



Centre for Security Cooperation

**"Consensus in decision-making: Strategy or stalemate?"**  
**SSR-01-S**

**Overview**

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, CROATIA  
Tel.: 00385 1 333 0 803, Fax: 00385 1 333 0 809, [www.racviac.org](http://www.racviac.org)

**Dates** 23-25 September 2014

**Location** RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

**Background** Prior to this one, three seminars within a series of activities that addressed the current South East European (SEE) priorities within the general concept of Security Sector Reform were held. The topics were covered under the umbrella title "Basics of SSR", as follows:

- Introducing PSO related aspects, March 2011
- The Good Governance Concept, February 2012
- Defence Accountability in the Framework of CSDP, February 2013.

This seminar aims to bring to light perhaps the all-embracing and most important aspect of SSR and of any long-term decision-making process – the concept of Consensus.

The relevance of Consensus becomes crucial when it comes down to societies and states undergoing transformation from ideologically run one party systems into democratic, multi-party, parliamentary systems. If we look at those transitional societies and states within the context of their current economic, financial and developmental situations – it becomes inevitable that perhaps the only real tool for coping with reality is to acquire and implement Consensus as the best means of reaching well-grounded, strategic decisions thus directing the national ships towards the calm seas in the future.

The principle is simple – overcoming the partisan differences through a mutual agreement on reaching a common way of fulfilling a long-term goal.

Establishing a national consensus over the most important issues and subsequent constant efforts made to obtain them has been perceived by many as a desirable yet hardly feasible standard or the bottom-line in a country's political and economic life.

And the rest of the nation would most likely grant it.

**Purpose & Objectives**

The main purpose of the seminar is to address the concept, the benefits and the ways of implementing Consensus in the long-term matters on any decision-making level.

The main objectives of the seminar are to elaborate on:

- What Consensus is,
- How Consensus is executed when agreed upon,
- Can national positive or negative case studies prove the potential benefits of Consensus,
- Consensus in Defence decision-making,
- What would be the results of Consensus becoming a standard in decision-making?

**Participants**

Representatives of Parliamentary Committees on Defence and Security, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence (International Co-operation, Planning, Procurement), Ministries of Internal Affairs (inter-agency co-operation) and civil society from AL, BA, ME, MK, RO, RS, and TR (travel to be supported), as well as representatives from AT, GR, HR, HU, SI (travel will not be supported).

**Methodology**

The event will be executed in a seminar form with discussions. The working language will be English.

**Point-of-Contact**

Lt Col Neven Bajić, (HR)  
Phone: + 385 1 3330 853  
Fax: + 385 1 3330 834,  
E-mail: [nbajic@racviac.org](mailto:nbajic@racviac.org)