



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Annex A

Overview
SSR/IRC-01-CF

OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: 20 Years Anniversary/Peer to Peer Conference

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- Dates** 30 September – 3 October 2014
- Venue(s)** RACVIAC, Facilities of the Military Barracks “Vitez Damir Martić”, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia
- Background** The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was adopted in 1994 and through a definition of standards it presents one of the main OSCE mechanisms to address the global security challenges. In that light The Code of Conduct has played a vital role for the European countries that were in a transition process and wanted to develop democratic governments and pertinent defence and security institutions. All participating States commit themselves to “at all times provide for and maintain effective guidance to and control of its military, paramilitary and security forces by constitutionally established authorities vested with democratic legitimacy”. The main tools of the CoC are the annual exchange of information by means of Participating States’ implementation reports and for the past several years countries of South East Europe have complied with the annual information exchange and have been strong supporters of the Code and its implementation. This year marks twenty years of the adoption of the Code of Conduct and we can see that it still provides guidance on how to organize and govern the security sector. The idea to organise this Conference originates from the RACVIAC Strategy 2012-2015 that highlights the idea of security cooperation in the SEE region as one of the most important objectives. The 2014 Peer to Peer Review Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct among the countries of South-Eastern Europe is a part of a series of similar events which became a RACVIAC mid-term project co-organised and supported by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. They were initiated in 2012 with a Seminar that had the main purpose to raise awareness about commitments and to discuss experiences and challenges regarding practical implementation and then continued with the Seminar for parliamentarians in 2013 and a Workshop in 2014 that supported the implementation of the CoC values and standards in the SEE region and beyond, thereby expanding knowledge about its main purpose.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security 20 Years Peer to Peer Conference in September/October 2014 is to bring together high level representatives from South-Eastern Europe (SEE) responsible for the implementation of the CoC and provide them with relevant general information on the results of the OSCE Code of Conduct implementation process in South East Europe in the last 20 years, stressing the importance of the OSCE CoC principles for the stabilisation of the SEE region and for solving the new security challenges in Europe.

The Conference will provide the participants from parliaments, ombudsman institutions, ministries of foreign affairs, justice, defence and the interior and NGO representatives from the SEE countries with an opportunity to present their experiences in implementing the OSCE CoC in the last two decades.

The main objectives of this Conference are:

- To promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security at a regional level and look forward to the first ever peer-to-peer discussion on the Code's implementation among the countries of South East Europe
- To propose an analysis of OSCE Submissions, of the Statistical Overview of the Exchange on the OSCE Code of Conduct implementation process in the last two decades
- To present a best practice guide on improving the reporting on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico – Military Aspects of Security
- To give a state role to parliamentary Institutions, the government, international organizations and NGOs in the implementation process of the OSCE CoC

Participants

Approximately 40-45 participants from the parliaments, OSCE Missions in SEE (BA, ME, RS), the national Ombudsman institutions for human rights protection, representatives and senior experts from MFAs, MoD, MI and NGOs as well as experts from various national institutions and think-tanks. Experts from relevant UN, NATO and EU departments are invited to take part in providing relevant information on the subject matter too.

Methodology

The Conference will include keynote speeches outlining the importance of the OSCE Code of Conduct in the last 20 years, the law, practice and governance in the Security Sector Reform sector followed by an overview of the process of its implementation in SEE. The working language will be English.

POC

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