

Conference on  
"New Security Challenges for Europe"

SSR/IRC-07-CF/2015

17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Rakitje, Republic of Croatia

Organized in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Croatian Alumni Association of the "George C. Marshall Centre"

**Summary** On 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, together with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Croatian Alumni Association of the "George C. Marshall Centre" co-organized in Rakitje, Republic of Croatia, the Conference on "New Security Challenges for Europe". The Conference panel topics were selected around specific security issues identified in the context of the 2014 Conference conclusions and the global security trends having direct or indirect impacts on Europe's, and particularly EU's, present and the future, while at the same time keeping in mind the euro-integration processes initiated in the SEE countries. Due to a high level of accuracy in the field of security forecasting the timing of the event and its main subject were pinpointed successfully. Thus, the Conference emphasis was put on the key aspects and impacts of the large scale SEE migration stream which, beyond doubt, requires the application of the common security strategies and the corresponding long-term solutions.

During two full working days a total of 60 participants, including eminent Subject Matter Expert speakers, comprehensively studied the following five topics: "New Security Challenges for the EU, Europe and Beyond", "The True Nature of the SEE Migration Stream", "Migrations and the Terrorism Threat", "SEE Migration Stream: Lessons Learned and Strategies", "The Schengen Agreement and the EU Migration Challenge - FRONTEX as a Part of a Solution".



The Conference Group Photo

Rakitje, Republic of Croatia, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015

## Activity Background

The subject event presents a continuation of the established series of activities aimed toward enabling comprehensive discussions on developing security challenges for the European countries. It is the third RACVIAC activity to be developed and organized in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Alumni Association of the "George C. Marshall Center".

The key idea behind this initiative is that the process of EU accession of the South-Eastern Europe (SEE) countries, aspiring to full EU membership, should be complemented with the necessary steps toward a national integration of the key elements of the existing EU Security Strategy. Thus, looking from a geopolitical point of view, the SEE should define a common political and security outlook vis-à-vis the new security threats that lie ahead, that are already arising or will possibly arise in the near future.



### Conference Opening

[Starting from left]

**Mr Andreas Krauß**, Permanent Deputy Ambassador, German Embassy in HR  
**BG Gordana Garašić**, President's Assistant Counsellor for Defence and National Security, Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia  
**H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk**, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation  
**Dr Michael A. Lange**, Head of KAS Office Croatia  
**Dr Hans-Peter Friedrich**, MP, former Minister of Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany  
**Mr Smiljan Čubelić**, President, the Croatian Alumni Association of the G. C. Marshall Centre

The purpose of this joint event was to continue addressing the transformation processes in SEE in the context of the required level of security integration for EU and NATO membership aspiring candidates. The Conference aimed at bringing together the representatives primarily from the SEE countries whose international position is shifting following Croatian entry into the EU. The main Conference objectives were as follows:

*The subject event presents a continuation of the established series of activities aimed toward enabling comprehensive discussions on developing common security challenges for the European countries.*

- To identify developing security challenges for Europe in general and SEE in particular;
- To provide participants with the opportunity to share national considerations concerning the identified security challenges;
- To look into the rationale regarding the implementation of the current EU Security Strategy, especially in the light of a continuous intensification of illegal migrations and the way this process influences the level of the terrorist threat within or outside of the European continent;
- To provide participants from NATO/EU member and non-member countries with a common platform to review the current security challenges emerging from the newest geopolitical shifts and resulting issues;
- To discuss the current economic and financial trends within the European Union and to assess how the growing national debts and budget constraints influence the joint security future of the European Union and the countries aspiring to EU membership.

### Activity Facilitators

The provision of expertise and the overall organization were respectively handled between RACVIAC as the Conference proponent and the supporting partners. All parties were at a certain point included in organizational support, development of the agenda and speakers' invitations. RACVIAC developed and presented an initial activity concept and corresponding programme to the remaining parties, which was then additionally improved through direct consultations.

Traditionally, mutual partnership between RACVIAC, the KAS Office Croatia and the Croatian Alumni Association of the "George C. Marshall Center" was successfully utilized during the preparation and execution of this event, together with the required comprehensive Subject Matter Expertise.

Thus, all partner organizations were constantly engaged in the development of the event in line with the previously agreed and established Conference objectives.

The Conference itself was designed as an expert forum around five panel sessions chaired in turns by the leading representatives of the Conference partner organizations and UNDP.

### Activity Venue, Duration and Participation

This was the sixth RACVIAC SSR Pillar's 2015 Programme activity. The participation was very

high, and in total 60 participants from the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*\*, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Turkey and Kosovo\*, including Subject Matter Experts, Members of RACVIAC and KAS staff, took part in the Conference.

The event itself had a standard RACVIAC Conference structure, but lasted a day longer than usual (four working days), from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

*\* This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence (in accordance with Arrangements regarding representation and cooperation).  
\*\* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name.*

### **Activity Description and Content**

The Conference "On New Security Challenges for Europe" was structured in such a way so as to enable discussion on contemporary security aspects. Due to the broader context, the Agenda's scope covered the situation in the entire European continent and beyond due to the global implications of the current security situation.

The main outcomes of this highly topical event were:

- To identify and stress the real nature of the current security situation elements;
- To facilitate the idea of a common approach to common security challenges in Europe;
- To bring together the most relevant participants (Subject Matter Experts and decision makers) directly involved in resolving the "SEE Migration Stream" challenges;
- To introduce and talk about the different aspects of the large-scale migration challenges;
- To ultimately promote dialogue and cooperation on the current security challenges in Europe and beyond.

The joint work started on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 with the Conference opening during which Welcome Addresses were delivered by:

- H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation,
- Dr Michael A. Lange, Head of KAS Office Croatia,
- Mr Andreas Krauß, Permanent Deputy Ambassador, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Republic of Croatia,
- Mr Smiljan Čubelić, President, the Croatian Alumni Association of the G. C. Marshall Centre.



### **Conference**

**Welcome Addresses**  
Dr Michael A. Lange, Head of the KAS Office Croatia

Director of RACVIAC, H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, started his welcome speech with the call for a minute of silence for the victims of the November terrorist attacks in Paris, the French Republic, that happened just a few days prior to the Conference.



### **Conference Opening Commemoration**

H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, called for a minute of silence in memory of the November victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris, the French Republic

This latest wave of terror unfortunately confirmed the gravity of the security situation in the Europe. H.E. Ambassador Berk stressed that we live in an environment of asymmetric threats, which present challenges that are different than the ones during the Cold War period and that are threatening the core values of the whole of humanity. He pointed out that contemporary terrorism cannot be defeated without strong international cooperation. In this regard he quoted the G20 Summit Meeting conclusions (Antalya, Republic of Turkey) in which the leaders strongly condemned terrorist attacks in Paris and Ankara as an unacceptable affront to all of humanity, and confirmed unity in combatting terrorism based on a comprehensive approach and addressing the

H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC:  
"Contemporary security challenges including terrorism cannot be overcome without strong international cooperation."

conditions conducive to terrorism, as stipulated in the UN Security Council Resolution 2178.

H.E. Ambassador Berk concluded his address by expressing his gratitude to all those involved in the realization of this Conference seeing it as a form of active contribution to a better and more secure future.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, who accepted the invitation but was not able to participate in person, the Conference keynote speech was given by Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, Assistant Counsellor for Defence and National Security in the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia.



The Conference Keynote Speech

BG Gordana Garašić, President's Assistant Counsellor for Defence and National Security

Brigadier General Garašić conveyed the message of personal support on behalf of the President and thus confirmed the importance of this kind of events for the Republic of Croatia and SEE Europe as a whole on behalf of the highest national authority.



Panel I Keynote Speech

Dr Hans-Peter Friedrich, Member of the Parliament and former Minister of Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany

The work continued with the First Conference Panel on the "New Security Challenges for EU, Europe and beyond", that was initiated with the keynote speech that was delivered by Dr Hans-Peter Friedrich, member of the Parliament and

former Minister of Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dr Friedrich delivered a highly insightful expose in which he comprised a majority of current security challenges in the EU, Europe and beyond, with an emphasis on the current migration crisis. Dr Friedrich pointed out that in case of the refugee crisis the priority and the only perspective regarding the migration stream is that the conditions for their return to the point of origin must be established. One of the solutions, naturally, is to temporarily provide care for refugees in the countries situated in the immediate neighbourhood. Unfortunately, these countries cannot carry this heavy burden by themselves. Dr Friedrich also underlined that the UN has failed in this regard (refugee camps), because of a lack of funds. The EU supported the camps but not well enough, he stressed.

Speaking about the social aspects, he made a point of stating that when members of other cultures come to Europe that they should integrate, and that they must not live isolated in "ghettos as a sort of a parallel world". In this context, EU member or any other country can receive only as many migrants as it can integrate, and for this particular reason every country should decide on the highest number of supported immigrants that should correlate with the highest possible national integration capacity.

Talking about the situation on the borders, Dr Friedrich underlined that the Schengen regime does not have an alternative and that the Hungarian example should be considered in this context. Regarding the subject of the refugees, the EU must send a message to all future migrants that the corresponding legislation will be fully applied, he added. Dr Friedrich also stressed that a good example in this regard is the Kingdom of Spain, which is intensively cooperating with the originating and transit countries by returning a majority of migrants to their homes. Ultimately, he stated that the important part of the solution is to fight human trafficking not just in the EU but in the countries of origin too.

When it comes to border management and control, the EU must insist on its own common system, which "the Schengen" is. Regarding this subject Dr Friedrich concluded that if "the Schengen" fails, every EU country will start to apply its own rules and solutions.

*Speaking about the large-scale migration stream, border management/control issues and the future security challenges for Europe, Dr Hans-Peter Friedrich called for a common approach, for proactive, systematic and coordinated solutions.*

Dr Friedrich concluded his comprehensive expose with his own vision of the future security challenges for the EU. As the next big security problem for the EU he sees a migration influx from the African continent. The point is that the Arabian spring movement generated and will continue to generate instabilities and a failure of the states, he added. The EU must contribute to the stabilization of the North African states like Libya and Egypt, and these efforts must be joint in nature and not bilateral, he stressed.



Conference in Session - National Contributions

After this first panel keynote speech, the Conference continued with the individual national contributions, after which the specific EU aspects of the ongoing actions in the field of security were discussed by a group of eminent scholars.

Ms Lidija Čehulić-Vukadinović, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, laid out a set of questions regarding the impact of the current crisis on the political future of the European Union, and the accession process specifically. Within the same context Mr Sandro Knezović, PhD, Institute for Development and International Relations, spoke about the mechanism of the decision-making process in the EU and how it influences the common crisis resolutions.



Keynote Speaker  
Presentations - Panel I  
Ms Lidija Čehulić-Vukadinović,  
PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty  
of Political Sciences, University of  
Zagreb

Finally, Maj Robert Barić, PhD, Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, the Croatian Defence Academy "Dr. Franjo Tuđman", laid out

a comprehensive strategic and global view of the ongoing security situation.

The first conference day concluded with Panel II on the "True Nature of the SEE Migration Stream". The main purpose of this Panel was to introduce the participants with the new perspective on the migration stream topic. The keynote speaker for this Panel was Mr Kristijan Kotarski, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, who provided participants with very interesting insights regarding the economic aspects of migrations, entitled "The Political Economy of Migrations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

His presentation garnered a high level of interest by throwing a new light on this specific question by analysing the dominant push and pull factors of the 21<sup>st</sup> century migrations.

Day Two of the Conference started with Panel III on the "Migrations and the Terrorism Threat". It included an introductory keynote speech given by Ms Olivera Injac, PhD, Professor, Humanistic Studies Faculty, Podgorica, in which she stressed contemporary trends in terrorism with an emphasis on the role of migrations.

On the other hand, Mr Nikola Brzica, MSc, Expert Consultant on Information Security, laid out the basis for the discussion on the evolution of contemporary terrorism.

Panel IV spanned the topic of the "SEE Migration Stream: Lessons Learned and Strategies".

This panel included two eminent officials: Col Andreas Pichler, Austrian police Attaché to Croatia and Slovenia and Mr Dragan Petrović, The Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI). Col Pichler in his expose reviewed the ongoing practices and summed up the lessons learned regarding the SEE migration stream from the perspective of EU Member and EU Member candidate countries, and what particular strategies they applied.

Panel V was dedicated to "The Schengen Agreement and the EU Migration Challenge - FRONTEX as a Part of a Solution".

This topic was covered by a highly eminent speaker, Mr Ivan Bizjak, PhD, the former minister of Interior of the Republic of Slovenia. As the former Director General at the DG Justice and Home Affairs in the Council of the EU he was personally involved in the enlargement of the Schengen area in 2007.



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Presentations - Panel V**  
Mr Ivan Bizjak, PhD, the former  
Minister of Interior of the  
Republic of Slovenia

Thus, Mr Bizjak was a perfect selection for this final topic which discussed the existing and possible future solutions regarding EU border management and control. He argued that free movement is a cornerstone of the EU and that the EU has to do everything to save it. The problem is, he added, that Schengen was not conceived for such massive migration flows as we are witnessing nowadays and that it has to be improved. He also stressed that rules and laws must be respected on the EU borders.

### **Conference Conclusions and Recommendations**

The event was unanimously assessed as successful. It primarily succeeded in being topical in view of the existing security issues, dealing successfully with the latest and most critical challenges in the area of European security.

The main reason for this can be found in the fact that it managed to involve a comprehensive forum of experts, enabling participants to get a unique opportunity to discuss the latest experiences and unsolved issues in this field that, by its nature, surpasses national boundaries and requires close bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

This was the key message delivered by H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, during the Conference Closing Session, when he, in this context, once again recognized the valuable support provided by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Croatia.

Furthermore, Ambassador Berk expressed satisfaction for having such an eminent group of expert speakers who contributed to the relevance and, ultimately, success of this Conference.

In addition, he conveyed appreciation for the interest shown, reflected in such a big number of

participants who had a valuable opportunity to share the latest individual national considerations regarding the identified common European security challenges.

In this regard, Ambassador Berk laid out some key Conference conclusions:

- No single country can cope with the new security challenges;
- There is a need for a comprehensive, whole of Europe, approach;
- Fighting terrorism requires strong international cooperation;
- Terrorism cannot be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group;
- Terrorism cannot be in any way related to immigration;
- The root causes of the refugee crisis must be tackled;
- EU must respond to new challenges and prepare common standards for the asylum policy;
- There is a need to establish strong cooperation with the frontline countries, and no one should expect of them to carry total responsibility for the events that unfold.

*"Europe must continue to fight together in order to achieve lasting stability and peace. No single country can cope with the newly imposed challenges, and there is an eminent need for the common European approach, including a common asylum policy, while the root causes of the refugee crisis must be tackled so that they include all stakeholders."*

Director of RACVIAC in his concluding remarks announced that this particular series of events will continue to be organized with the same level of enthusiasm in the future as well, in cooperation with the traditional partners like the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Croatia, and the Croatian Alumni Association of the "George C. Marshall Centre".

All planned outcomes of the Conference were achieved successfully, which was confirmed through the subsequent evaluations.

It was also confirmed once again that the common security challenges for Europe require common European security solutions, based on a clear political consensus and mutual dialogue and cooperation - the creed that has been woven into the RACVIAC mission ever since its establishment in 2000.