



Co-organized by: RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ministry of Defence (MK) and Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), DG Enlargement, European Commission

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) - EU's Contribution to the Security and Involvement of the SEE Countries

Date 11-13 June 2012

Venue Skopje, (MK)

Background The Common Security and Defence Policy - CSDP (formerly known as the European Security and Defence Policy - ESDP) was launched at the Cologne European Council Meeting of June 1999 as an integral part of the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Since 1999, political, civilian and military bodies have been established, common capabilities goals set and a number of crisis management operations have been carried out.

The European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy has been operational for more than six years. The Treaty of Lisbon has introduced quite a few institutional changes to the regime of foreign affairs and security policy and it is estimated that these innovations will significantly improve the decision-making and leadership on the issues of CSDP and, consequently, the effectiveness of the European Union as an international crisis manager.

The relevance of Common Security and Defence Policy and its role have been recognised as an important and successful instrument of the European Union. The CSDP missions and operations are framed within a coherent policy approach, operating on the ground as part of the EU family and building on necessary local ownership. The CSDP had a great achievement and played an important and specific role in strengthening the stability of the SEE region in line with its European perspective.

In order to continue ensuring the added value and quality of CSDP policies, missions and operations, it is very important to have an overview of the past developments, current attainments and future perspectives of the CSDP.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of this multi-beneficial event is to foster a common understanding of CSDP, develop a common security culture and efficient co-operation between the EU and SEE countries. Thus, the event will allow the representatives to share information, exchange views and learn about the standards and influence of the CFSP/CSDP. In this regard, the level of understanding the CFSP/CSDP is crucial, as it can significantly contribute to further improvement of the effectiveness of CFSP/CSDP.

The objectives are:

- To give an overview of the CFSP/CSDP today, main actors, institutions and instruments;
- To explore new features of the CFSP/CSDP;
- To present lessons learned on the CSDP missions, identifying key lessons and analysing trends;
- To promote the civil-military coordination as a specific requirement of the EU;
- To exchange views on and promote other CSDP-related aspects;
- To foster and support the EU integration process of the SEE countries.

Participants Approximately 50 participants from the signatory countries of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The participants should be either civilian or military representatives at the decision-making level from the Ministries of Defence and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other state institutions dealing with the subject matter. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media are also to be invited.

Methodology The event will last for two working days and the official working language will be English. The event will be conducted as a combination of presentations, speeches and open discussions.

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