hungary and RACVIAC.



The seminar was opened by Mr. Igor Pokaz, Assistant Minister for Defense Policy in the MOD of Croatia and the RACVIAC Director Major General Stergios Papatitis. Mr József BALI, State Secretary for Defence Policy from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Hungary gave the Keynote speech, as follows:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, today I am pleased to speak to you, the participants of the ESDP Training Programme for Stabilisation and Association Process countries. I welcome the course. This module of the training programme has an important role to give a comprehensive overview on ESDP operations, on ESDP trainings and on the external relations of the European Union. I am confident that it will enable you to effectively work in this field and will contribute to your efforts in institution building in the field of security and defence.

The EU is more and more efficient in the field of crisis management, but obviously is not the only actor in such endeavour. It is essential that we coordinate and cooperate with other significant actors, international organizations and donor countries. During this week you will hear interesting, thought-provoking lectures on relations between the EU and other actors,

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such as NATO, the United States, the United Nations and the African Union. Since ESDP is relatively a young creature, it is of utmost importance to prepare more and more people to be aware of European security and defence issues, not only in the EU, but also in our neighbourhood. This course is being organized for this purpose as well. That is why you will hear useful lectures on the training system in the field of ESDP, and on the most important training actor, the European Security and Defence College.

I am confident that this module will be beneficial and will significantly contribute to the general ESDP-knowledge of this distinguished audience.”

(extract from the speech)

Full report can be read on: www.racviac.org/programme/S-6

Seminar "EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports"

RACVIAC Seminar on the "EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports" took place from 3rd to 4th of May 2007 in Zagreb/Croatia. The aim of the seminar was to highlight the importance of the Code of Conduct on Arms Export in promoting international peace, security, and stability and with regard to the exchange of experiences between countries to create a common approach in this area.

The seminar objectives were the following:

- To inform country representatives about the international legal framework and criteria on arms exports and their relation with the EU Code of Conduct
- To clarify responsibilities of relevant bodies in the procedure of arms export control.

To share experiences of countries and define problems and difficulties in implementation of EU Code of Conduct on Arms Export

The seminar was designed for senior level representatives from ministries and agencies involved in Arms Export Control dealing with this issue. The participation and lecturers consisted as follows: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, Latvia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, also from EU and SIPRI. The proceedings were conducted in English and Croatian with simultaneous translation.

The programme and all the administrative details were prepared and planned by RACVIAC and co-organizers from Germany according to

the seminar outline. The seminar consisted of a combination of lectures, followed by question and answer sessions and case studies encouraged the participants to dialogue and sharing useful ideas and ways on aspects relative to Arms Export Control.



The participants found this an informative and interesting seminar. The general assessments regarding the achievements of the seminar were extremely positive and the lecturers were very professional on presenting the perspectives over the subject, all participants appreciating the discussions.

**Turkey recognize Macedonia by its constitutional name*

RACVIAC at international symposium "Humanitarian Demining 2007" (Šibenik, Croatia 24-27 April 2007)

This was the 4th Symposium in a series of meetings hosted by Croatia. The first concentrated on the achievements of CROMAC and CTRO and the second concentrated on machines. The third focused on metal detectors



and the fourth has returned again to machines. This time the Symposium reached the highest attendance and had excellent representation from the

field (170 attendees from 35 different countries). The aim was to provide a forum for the use and management of machines in mine action to be discussed and to share experiences. The Symposium was organized by Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC) and the Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd. (CROMAC-CTDT Ltd.). The 2nd day included an introduction of manufacturers and a demonstration of machines in operation in the Gaj demonstration site.

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The most important conclusions about the use and management of machines in mine action were the following:

- Machines are not perfect. They are good but still need some follow-on procedures to confirm quality control.
- A machine operator has a large influence on the performance of machines.
- A machine is not the answer to all problems. A huge change in management thinking and planning is required in order to avoid the purchase of machines that simply stand and rust.

Visit of the RACVIAC's Defense Conversion Team to Moldova

RACVIAC's DCC Expert Team visited Republic of Moldova in the period between 25th and 27th of April. This three-day assessment activity was the initial part of the RACVIAC's DCC WG1 staff effort to provide requested in-country technical assistance to the Ministry of Defense of the Re-



public of Moldova, considering the further developments and funding of its military personnel transition system (retraining and resettlement). Visit itself was a joint event initiated and organized by the Moldavian Ministry of Defense and the OSCE Mission in Moldova.

Activities started with the high level meeting between The Minister of Defense of The Republic of Moldova, Mr. Pleșca VALERIU and Maj Gen Stergios PAPOTIS, RACVIAC's Director, who personally took part in the work of the RACVIAC's expert team. Additionally, General PAPOTIS had opportunity to meet Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integrations, Mr. Valeriu OSTALEN.

The expert team was consisted of Mr. Jakob HERADSTVEIT, Mrs. Lena ANDERSSON and Major Davor KIRALJ. Assessment activity itself included various areas of the military personnel transition process, primarily through individual meetings with expert personnel from corresponding organizations.

RACVIAC at "Building and managing European Partnership" seminar

The seminar "Building and Managing European Partnership" was held from 30th to 31st May 2007 at the conference room in the Croatian Employers' Association's building at Pavla Hatza 12, Zagreb. Colonel Dragan GOSTOVIC and Major Davor KIRALJ participated in this seminar.

Prior to their participation, Defense Conversion Cell staff was tasked to assess the Seminar participation feasibility, primarily considering possible benefits for the DCC working groups' activities.

The initial findings indicated that there is a high probability that information gained through this seminar can be used for the benefit of our member countries in the area of defense conversion projects co-finance through available EU Commission grants. Yet, real benefits are to be fully verified through future actions being recommended by the RACVIAC representatives.

Seminar included thirty-two participants from thirty different public, academic, profitable and non-profitable organizations with extremely various backgrounds and original fields of interest. The Seminar was based on an interactive approach. Individual presentations were followed with questions and discussions. Seminar content was highly specialized and specific experience and profile of participants was taken into consideration. It was conducted in English language and it primarily included following subjects:

- How to identify partners for a joint project?
- What does partnership/consortium agreement mean?
- How to reach satisfying mutual agreement on the budget and organization of the project?
- Project management issues.
- The most efficient methods of partnership network/consortium management.

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We truly believe that there is great potential for RACVIAC to create a new initiative in the field of defense conversion. This initiative should, if it appears to be realistic, enable a new kind of technical support for our member countries - development of joint international projects and their independent competition for available EU funds.

Before any further actions, RACVIAC DCC staff must conduct initial feasibility assessment to verify if the initiative is realistic.

Seminar was prepared and executed by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development as a part of the European Centre for Cross-Sector Partnership Project, in the cooperation with the Welcomeurope France, Croatian Employers' Association and Croatian Center for European Pre-accession Programmes.

Seminar on Control Measures to Combat the Trafficking in SALW

Since the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons remains one of the biggest problem worldwide, combating the proliferation requires not only curbing but also strengthening control measures on the licit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons; as well as developing high common standards on arms transfers, weapons registration and stockpile management. Without the ability of states to trace the flow of firearms, efforts to control other aspects of the arms trade will remain difficult to enforce.

Facing such challenges and accomplishing its Programme, RACVIAC along with the UNODC and sponsored by Germany, have organized a two-days event, titled: "Seminar on Control Measures to Combat the Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons" that occurred in RACVIAC during 28-29 June 2007.

As the UN Firearms Protocol supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, aims to promote, facilitate and strengthen cooperation among States Parties to reduce trafficking in firearms by setting out a comprehensive monitoring system and ratifying the Protocol, the Member States of the United Nations commit themselves to adopting a series of crime-control measures and to introducing into their legislation provisions to criminalize the illicit manufacture and trade of firearms, strengthening government licensing procedures to ensure that the firearms industry operates within a legitimate framework, and establishing effective means of marking and

tracing firearms. Taking into account the regional arms problems, twenty-eight representatives from the SEE countries as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia, representing relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations, academia and media took part in the Seminar.

Following the main objectives: the UN Instruments, UN Firearms Protocol; the legislative and operational aspects of the Firearms Protocol; marking and tracing of firearms – methods and best practices; record keeping – the requirements of the Protocol and the institutions should maintain records, participants shared their experience, expressed the challenges, the problems, proposing the possible solutions and the way ahead.

Discussing and assessing the regional situation with the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, participants had expressed their will to continue with such forums, widening them to trainings and exercises.

**Turkey recognize Macedonia by its constitutional name*

New Operations Officer in RACVIAC



RACVIAC would like to thank LtC Heinz TRENK for his dedicated work and friendship in the past two years he has been with us. He was working as S3 Operations

Officer. During his tour of duty he was responsible for coordination and control of basic staff work and flow of information within RACVIAC, as well as, for the human resources management and personnel administration of international staff. We will miss him greatly and wish him success in the future on his new post in the Austrian Armed Forces Command in Graz.

At the same time we would like to welcome his successor LtC Manfred BLUMMEL. He already served in RACVIAC on the same post from March 2002 – August 2003. As a former member of the



Austrian Verification Centre he has six years experience in Arms Control. LTC BLÜMMEL is 47 years old, married, has a son at the age of 16 and lives with his family near Graz. He is very interested in every kind of sports. Among other things he gained a diploma as an Austrian Ski-Instructor and he is the national coach of the Austrian Juniors Kickboxing Team.

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Change of key personnel in RACVIAC



In May 2005. Col Rajko DU-MANČIĆ joined RACVIAC after being the Military Attaché of Republic of Croatia in Hungary to become our Deputy Director and Chief of Staff. It has

been a genuine pleasure working with him for the past two years. During his duty he provided advice to the Director, controlled and supervised the organization of the entire operation of the center and maintained contact with Croatian government agencies, offices of relevant organizations and the verification agencies of the region. He also provided assistance to all other staff members and was able to carry out all spectra of tasks of our organization. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and support and wish him all the best in the future.



RACVIAC welcomes its new Deputy Director and Chief of Staff Col Vladimir SUPERINA who joined us in the beginning of July. Col SUPERINA was born on November 22nd 1954 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He has two Master's degrees, Master of Strategic Studies from AWC, US and Master of Security from College of Safety, Zagreb, Croatia. He has worked so far, among other, at International Military Operations Centre, as well as Head of A-5 in Defense Planning and International Military Cooperation at Croatian AF and AD and is coming to us from his last post as Commander of Air Force Education and Training Centre. He was also member of the working group for "Croatian Table of Organization and Equipment". He is married with Ljiljana and has one daughter.

Programme 2007 - forthcoming events

Media and Security Policy (S-7)

17 - 21 Septem-

Main Goals: • To discuss the role of media in terms of security and public awareness

Target Audience: - Staff from MOD and PR Departments, Parliamentarians, Media

Orientation Course for Site Commanders (C-6)

24 - 28 September

Main Goals • To inform site commanders about their perspective duties and responsibilities under the requirements of the relevant documents.

Target Audience: - Site Commanders, inspector/escort personnel

18th MAG Meeting

TBD in October

Main Goals: • The main topics (goals) are defined through MAG Secretariat

Target Audience: - Permanent representatives of MAG Countries, Observer countries and interested countries, GOs and NGOs

WG3 Meeting (2) on restructuring redundant military industries (WS-6)

09 - 12 October

Main Goals: • The main topics (goals) will be decided at the previous meeting according to the current countries situations and needs

Target Audience: - Permanent WG3 members (countries, BICC, OSCE...)

The Regional Approach in the Planning of Demining Programmes (C-7)

22 - 26 October

In cooperation with CROMAC, Member of SEE MACC

Main Goals: • Exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of mine action in the region of SEE

Target Audience: - Representatives of National Authorities and NGO of the countries of the region of SEE, dealing with that issue