



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION  
Dialogue and Cooperation Division

## Seminar on “Promoting Southeast Europe – NATO Integration”

Zagreb, 4 - 6 November 2008

*RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation organized in Rakitje, Vitez, Damir Martić barracks, a two-day seminar with an aim to promote cooperation between NATO and Southeast Europe through projections on short-term and mid-term political developments in the region. During the seminar international experts shared their experience, knowledge and expertise, evoking lively interest among participants.*



Group Photo

opened the doors for the sixth enlargement. Albania, Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, on condition of an agreement on its constitutional name with Greece, are invited to start accession talks with the Alliance at the 2008 Bucharest Summit.

In order to fulfil the purpose, seminar set the following objectives: to describe security challenges in the region; to stress advantages of cooperation on the regional and global level; to highlight efforts of the countries of the region on the way to NATO integration; to foresee the future prospect of Southeast Europe in the realm of security, and to anticipate possible ways of increasing cooperation between the Alliance and countries of the region.

The seminar gathered sixty-two participants from ten countries with knowledge and expertise in Euro-Atlantic integration process, representing relevant ministries, agencies, international organizations, and

NATO’s interest in the Balkans marked a key milestone in Euro-Atlantic Alliance’s history: a move beyond its

**NATO – Western Balkans: Sixteen years of history**

Cold War mission of defending members’ territories and

into crisis management outside its borders. Sixteen years after the first *rapprochement* between Western Balkans and NATO, i.e. Albania accession to North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1992, the Alliance has

academic institutions directly or indirectly involved in the integration process.

**2008 Bucharest Summit: Regional Opportunity & Global Goal**

During a two-days seminar a multinational expert team from NATO provided background analysis for participants through presentations and mediation during panels. They demonstrated a glimpse of NATO's evolving role in the realm of security globally and more particularly in Southeast Europe. Additionally, countries' representatives at the ministerial and ambassadorial level had the opportunity to share their countries' experiences vis-à-vis NATO. Two Round Tables informed the audience and provided the platform for discussion with regard to the enlargement to 2008 Bucharest Summit invitees, and Partnership for Peace countries.



*From left to right: H.E. Dr. Selmo Cikotić, Amb. Nedžad Hadžimusić, H.E. Dr. Davor Božinović, Mr. Gabriele Cascone, H.E. Mr. Pëllumb Qazimi*

Moreover, last day sessions stressed the significance of regional cooperation as a complementary step to global security mechanisms. During the last session, i.e. Panel Discussion, a presentation demonstrated the opinion of participants, in terms of perception of security

challenges in Southeast Europe, and its compatibility with NATO's. Participants also voted for evaluation of merits and readiness of new members for NATO membership. (See Annex for the survey results)

H.E. Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, opened the seminar early next morning by welcoming all seminar participants very heartily. He stressed the importance of the proper seminar timing and drew a spotlight on the NATO aspirants.

The seminar was organized on a high profile in the aftermath of the 2008 Bucharest Summit.



**H.E. Mr. Hikmet Çetin delivering the keynote speech**

H.E. Mr. Hikmet Çetin gave a keynote speech, which provided a contemporary analysis of Euro-Atlantic Alliance vis-à-vis global and regional challenges. The following plenary sessions of the first seminar day ensured that all participants shared a common understanding of the evolution and role of NATO and thus set the stage for the further proceedings of the seminar. The Sixth Enlargement and Newest Partnership for Peace countries presented on the current status of NATO integration processes, highlighting lessons learned, problems, advantages and disadvantages, recommendations, and new ideas.

First session, consisting of two presentations, was dedicated to the NATO's role at the global and regional level. Mr. Rohan Maxwell presented NATO's politico-strategic evolution in the post-Cold War era, while Mr. Gabriele Cascone put more focus on NATO's role in the Western Balkans.



H.E. Dr. Selmo Cikotić sharing the PfP experience of Bosnia Herzegovina with the audience

In the following session, which was the Round Table I, panellists from Albania and Croatia, H.E. Mr Pëllumb Qazimi and H.E. Dr. Davor Božinović, shared the experiences from their countries' perspectives. They also provided an expected timeline for full-fledged membership as well as expectations of both sides. As a conclusion of this session, Albania and Croatia proved useful role models for other countries in the region.

During the second Round Table, participants were provided with an insight analysis of successes and necessities for further integration into Euro-Atlantic mechanisms through Partnership for Peace. H.E. Dr. Selmo Cikotić and Dr. Zoran Jeftić provided optimistic, but realistic analysis of their respective countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia.



A question posed to Dr. Zoran Jeftić during Round Table II, moderated by Mr. Sabri Ergen

Official sessions of the second day started with the presentation from Mr. Zoran Dabik, where he enlightened the audience concerning the status of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>. His frank approach was well appreciated by the audience. In addition, H.E. Mr. Mitja Močnik presented regional security cooperation as a complementary part of the global security regimes. He demonstrated SECI Center as a good practice of cooperation in a particular aspect of security. He has also mentioned that RACVIAC is significant example of regional cooperation, which is also promoting integration into Euro-Atlantic mechanisms.

**NATO Integration:  
Bringing Security  
and Stability**

During the last session of the seminar participants were provided with the analysis of survey results, which had been conducted during the first day. Prof. Vlatko Cvrtila analysed the answers given to five-question survey. A sample group of thirty-five participants responded on issues ranging from security challenges to the possible role of NATO in case of a conflict. They also gave their opinion on the merits of NATO enlargement countries. Prof.

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

Cvrtila commented that the scope of NATO integration in the Southeast Europe is optimistic though there are minor points of concerns. (See Annex for further details)



**Prof. Vlatko Cvrtila, commenting on the survey results during the Panel Discussion**

### **Conclusion**

The seminar was successfully conducted. Participants were provided with an opportunity to discuss topics and generate fresh ideas about integration into Euro-Atlantic security mechanisms. A wide range of challenges and opportunities concerning NATO integration was addressed and discussed as well.

The contribution of ministerial and ambassadorial level representatives from countries proved to be stimulating for the course of the debate throughout the Seminar. The vivid involvement of the participants throughout the discussions contributed to the success of fulfilling the objectives of the seminar. Following a series of presentations, round tables and a panel discussion, all the participants articulated that the event had gone without a hitch at all levels.

During two-day seminar, all participants shared a common understanding of the evolution and role of NATO and thus set the stage for the further proceedings of the seminar. The lecturers pointed out that NATO proved its value as an

excellent framework for political dialogue and practical cooperation. Therefore, NATO enlargement process is an important pillar of Southeast Europe's integration into the West.

### **Regional Cooperation: a Complementary Step to Global Security**

The speakers stressed the significance of regional cooperation as an essential element of

global security mechanisms.

The results of the seminar demonstrated a vast interest in integrating Southeast Europe into NATO. The lecturers and participants expressed their content with the significant progress countries had already achieved. They also expressed appreciation of events of this nature as it creates a platform for better understanding. They all agreed on the need to hold such seminars in the future.

**H.E. Mr. Hikmet ÇETİN**, *Former MFA of Turkey & Former SCR in Afghanistan of NATO*

**Mr. Rohan MAXWELL**, *Politico-Military Advisor Chief, NATO HQ Sarajevo*

**Mr. Gabriele CASCONI**, *Country Officer, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO HQ IS*

**H.E. Amb. Pëllumb QAZIMI**, *Ambassador, Albania*

**H.E. Dr. Davor BOŽINOVIĆ**, *State Secretary, MFAEI, Croatia*

**Mr. Sabri ERGEN**, *Action Officer, Defence Policy and Partnership Section, NATO HQ IS*

**H.E. Dr. Selmo CIKOTIĆ**, *Minister of Defence, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**Dr. Zoran JEFTIĆ**, *State Secretary, MoD, Serbia*

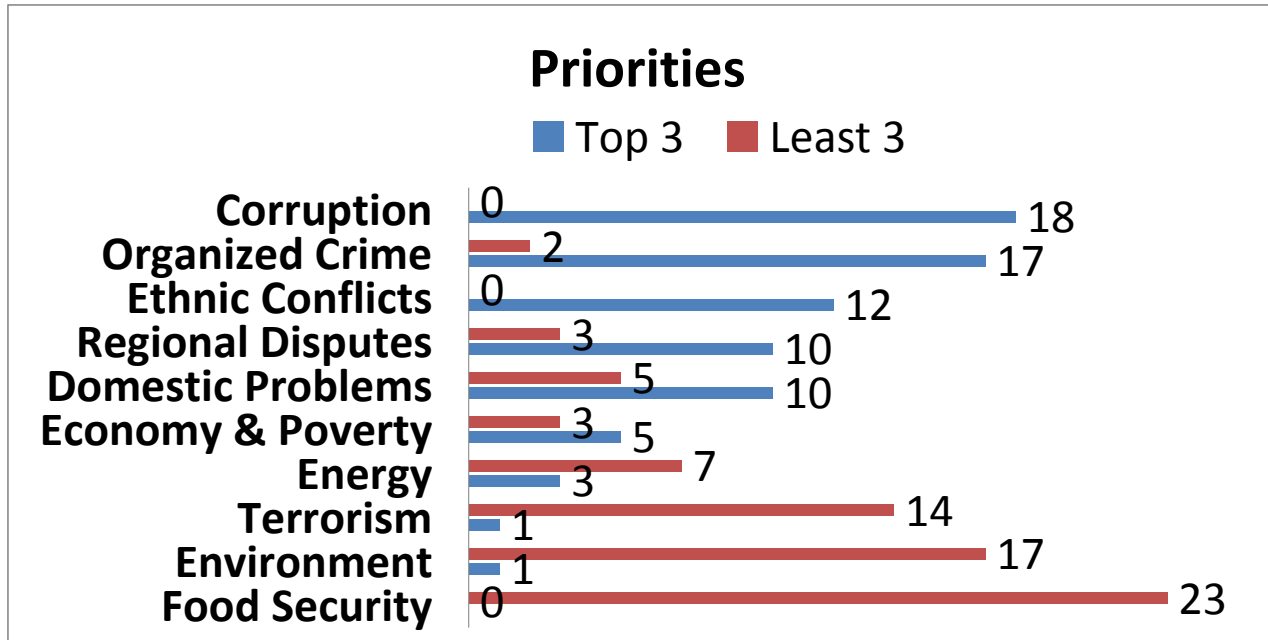
**Mr. Zoran DABIK**, *State Counsellor, MFA, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\**

**H.E. Amb. Mitja MOČNIK**, *Director of SECI Center Bucharest*

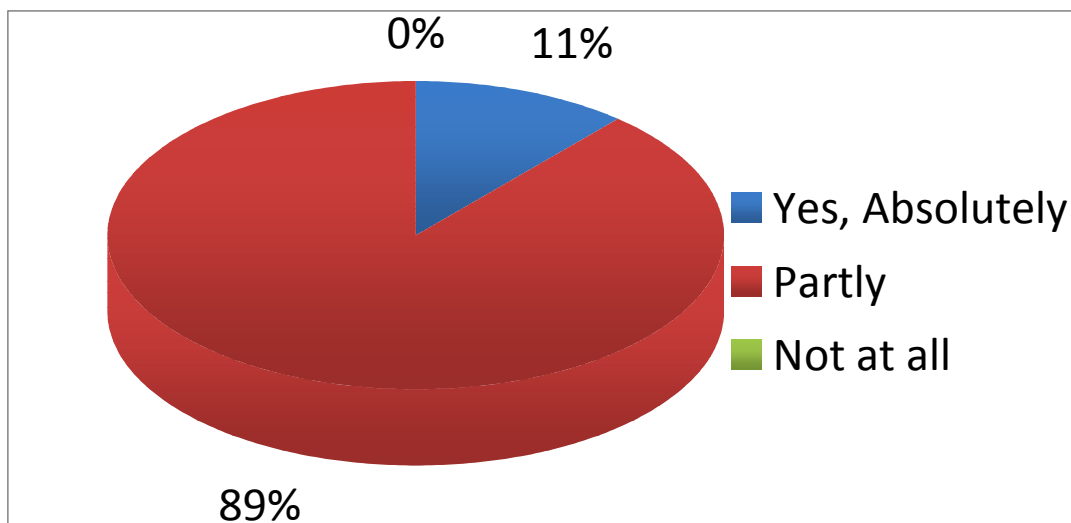
**Prof. Vlatko CVRTILA**, *Dean of Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb*

ANNEX – Survey Results

Q1. What are the security challenges for the Southeast Europe? Please prioritize your preference from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important).

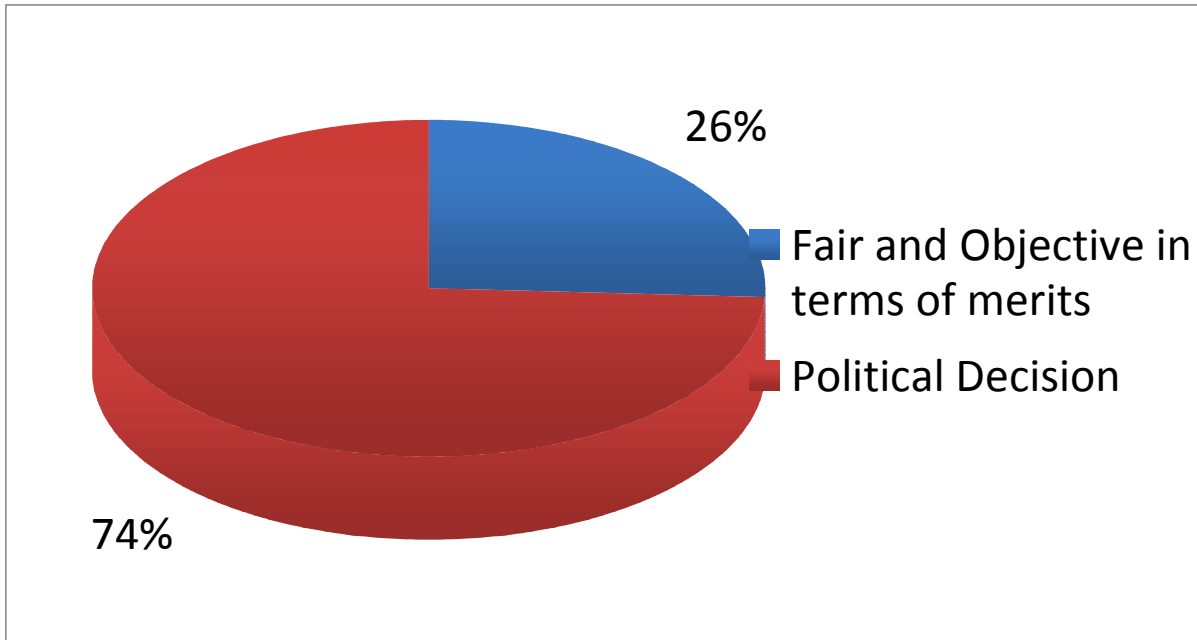


Q2. Do you think that regional challenges are identical to the NATO challenges?

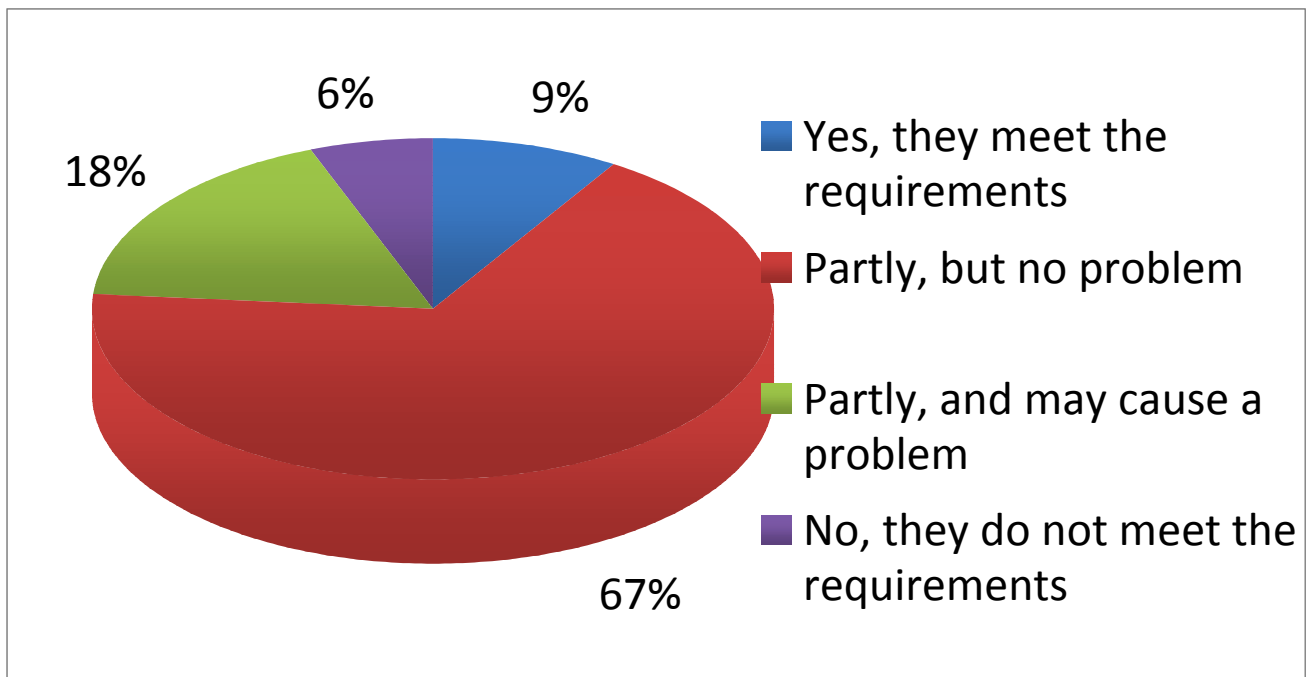


**Q3. Please choose one of the statements below. The invitation to the Alliance is...**

- a. a fair and objective process, in which the performance and merits of the aspirant to meet the requirements are a priority.
- b. a political decision, where performance and record might be of a secondary importance.



**Q4. Do you think Albania and Croatia meet the requirements of the Alliance?**



**Q5. In case of a conflict in the region, what do you think will be the role of NATO?**

