



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Annex A

Overview
SSR-12-S

CMR Seminar: "Private (Military) Security Companies II"

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Dates 28-30 April 2014
Venue(s) RACVIAC, Facilities of the Military Barracks "Vitez Damir Martić", Rakitje, Stari Hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia

Background A range of writers and observers have monitored the increase in private security provisions across the world in the last two decades. In 1999 the Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS) estimated that there were more than 500.000 guards working for 10.000 Private Security Companies. Today, with the eastern expansion of the EU, that number may well have more than doubled. Within South-Eastern Europe (SEE) the industry has grown even more rapidly from very small beginnings in the early 1990s. A study commissioned in 2005 and researched by the non-governmental organisations entitled Saferworld (UK) in collaboration with local civil society partners found that there are now around 200.000 private security guards working in the SEE region. The key conclusion of the Study was that regulatory authorities of each country, together with the most progressive members of the industry should collaborate to develop and implement comprehensive but workable regulations and voluntary guidelines to ensure the highest standards are maintained within the sector.

To ensure a higher level of the rule of law and human rights protection in the SEE region as a responsibility of the Private Security Companies (PSC), RACVIAC in the year 2013 started in cooperation with DCAF Geneva promoting values and provisions of the Montreaux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security providers in SEE. Both the Montreaux Process and adoption of the ICoC for PSCs were initiated by the Government of the Swiss Confederation and with support of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In cooperation with the representatives of 17 states PSCs affirm their responsibility to respect human rights and fulfill humanitarian responsibilities towards all those affected by their business activities. As a consequence of these processes in Europe and wider in the SEE Region, we can stress the importance of the agreement and of the launching of the Sarajevo Code of Conduct and Sarajevo Client Guidelines for Procurement and Private Security Companies which were supplied with SEESAC's financial and technical support in September 2006.

The Seminar on P(M)SCs II is the second one in a series of similar events which became a RACVIAC mid-term project focussing on the changes in Civil-Military Relations (CMR) and the effects of privatisation of the security sector.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the second P(M)SC/National Security Seminar in April 2014 is threefold. Firstly, it aims to bring together representatives from South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and provide them with relevant general information on the global trends, rapid growth and changing nature of the private (military) security sector in the last two decades and its impact on civil-military relations (CMR).

Secondly, the seminar is aimed at outlining the pros and cons of the use of P(M)SCs and lessons learned in the course of security privatisation and outsourcing.

Thirdly, the event aims to present the options for effective regulation of P(M)SCs on the international level with focus on the SEE Region.

The seminar will provide the participants from parliaments, ombudsman institutions, ministries, chambers of commerce, representatives of P(M)SCs and NGOs from the SEE countries with an opportunity to present their experiences in transposing international regulations into national legislation.

The main objectives are:

- to outline the changing nature of the P(M)SCs and the impact on CMR,
- to provide participants with relevant general information on the history and current trends in P(M)SCs,
- to give an overview of the pros and cons of using P(M)SCs and lessons learned from privatizing and outsourcing security,
- to direct participants' attention to the options available for the effective regulation of P(M)SCs,
- to present the current implementation status of the Montreaux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers worldwide,
- to introduce participants to information about the Sarajevo process and the main elements of the Sarajevo Code of Conduct and Sarajevo Guidelines for Procurement and Private Security Companies,
- to exchange national experiences of SEE countries in implementing action plans and programmes to regulate P(M)SCs at the national level.

Participants Approximately 30 participants from parliaments, the national Ombudsman institutions for human rights protection, ministries of internal affairs, as well as representatives from Associations of P(M)SCs and NGOs, as well as experts from various national institutions and think-tanks. Experts from relevant DCAF, OSCE and EU departments are invited to take part in providing relevant information on the subject matter.

Methodology The seminar will include keynote speeches outlining the importance of the law, practice and governance of Private (Military) and Security Companies in the Security Sector Reform, followed by presentations on national implementation of action plans. The working language will be English.

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