



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

11-13 June 2012

IRC-02-S

EXTERNAL REPORT

Abstract

The idea to organize this activity on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) topic originated from the need and desire to continue conducting EU-related activities in order to foster and promote the European integration processes in South Eastern Europe (SEE).

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.

Purpose

The purpose of this multi-beneficial event was to foster a common understanding of the CSDP, develop a common security culture and efficient co-operation between the EU and SEE countries. Thus, the event allowed 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 the CFSP/CSDP.

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.

Acknowledgements

RACVIAC hereby extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Defence (MK) and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission for their financial and organizational support.

Venue and participation

The event was held at the Hotel Arka in Skopje (MK) from 11 to 13 June 2012. The event participants were both civilian and military officials and it gathered a total of 67 participants from the SEE countries and member countries of the European Union.



Group photo

The Agenda

Colonel Ljube Dukoski, State Advisor at the Ministry of Defence (MK), welcomed the audience and kindly gave the floor to the Minister of Defence (MK), H.E. Mr Fatmir Besimi for his opening remarks.

In his welcome and opening speech, Minister Besimi emphasized the importance of hosting such a significant event that was organized in cooperation with RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and TAIEX Instrument of the European Commission. The Minister pointed out that sharing the values of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and participation in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) was our reality. He continued by saying that the Common Security and Defence Policy had become an inseparable part of the European integration and one of the most important issues of concern to the international security landscape today. It is an area where the functioning of the unity and solidarity of the participating countries is best demonstrated in practice, because regardless of their size, each country makes its contribution to dealing with the security threats and takes part in building global peace and security.



Mr Fatmir Besimi, Minister of Defence (MK MoD)

The opening session continued with the address by Mr Robert Liddell from the Delegation of the European Union in Skopje. Speaking about the importance of the Common Security and Defence Policy, Mr Liddell emphasized that from the EU perspective, the host nation and all candidate and potential candidate countries

from the SEE made progress towards accepting various standards and compatibility connected with the CSDP standards and policies. He expressed his satisfaction with the purpose of this event by which it will confirm the EU path of the host nation and the whole Region at the end, through sharing of the values of the Common Security and defence policy, developing common security culture and efficient cooperation between the EU and the SEE countries.



From right to left: Mr Robert Liddell, Mr Fatmir Besimi, Amb Nikola Todorčevski and Col Ljube Dukoski

In the continuation of the opening session, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Defence, Mr Fatmir Besimi, for his continuous support to RACVIAC, and for the opportunity to co-organize this important event. After having said this and in response to the legitimate interests and needs of the member states, Ambassador Todorčevski pointed out that RACVAC was offering the subject matter on the European integration processes on the Agenda for the second time this year, as it had done several times in previous years.

He was particularly delighted to note that this regional event represented a step forward in the joint efforts to foster and promote the EU integration process in South East Europe. He continued by saying that the Common and synchronized adoption of demands, which were cumulated in the CSDP concept, could be one of the instruments stimulating effective reaching of CFSP/CSDP standards as part of the EU integration. He also pointed out that different concepts of crisis management and the necessity for harmonization with regard to CSDP standards had increased the needs of the EU candidate and potential candidate countries in the pre-accession phase pertaining to the procedures, management, capabilities, knowledge, etc.

After the opening addresses, the event continued with the first panel presentations.

They were moderated by Mr Milan Janicijevic, RACVIAC Staff member.

In the first panel Ms Patricia Galvao Teles, the distinguished representative from the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU, delivered the presentation on "The Main Innovations of the Lisbon Treaty with regards to CSDP". The presentation started with the introduction and timeline of the CSDP – and outlined the policy development from CFSP, ESDP and CSDP after WW II until today. Ms Teles continued by giving an overview of the legal framework and the new institutional setting, particularly with regard to the CSDP in the Treaty of Lisbon, stressing that the EU had developed a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. At the end of the presentation the attendees were informed about the main innovations of the Treaty of Lisbon, particularly with regard to the following:

- Clarification of the scope of EU crisis management tasks;
- Mutual assistance and solidarity clauses;
- Possibility of entrusting a group of Member States with a CSDP mission;
- Permanent structured cooperation;
- European Defence Agency (EDA);
- The possibility of establishing a start-up fund for CSDP operations.

Ms Patrícia Galvão Teles continued with her lecture on the following presentation entitled: "EU as an Active Player". Presenting the overall mission spectrum from original Petersberg tasks to the new tasks in the context of CSDP missions, Ms Teles depicted the completed and ongoing CSDP missions. In her valuable contribution to the Seminar, at the end of her presentation, Ms Teles examined the current challenges and prospects of CSDP.



Working session

Colonel Philippe Pourquoié, Commissar Colonel – Counsellor, Head of Section for Financing of Operations in the French Military Representation to the EU, was the next lecturer. He informed the participants about the CSDP mission and operation funding – rules and implementation. Colonel Pourquoié, in his

peroration about funding of the EU operations and missions through procedures, implementation and perspectives. After briefly outlining ongoing operations and missions, he explained the ban on funding military operations through the EU budget, which implies two systems: the CFSP budget for civilian missions and the Athena mechanism for military operations. Following this presentation, Mr Graham Muir, Head of Policy and Planning of the European Defence Agency, delivered a presentation entitled: "European Defence Agency – a Cooperative Approach to Capability Development".

Session I focused on the benefits of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU (CSDP) for the SEE from an academic point of view. In this session presentations were delivered by Mr Aleksandar Doncev, PhD, Dean of the Faculty for Detectives and Security, FON University, and Mr Selmo Cikotic, PhD, former Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and current Dean of the American University in Sarajevo.



From right to left: Dr Selmo Cikotić, Dr Aleksandar Doncev, Mr Milan Janicijevic and Mr Graham Muir

The presentations and sessions on the second day were moderated by Col Ljube Dukoski, State Advisor MoD (MK).

The second working day started with the panel entitled: "Civil-Military Cooperation in the EU Crisis Management", and Mr Yves de Kermabon, European External Action Service (EEAS), former Head of EULEX - Kosovo Mission, was the first to address the audience. During his speech, Mr De Kermabon underlined that in order to reach the anticipated coordination, the most important thing was to be really efficient in the field with all parties involved, both local and international. On this panel topic, an address from the national point of view was delivered by Mr Aziz Pollozhani from the State University in Tetovo (MK).



From right to left: Mr Yves De Kermabon (EEAS), Col Liube Dukoski (MK MoD) and Mr Azis Pollozhani (MK State University)

The following lecturer was Mr Evert Somer from the Civil Emergency Planning Outreach, NATO HQ. Mr Somer delivered a presentation on the Partnership with NATO: Developing More Flexible Framework for Working together. During his presentation, he informed the audience about some key elements of the cooperation: to have a coordination mechanism in place, all actors should be involved in the development of the plan, they should know their role in the plan, what resources are actually available, etc. After Mr Somer, Ms Marijana Patrlj-Popović from the Croatian Ministry of Interior made a presentation on the Participation in Peace Support Missions/Operations, presenting Croatian experience.

The last session of the event was dedicated to the influence of the CFSP/CSDP on candidate and potential candidate countries in the process of accession to the EU and the perspectives of various SEE countries were presented.

Following the speakers' presentations on respective national perspectives and the experiences of candidate and potential candidate countries in the CFSP and CSDP, there was a question and answer session followed by an open discussion.

Closing remarks

This event is a continuation of the commitment and readiness of South East European countries to further promote the European integration processes.

At the final stage of the event, during the closing session, it was agreed that this initiative should be further promoted in the future. The following closing remarks were made:

- During the event excellent discussions and presentations were presented, which was an opportunity for all participants to exchange experience and share information

on the latest developments and trends in the CSDP area;

- It was agreed that the presentations of all the lecturers enriched the participants' knowledge of the CSDP;
- The support form TAIEX Instrument/EU Commission should be continued in the future;
- It was agreed that the International and Regional Cooperation (IRC) Pillar should continue planning the EU-related activities;
- The event emphasized the importance of further development of the Common Security and Defence Policy in close connection with the aspiration of the region to become part of the European perspective;
- The region shares a common goal - the membership in the EU.

Compiled by: Mr Milan Janicijevic, IRC Pillar.