



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Seminar “Confidence (and Security) Building Measures (C(S)BM): Oversight and Building Integrity, expanded”

SSR-12-S

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GROUP PHOTO

Abstract

The seminar focused on the concept of Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and the later concept of Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM). It seems that the concept of CBM is somewhat wider because there were no major conflicts when the name was in use, while the concept of CSBM is narrower because it was introduced in the period of conflicts after the fall of the Berlin Wall and was thus more military oriented.

The recent past of South East Europe (SEE), particularly that of the former Yugoslavia, even though the rest of the territory is not tension-free either, has proved that the region is not fully stable. Therefore, various types of C(S)BMs are applied. In this regard, participants discussed whether CSBMs in the SEE should remain almost steadily and strictly defence oriented or they could expand to

include broader aspects. Participants concluded that a broader aspect of CSBMs could be considered.

There were 29 participants from 8 countries in the two-day Seminar, including Lt Col Konstantin Ligori, Chief of Verification Centre, Albanian Ministry of Defence, three participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Mr Momir Brajić, Minister Counselor, Mr Željko Vasiljević, Security Officer and Mr Asim Dorović, Counselor at the Department for OSCE, seven participants from Croatia - Mr Tomislav Ivić, Chairman Defence Committee, Ms Dunja Špoljar, Vice President Defence Committee and Mr Davor Božinović, Member of Defence Committee were from the Croatian Parliament, Mr Marijan Barić, Attache, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Lt Col Marijan Jozić from the General Staff of Ministry of Defence. There were two participants from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹: Mr Muharem Jusufi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lt Col Dushko Stefanovski, General Staff, Military Co-operation, Ministry of Defence. Participants from Montenegro included Mr Savo Milašinović, Finance Department, Ministry of Defence, Mr Slaviša Ščekić, Expert Adviser, Assembly of Montenegro, Lt Col Robert Goli, Verification Centre. On behalf of Serbia there were three participants: Mr Dragan Šormaz, National Assembly, Member of Parliament, Mr Jakov Rogan, Criminal Police Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Lt Col Dragan Stojanović from the Verification Centre of the Ministry of Defence. Romanian participant was Lt Col Aurel Mircea Romocia, Chief of Plans Office, Romanian Arms Control Agency.

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Representatives of international organizations and NGOs included Mr Marko Milošević, researcher from the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), Mr Istvan Gyarmati, Director of International Centre for Democratic Transition (DEMCK), Hungary, and Mr Kristijan Podbevšek, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.

Activity Background

The SEE territory, both in its wider and narrower borders, definitely does not look as one with conflicts potentials. While there are some risk areas in this regard, they are not likely to escalate into conflict in the foreseeable future. However, the OSCE "Code of Conduct", Vienna documents and related security mechanisms should remain firmly planted in the political tissue of the SEE.

On the other hand, there is a five-year period of different levels of economic and financial hardship shared with the rest of Europe, albeit with a stronger impact on the transition and post-conflict countries. The purpose of this event was to discuss whether CSBMs in the SEE should remain almost strictly defence oriented or they could expand to include broader aspects. In particular, it was to discuss whether it was valid to start shifting the focus from general arms control and notification measures to a more substantial and cost-beneficial level of defence co-operation and if that could be considered a C(S)BM.

Activity Facilitators

The Seminar was planned and organised by RACVIAC and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation



Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director of RACVIAC and Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., PM, SSR Pillar, RACVIAC.

The Seminar was conducted in Budva, Montenegro. The event started with a welcome dinner on 17th September 2013. It continued for the next two days and was officially closed on 19th September 2013. Seminar participants included representatives of Parliaments, ministries of defence, interior and foreign affairs.



Attentive participants

Activity Description and Content

The first day of the Seminar included arrivals and a welcome address by Mr Savo Milašinović, Finance Department, MoD, Montenegro, and Brigadier General

Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, followed by a welcome dinner.

The working part of the Seminar started with opening remarks given by Mr Savo Milašinović, Finance Department, MoD, Montenegro, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, and Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., PM, SSR Pillar, RACVIAC.



Mr Savo Milašinović, Finance Department, MoD, Montenegro

In his keynote speech Dr. Davor Božinović, Member of the Defence Committee, Croatian Parliament, expressed his views regarding the future of the European Defence and building integrity.



Mr Istvan Gyarmati, Director of International Centre for Democratic Transition (DEMKK), Hungary, and Mr Kristijan Podbevšek, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

The first panel dealt with the concept and history of C(S)BM. A presentations on the history of C(S)BMs and results of their implementation was given by Mr Istvan Gyarmati, Director of International Centre for Democratic Transition (DEMKK), Hungary. The second panel covered C(S)BMs in a broader context. Mr Slaviša Ščekić, Expert Adviser of the Assembly of Montenegro, gave a presentation on the role of the OSCE Code of Conduct in the context of C(S)BMs - regional experience. Mr Kristijan Podbevšek from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre spoke about the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the 2013 Annual information exchange. This panel was closed with a presentation by Lt Col Marijan Jozić, Defence Policy Directorate, MoD, HR, who talked about the implementation of C(S)BMs and NATO perspective.

The second working day opened with the third panel on the current developments regarding C(S)Bma. Lt Col Robert Goli,

Verification Centre, ME, outlined the concept of regional C(S)BMs (ref. Vienna Documents 1999/2011). Lt Col Dragan Stojanović, Senior Arms Control Inspector, International Military Co-operation Department, MoD, RS, addressed the role and impact of Vienna Documents on C(S)BMs in the post-conflict environment and how they work today. Mr Savo Milašinović, Finance Department, MoD, ME, gave an insight into the contemporary approach to C(S)BMs at the time of the financial crisis and outlined regional experience. The closing panel of the Seminar addressed the future of the C(S)BM concept. The lecturer was Mr Marko Milošević, BCSP, who elaborated on the compliance with the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security, as backed by bilateral agreements, questioning whether it was a sufficient C(S)BM framework and whether C(S)BMs should be regionally-based or rather a more general approach should be adopted.



Mr Slaviša Ščekić, Expert Adviser, Assembly of Montenegro

Closing Remarks were given by Mr Savo Milašinović, Finance Department, MoD, Montenegro and Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., PM, SSR Pillar, RACVIAC.



Mr Marko Milošević, BCSP

General remarks

The Seminar demonstrated particular importance of C(S)BMs for the region. The emphasis was on the results achieved thanks to C(S)BMs. In the course of achieving results, the countries were provided with crucial assistance from the OSCE and relied on the instruments at their disposal, primarily the CoC.

The Seminar also reflected on the future direction of C(S)BMs.

These days the countries are facing new challenges, the economic crisis being one of the most important. In this regard, the concept of C(S)BMs also needs adjustments.

In sum, the Seminar managed to achieve all of its main objectives:

- to outline the current status of C(S)BMs under international documents and bilateral/multilateral agreements,
- to assess the implementation of C(S)BMs,
- to tackle types of C(S)BMs,
- to tackle C(S)BMs at the national level,
- to elaborate on possible new dimensions of C(S)BMs with regard to the economic situation.

The Seminar was through two days programme recognised as an opportunity for representatives from parliaments, various ministries and other institutions from SEE countries to present their experiences in this important segment of SSR which needs deeper discussions about in the future.

