



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

Arms Control Symposium

04-06 November 2014, Rakitje, Croatia

Introduction

The Arms Control Symposium is an activity with a long tradition in the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. This year it was organised between 04-06 November.

This year's event built on the experience of the last year's symposium and its purpose was to present the latest developments in arms control, with the aim of opening new perspectives on confidence-building measures for peace and stability in Europe. The event served as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of arms control treaties as a cornerstone of European and the SEE security.

The symposium aims were to examine:

- The objectives and means of a modern, stability oriented pan-European arms control regime;
- The situation regarding military capabilities in future conventional arms control;
- The role of cooperative security and NATO;
- The role of arms control in resolving remaining security issues in Europe;
- New arms control requirements from a military perspective;
- Future arms control and modern force capabilities.

The participants who attended the Symposium came from the following countries: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Croatia (3), Germany (1), Japan (2), Kosovo* (1), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia† (1), Montenegro (2), Serbia (1), Slovenia (1), Turkey (1), the United States of America (3) and international organisations, such as the NATO School Oberammergau (1) and OSCE BiH (2). They were both senior and junior military men and civilians dealing with arms control issues.



Group photo

The Symposium was conducted with the assistance of lecturers from Croatia (Ms Mihaela Barić, Ms Ivana Barbara Blazević), Germany (Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Leibniz Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt a/M.), NATO (LtCol Stéphane Spitz, NATO School Oberammergau), from Serbia (Ambassador Branka Latinović, MoD), the USA (Mr Greg Delawie, DoS), OSCE BiH (Col (ret.) Gerhard Faustmann).



Symposium Participants

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers and discussions. This Symposium was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring historical background of arms control. The Symposium also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for really valuable and focused discussions.

Execution

The Symposium was opened on 05 November 2014 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, followed by opening remarks given by H.E. Keiji Ide, ambassador of Japan to Croatia, which was followed by opening remarks by Mr Greg Delawie (US DoS), then by Ms Mihaela Barić (MFEA HR) and SSg Stanko Zubčić (Embassy of Germany). LtCol Muharrem Gülcan PM was an excellent moderator of the event.

During Wednesday, 05 November, the following topics were presented:

- *The Ukraine-Russia Conflict: Lessons for the modernization of the Vienna Document 2011* by Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Senior Research Associate, Leibniz Institute Peace Research Frankfurt/M.

Dr Schmidt gave a detailed overview of the present situation, according to the title chosen. Special emphasis was put on the positive and negative results of the VD2011, and the deficits, at the the same time he talked about the possible proposals to overcome these deficits. Among the problems he mentioned these: Interstate agreement and domestic conflicts - many measures do not differentiate between them; How can paramilitary forces of (new) entities be covered (Nagorni-Karabakh, Transnistria, “DPR”, “LPR”, South Ossetia, Abkhazia)? How can deployed forces of a state party in entities be verified (Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia)? How can forces of a state party on contested territory be verified (Crimea).



BGen Zdravko Jakop (RACVIAC), Ms Mihaela Barić (MFEA HR) and SSg Stanko Zubčić (Embassy of Germany)

- *Contribution of Conventional Arms Control to Stability in Europe* by Mr Gregory Delawie, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Security, Technology and Implementation, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, U.S. Department of State. Among others, Mr Delawie talked about the Dayton Article IV, then answering to questions about other treaties, like CFE.

- *The view of the OSCE on arms control mechanisms in South East Europe* by Col (ret.) Gerhard Faustmann, OSCE BiH.

In this presentation the engagement of the OSCE mission to BiH was highlighted in the field of arms control. The mission,

which has founded on 18th December 1995, now working with Sarajevo HQ and 11 field offices, is focusing mostly on PSSM issues. Their main goal is the SECUP (security upgrade of BiH), the improving of the situation of the ammunition and weapons storage sites.



Mr Gregory Delawie (US DoS)

- *Overview on NATO and Arms control activities* by LtCol Stéphane Spitz, Outreach Branch Head Strategy, Plans & Policy Department, NATO School Oberammergau. Col Spitz gave an overview of the relationship of the NATO and arms control, clarifying its aims. “The NATO doesn’t belong to any treaty,” emphasized. The topic was examined from the point of view of the recent NATO Summit of Wales (4-5 September 2014).

After these lectures the audience could listen to the national presentations given by Ambassador Branka Latinović, Director of

the Directorate for Arms Control Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Ms Mihaela Barić, Head of Division for International Security, Directorate, General for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, and Mr Miloš Vukašinović, Minister Counsellor in the Division for UN and other International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The final part of the Symposium was devoted to the evaluation of the Symposium and a Closing Ceremony.

During the second day (06th November) the heads of the verifications centres/arms control sections of the countries of the region took part in their usual annual meeting here, discussing relevant issues.



H.E. Keiji Ide, ambassador of Japan to Croatia

Conclusion

Thanks to the harmonized cooperation inside RACVIAC and to the long-standing tradition of the event, the presence of high-

level lecturers was ensured. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants.



Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt (Leibniz Peace Research Institut)

According to the participants` evaluation provided at the end of the event, the Symposium was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants

were members of national authorities dealing with arms control issues in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.

The participants were highly motivated during the Symposium and they showed deep interest in the subject matter. According to the evaluation of the questionnaires distributed, they unanimously underlined their satisfaction regarding the event as a whole, especially the dealing of the subject in the light of the conflict in Ukraine.



Mr Gregory Delawie (US DoS)

This event proved to be a good example of a traditionally popular activity of the RACVIAC CSE Pillar. In this regard and under the same aegis, RACVIAC will continue facilitating future discussions about arms control with all means at its disposal.

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* *This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence*

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