



Centre for Security Cooperation

# Newsletter

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## 21th MULTINATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING Chaired by Republic of Croatia

21st MAG Meeting, chaired by Mr Pjer Šimunović, State Secretary in the MoD of the Republic of Croatia, took place on 20th March 2009 at RACVIAC. The Meeting gathered 51 participants from 24 countries and two organizations (RCC and SEDM-CC/PMSC). The Budgetary Meeting and meetings of the two Working Groups initiated at the 19th MAG Meeting in Chisinau, New RACVIAC Organization and RACVIAC Legal Status, were held prior to the MAG Meeting.

After the introductory speeches given by Mr. Mario Nobile, the Director of the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs (MFA Croatia) and Mr. Pjer Šimunović, MAG Chairperson, the meeting began with the Director's Annual Report, presented by Ambassador Nedžad S. Hadžimusić, who underlined the main RACVIAC achievements in the reporting period.

During the meeting the topics such as Core and Activity Part of the Budget for 2009, RACVIAC Programme for 2009, Personnel Situation, Audit Report for 2008 and the Nomination of the new RACVIAC Director, were thoroughly discussed by all MAG representatives. However, the main emphasis was given to the recommendations of two WGs - on New RACVIAC Organization and RACVIAC Legal Status.

Following the Report on the work of the WG on RACVIAC Legal Status, which was chaired by the Republic of Croatia and which held five meetings, MAG adopted a Decision by which it accepts Draft Agreement on RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation as the appropriate legal framework for the accomplishment of RACVIAC mission. Representatives of the SEEC participating States, Members of the MAG, are invited to initiate in their respective States all the necessary activities on the side of state admin-

internal legal procedures and on the readiness of their respective States to sign the Agreement on RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, with the view to have the signing ceremony in the margins of the Autumn MAG Meeting 2009.

Concerning the WG on New RACVIAC Organization, MAG accepted the draft decision agreed upon at the working group and decided to allow the secretariat to implement it in accordance with the spirit of the discussion at the MAG Meeting.



istration/relevant authorities, in order to fulfil the conditions to sign the Agreement on RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation. Furthermore, the, are invited to inform MAG until 1st July 2009 on the status of their

Regarding the other topics, MAG took note of the updated Annual Programme for 2009 and took note of the Projection of the RACVIAC Programme for 2010. It also accepted the Recommendations from the Budget-

## VISITS TO RACVIAC

On 4th March 2009, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the Croatian PSO Center (CAPSOC), hosted 18 senior students from the USAF Air War College, led by the Commander Colonel Al Lowry, and 26 senior students from the Croatian Military Diplomatic School, led by course director Lieutenant Colonel Jugoslav Jozić.



The guests from the United States paid a visit to RACVIAC and CAPSOC in the frame of their current study trip to Southeast Europe, whereas the visit of the students from the Croatian Military Diplomatic School was an integral part of their curriculum. Both RACVIAC and CAPSOC briefly presented their mission, structure and achievements.



After that there was a lively Q&A session followed by an open discussion during which all participants demonstrated a great deal of understanding in their critical questions and comments. Everyone participating in this visit agreed that short visits of this nature, which require little preparation and logistics, are extremely useful in promoting the visibility of both RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and Croatian PSO Center (CAPSOC). ■

ary Meeting, which took place one day before the MAG Meeting. MAG adopted the Budget 2009 and took note of the Projection for the Budget 2010.

7th October 2009.

21st MAG Meeting finished with the official dinner at the restaurant "Okrugljak", which was hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Croatia. ■



It also took note of the presented personnel situation and the vacant posts announced, as well as of the Annual Audit Report and the proposals contained in it. Furthermore, RACVIAC will send an international invitation to tender for financial auditing support. MAG agreed to put forward a new deadline for the nominations for the new Director of RACVIAC - Thursday, 16th April 2009. Furthermore, MAG also took note that the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina handed over to the MAG Chairperson the formal proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the extension of the term of duty to the current RACVIAC Director until October 2010.

The proposal from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as nominee put forward by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* will be taken into consideration in election of RACVIAC Director.

It was decided that the venue for the next Budgetary Meeting and 22nd MAG Meeting is RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Croatia, from 6th -

## Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

According to the RACVIAC 2009 programme Training & Verification Division of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation organized, together with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) the Seminar "Chemical Weapons Convention", in the period of 16th - 20th February 2009. 22 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey took part in the seminar.



The content of this seminar was of particular interest for members of National Authorities dealing with declarations. It was conducted with

the assistance of two lecturers from OPCW: Ms Sally Elford and Mr Sandor Laza. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss relevant issues related to CWC, and its objectives were:

- To clarify any uncertainties in the submissions of the Member States to the OPCW in accordance with the Convention;
  - To provide an update on issues relating to industrial (Article VI) declarations under the CWC including a review of Verification Information System (VIS);
  - To execute training in preparation and completion of electronic declarations using the Electronic Declaration tool for National Authorities (EDNA).
- The seminar was conducted as a combination of lectures/presentations followed by discussions, and a tabletop exercise at the end. It was designed with the aim to share expertise, opinions, and lessons learned to identify problems and find possible solutions, as well as to explore the way ahead.



Seminar was opened by welcoming remarks from Colonel Tomislav Vilibovec, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff of RACVIAC and by introductory presentation by Mr. Željko Jerkić, Coordination, Planning and Evaluation Adviser at ICA/OPCW, representing OPCW.

According to the participants' assessments provided at the end of the event, the seminar was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were mem-

bers of the national authorities that are dealing with the chemical weapons in their countries and they considered it valuable for their continuing work. ■

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

### English Language Training Course on Arms Control Terminology

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation conducted an English language-training course on arms control terminology at RACVIAC HQ in Rakitje, from 9th to 20th March 2009. In two weeks of the course 25 participants from 8 Southeast European countries improved their command of English using Arms Control Terminology as a tool.

The participants represented arms control agencies, ministries, general staff, military academies as well as other organizations and institutions involved in this field.

## VISITS TO RACVIAC

On 5 March 2009, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić with the senior RACVIAC staff members, hosted representatives of the Swedish Embassy to Croatia, upon their request. Distinguished visitors, Mr Per Backman, Minister and Head of Economic and Commercial Affairs and Mr Hrvoje Pokupeć, Commercial Officer at Swedish Embassy to Zagreb were offered a presentation on RACVIAC Mission, programme of activities, and ongoing transformation of the Centre's structure and its legal status.



Guests displayed vivid interest for RACVIAC 2009 Programme, especially for those activities dealing with integrity building in SEE region, widely recognized as an indispensable prerequisite for healthy business environment.



Interlocutors agreed that after these preliminary talks, a concrete proposal for possible cooperation will follow shortly from Swedish side in order to be realized before upcoming Swedish EU Presidency in the second semester of 2009. ■

## VISITS TO RACVIAC

Commander Ulrich Schöne (German Navy), Director of Policy Department, NATO School Oberammergau paid a two-day visit to RACVIAC from 24th - 25th March. Commander Schöne was welcomed by the Deputy Director Colonel Tomislav Vibovec and Chief of Planning & Liaison Cell Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mergel. Next day Commander Schöne also met with the Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić.



The purpose of the visit was to coordinate future cooperation on predominantly arms control issues, as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations was in the making. Among the identified fields of cooperation, in the first place there is the improvement of the level of expertise of RACVIAC personnel by attending relevant courses in Oberammergau. Furthermore, RACVIAC staff will be provided with access to NATO School Advanced Distributive Learning (ADL) features.



On the other hand RACVIAC offered to host NATO School Mobile Education and Training Teams (METT) once in a while on any given subject supportive to RACVIAC strategic objectives and mission. Both parties agreed that this promising visit is just a start of a fruitful cooperation seeking for synergy, thus avoiding duplication and competition. ■

ed tasks, while the second part was focused on conversation and reading on topics closely related to Arms Control. For the afternoon sessions the participants were divided into two groups, according to their professional experience in Arms Control. The afternoon sessions concentrated more on understanding the Arms Control Treaties e.g. VD 99, Dayton article IV, CFE etc.

The challenging course curriculum included the weekends as working days. The instructors explained the main objectives of a chosen topic, followed by reading and conversation in the spirit of achieving a common understanding.



As the finale of the sessions on Arms Control topics, the participants conducted a practical inspection, through which they were able to put into practice the theoretical knowledge gathered during the two weeks. This gave the participants a clear picture of an inspection through learning how to execute it step-by-step. It also provided participants with an excellent opportunity to see how they could use the acquired terminology and theoretical knowledge in “real life” situations.

The course promoted a common understanding of the Arms Control Treaties by civilian and military personnel who deal with Arms Control in the Southeast European region, with an aim at enhancing regional cooperation by fostering comprehensive dialogue on all security issues.

## SEE at the Gates of the EU - Enhancing Integration Processes

The Seminar “SEE at the Gates of the EU - Enhancing Integration Processes” was held at RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation during the period of 1st – 3rd April 2009.

The purpose of the seminar was to assist the integration process of SEE countries into EU by enabling exchange of views and lessons learned. The seminar gathered participants from candidate and potential candidate countries for the accession to the EU, representing relevant ministries and agencies at lower decision-making

ing or adviser level, having knowledge and experience in the field of the integration process.

The seminar was conducted in 2 days and it included three sessions, which were followed by questions and answers that encouraged the participants to exchange views and experience in the integration process and to discuss the integration issues openly. The participants and lecturers were representatives from seven countries and seven organizations, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, NATO HQ in Sarajevo, University of Zagreb, European Commission DG Enlargement, European Commission Delegation to Croatia

<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognizes Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

and Bosnia and Herzegovina, RCC-Regional Cooperation Council Liaison Office in Brussels, European Institute of Romania, European Institute Foundation in Bulgaria, Institute for International Relations in Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, and University of Ljubljana.

In his opening speech, Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, Director of RACVIAC, expressed his warm welcome to all the participants. Ambassador pointed out that over the past two years the SEE countries had moved closer to the EU and that the region should move forward as rapidly as possible with political and economic reform, reconciliation among peoples and progress towards EU membership.

### Search and Rescue Guidelines (INSARAG) Awareness Training Course

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, together with Southeast Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP), Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) for South Eastern Europe, The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), conducted an International Search and Rescue Guidelines (INSARAG) Awareness Training Course in Zagreb, Croatia, from 27th to 29th April 2009.

In the two working days of the course



The participants focused on three main issues: processes towards EU membership, lessons learned and challenges on the road to EU, and progress made and the way ahead of candidate and potential candidate countries.

The speakers and audience expressed their content with the significant progress countries had already achieved. These efforts were praised and the expression was extended that the region should go ahead as rapidly as possible with the initiated processes.

All panelists assessed the three sessions as very successful and useful. They also recommended to the co-organizers to continue with similar activities in the future. ■

18 students from 9 Southeast European countries increased their understanding of the INSARAG Guidelines and were encouraged to develop light Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams. The objective of the Course was to improve knowledge on how to respond to earthquake situations. This was a train-the-trainers course and it educated the countries (USAR teams) according to the INSARAG guidelines and provided expertise in USAR team preparations (equipment, procedures etc.).

The course was divided into lectures and group discussions. The training was based on a high degree of participants' involvement. During the course, the participants took active part in plenary and group discussions

### VISITS OUTSIDE RACVIAC

ZAGREB - On the initiative by HE Ambassador Roman Supek, the Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić visited on 3rd March 2009 the Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia in Zagreb.



The Director presented to Ambassador Supek and his two associates main activities of the Centre and highlighted ongoing transformation of RACVIAC.

He handed over RACVIAC gifts as well as the set of general information on RACVIAC, including plan of activities 2008/2009.

Ambassador Roman Supek expressed his interest in RACVIAC activities and announced concrete involvement of Slovakia in due course. He also expressed his intention to visit the Centre, once he has settled down in Zagreb as a new Ambassador of Slovakia who took over this duty just two month ago. He also promised to convey Director's best wishes to his friend Mr Miroslav Lajčák, new Slovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs. ■

SKOPEJE - Director of Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) Centre for Security Cooperation in South Eastern Europe, Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, visited the MARRI Regional Centre in Skopje on 7 April 2009. Both RACVIAC and MARRI Regional Centre Directors briefly presented their mission, structure and achievements. In fact, the visit to the MARRI Regional Centre confirmed a great importance that the two organisations attach to mutual

## VISITS OUTSIDE RACVIAC

cooperation and to regional cooperation in migration and security issues.



More specifically, the talks focused on latest achievement of countries in the region towards liberalisation of the EU visa regime for the Western Balkan countries. Both partners ended the meeting with a note that the two organisations shall prepare the Memorandum of Understanding and further build on the cooperation on issues of mutual interest in the region of South East Europe.

Source: MARRI Regional Centre, 07/04/09 ■

## SIGNED MOU

On 19th May 2009 Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, and Colonel James J. Tabak, Commandant of NATO School Oberammergau, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.



Both organizations strive to assist the region of South East Europe in conducting reforms and capacity building within security sector. Therefore, the MoU was a logical step which strengthens their cooperation by offering more systematic and coordinated approach to future joint undertaking. ■

and readily shared their experience with each other.

At the end of the two-day seminar the participants understood and were able to use INSARAG guidelines and methodology and they also understood the international USAR response coordination system. ■

## Dayton Article IV Course

According to the RACVIAC 2009 programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar carried out the Course “Dayton Article IV” in the period of 04th – 15th May 2009. The Course was organized together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the fifteenth time. Its objectives were to inform and educate the participants on the Dayton Peace Agreement, with a particular focus on the Article IV and to train the participants in the

Hadžimusić, Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation.

The course lasted 12 days and it consisted of a theoretical (1st week) and a practical (2nd week) phase. The theoretical phase was focused on lectures about the history of Arms Control and the Dayton Peace Agreement. The practical phase included training inspections on two different sites, enabling the participants, divided into two teams, to practice both the roles of an inspector and of an escort. 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; Overview of CFE Treaty and comparison to Dayton Article IV; Preparation of the 1st training inspection; Practical exercise on Point of Entrance (POE) procedures.

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams



role of an inspector and an escort in the frame of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Participants from eight countries and organizations attended the course, namely from: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Croatia (5), Germany (2), Montenegro (1), Switzerland (2), United Kingdom (1) and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) (2), representing relevant Ministries and Agencies involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

The Course was opened by welcoming remarks from Ambassador Nedžad

and each team conducted two training inspections - one as the inspection team and one as the escort team in two different OOs (Objects of Inspection) - Gašinci and Našice (Croatia) under the following procedures: Preparation of the inspection, Execution of the Inspection, Debriefing- Evaluation of the Inspection- Lessons learned.

According to the participants` assessments provided at the end of the event, the course proved successful, very interesting and well organized. They considered it valuable for their

future work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of courses in the future aimed at contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region. ■

### Building Integrity and Reducing Corruption in Security Sector

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and RAI – Regional Anti Corruption Initiative, in partnership with Transparency International and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, organized a two-day conference with the aim to discuss corruption in public institutions, with a particular attention to security sector, and to foster experience exchange and regional cooperation in preventing the phenomenon.

During the conference, held from 18-20 May 2009 at Vitez Damir Martić Barracks in Rakitje, international experts shared their experience, knowledge and expertise.



In many countries, corruption has become part of political-administrative everyday life, thus RACVIAC in cooperation with RAI – Regional Anti Corruption Initiative, in order to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in Southeast Europe, has decided to engage in this pertinent issue and provide regional countries with an opportunity to exchange valuable information on these challenges.

Ms. Marina DUJMOVIĆ – VUKOVIĆ, State Secretary of the Croatian Ministry of Justice, opened the conference. In her welcome address she stressed that cooperation between the countries of the region as well as cooperation with the European Union in strengthening the rule of law, the fight against corruption and organized crime is extremely important to create a climate of wide-ranging security and inclusion in the European legal order and standards.

Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, in his welcome address, made two basic statements about corruption: that it is as old as humanity and that it is universal, and if we accept that this is true, the question is how we reduce corruption rates. He said that corruption is a global phenomenon from which no one is immune, although different societies exhibit different corruption rates.

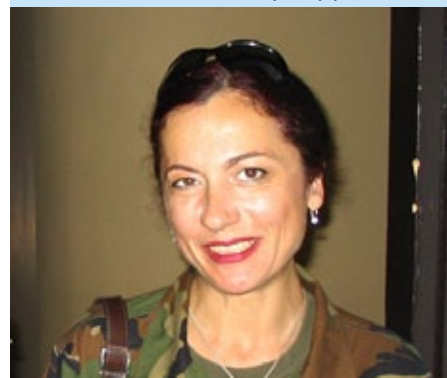
Professor Josip KREGAR, Dean of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, in his keynote address illustrated the three different phases of corruption percep-

tion in Croatia over the last 30 years. The conference provided a successful platform to discuss challenges, lessons learned and the achievements of the SEE countries in fighting corruption.

The plenary section focused on three main issues: Fighting corruption & safeguarding integrity in SEE, Reducing corruption in security sector and defence, and Anti-corruption strate-

## GOODBYES

RACVIAC would like to thank Captain Natalija Bočkaj for her dedicated work in the past two years she spent with us working as WG1 Officer in Defence Conversion Cell. She successfully cooperated with all of RACVIAC's Divisions, Cells and Staff, giving them professional, enthusiasm and friendly support.



It was a genuine pleasure to work with her. Captain Natalija Bočkaj will stay with us in "Vitez Damir Martić" barracks as her new post is at the CAPSOC.

We would like to thank her again for everything she did at RACVIAC and wish her all the best in her professional career. ■

After almost 6 years of service at RACVIAC Service Branch, RACVIAC bids farewell to Mr Darko UREK. Mr Urek's enthusiasm, professionalism, discipline and devotion to his duty at RACVIAC have been highly appreciated.



It was a great privilege and honor to serve with him. He will continue to work in Croatian MoD. We would like to thank Darko Urek for his work and friendship during his stay at RACVIAC, and at the same time wish him all the best in the future. ■

## HELLOS

RACVIAC welcomes Mr Darijo Pavlić who joined RACVIAC Service Branch in March 2009 as a driver.



Mr Pavlić joined Croatian Army's 1st Brigade in 1991, and became the commander of a transport platoon. In 2002 he graduated from Croatian NCO School. His last post was at the Croatian MoD. He is married and has four children. ■

Siniša Vranješ, born in Zagreb in 1983, has been the member of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia since 2005, when he joined the Peace Support Operations Battalion of the 1st Guards Brigade. After completing the advanced training, he was transferred to Military Police, and after that in 2007 he was sent to the ISAF mission, as a member of 10th Contingency of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia. He was seconded to RACVIAC in May 2009, to Service Branch.



He graduated from vocational high school, specialized in informatics, and is currently finishing his studies at the Faculty of Traffic and Transportation in Zagreb. In his free time, he likes playing sports. ■

gies and best practices of South European countries in fighting corruption. In addition to that, cooperation with the international community was further strengthened. Desk-to-desk meetings, staff-to-staff consultations between different partners, and cooperation between regional organizations were evoked, stressed and requested by all participants during the final discussion. The significant progress that has been achieved in developing partnerships and cooperation with regional organizations has been stressed.

It was also mentioned that efforts to enhance dialogue and to share information and cooperation with non-state actors should also be fostered in the region.

All panelists assessed the three sessions as very successful and useful. They also recommended the co-organizers to continue with similar activities in the future, periodically organizing high-level conference, but also organizing courses in which state officials of all levels may be educated to oppose corruption whenever they encounter it. ■

## Newsletter

forthcoming articles  
in issue 24

24 - 28 May 2009

Vienna Document 1999 – Orientation Course

15 - 17 Jun 2009

WG1 Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel

23 - 26 Jun 2009

WG2 Workshop on Military Base Conversion

29 Jun - 10 July 2009

Open Skies Treaty - Aerial Observation Orientation Course

14 - 17 September 2009

Better Management of Defence Resources, including Building Integrity in the Armed Forces

21 - 25 September 2009

Implementing Holistic Arms Violence Prevention Programmes with a Focus on the Local Communities

5 - 7 October 2009

22th Multinational Advisory Group Meeting



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