

Conference on  
Partnership Policy and Smart Defence in  
the Context of the New NATO Strategic Concept

25 - 27 September 2012

IRC-06-CF/SSR-07-P

External Report

Background

After the Chicago NATO Summit, the Alliance and its Partners are facing numerous challenges with regard to the expansion of partnership policy, limitation of resources, the need to reconcile values and interests, and engagement of partners in emerging security challenges.

The partnership makes a valued contribution to the success of NATO's fundamental tasks. Furthermore, dialogue and cooperation with partners can make a concrete contribution to enhancing international security, defending the values on which the Alliance is based, NATO's operations, and preparing the interested nations for NATO membership. Apart from outsourcing, introduced two decades ago and recognized as an important defence resources management tool, today we are facing economic and financial crisis that brought us to a new concept in Defence System, the Smart Defence. In this regard, it is more than relevant to address with due care and sensitivity practices and experiences with the effects of outsourcing and efforts in implementing the Smart Defence concept on national defence sectors.

Purpose

The purpose of this event is to foster and support the Partnership and Smart Defence by prompting participants to discuss, share and exchange information and best practices.

Acknowledgements

RACVIAC hereby extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia and NATO Public Diplomacy Division for their support and sponsorship.

Participation and venue

The Conference was held in the Slovenian Ministry of Defence Training Centre Poljče, from 25 to 27 September 2012. The event gathered 50 officials/representatives at the decision-making level and experts representing relevant institutions, academia and non-governmental organizations dealing with the activity subject matter.



Family photo

The Programme

Mr Milan Janicijevic, RACVIAC Staff member, welcomed the audience and kindly opened the Conference, giving some introductory remarks.

Mr Robert Stražišar, M.Sc., the Head of Multilateral and Defence Diplomacy Department in the Defence Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia made the opening remarks and delivered the welcome address. In his address, Mr Stražišar stressed that today, and particularly after the Chicago NATO Summit, the Alliance and its Partners were faced with numerous challenges with regard to the expansion of partnership policy, limitation of resources, the need to reconcile values and interest and engagement of Partners in emerging security challenges. Within the scope of the NATO Partnership Policy and also EU Common Security and Defence Policy, Mr Stražišar informed the participants that the Republic of Slovenia devoted special attention to partnership policy in the South East European region and this kind of events contributed to strengthening mutual cooperation and confidence and offered additional opportunity for the exchange of information and best practices.



From left to right: Mr Robert Stražišar, M.Sc., and Mr Milan Janicijevic

Ambassador Branimir Mandić, the incoming RACVIAC Director, was the next to give a welcome speech. Ambassador Mandić expressed his special thanks and great appreciation to the Slovenian Ministry of Defence for enabling RACVIAC to conduct this conference. Also, he expressed his gratitude to the NATO Public Diplomacy Division for their continuous support and sponsorship. Ambassador Mandić underlined the importance of consultation and cooperation mechanisms in flexible format, stressing that they had already been established, which brings NATO and its Partners closer together, across and beyond frameworks. He continued by saying that the complexity of today's peace support operations was multi-faceted with various challenges emerging that needed a

comprehensive approach effectively combining political, civilian and military instruments.



From left to right: Amb Branimir Mandić, Mr Milan Janicijevic and Mr Robert Stražišar, M.Sc.

After the opening remarks, the conference proceeded with Session I entitled Security challenges in SE Europe presented by Amb Dr Anton Bebler from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. Prof Bebler said that today the region was composed of democratic political systems, although in various degrees, and democracies almost never confront themselves. Potentially the hottest trouble spots in the SEE are today under international surveillance in the form, i. a., of present foreign troops, civilian controllers and two *de facto* protectorates. Additionally, the countries of the region are recipients of considerable financial assistance and developmental loans. There is also a web of regional cooperation schemes, including those in security and defence matters. All of this generates a moderately optimistic expectation that the whole region is on a good track to become a region of democracy, prosperity and stability.

The event continued with Session II focused on the contribution of the SEE Countries to NATO-Led missions in the pre-accession phase and its impacts towards full NATO membership. The promotion of Euro-Atlantic security is best assured through a wide network of partner relationships with countries and organizations. These partnerships make a valued contribution to the success of NATO's fundamental tasks. The Session was created to present the efforts and results of the SEE countries in NATO-led missions, the importance and role of the Partnership. During this session the following national speakers gave their presentations: Col Foto Duro; Director of the Directorate for Security and Defence Policy, MoD (AL); Col Nihad Dervišević; Chief of Section, Armed Forces, MoD (BA) and Maj Panche Stefanovski; Advisor for NATO-led Exercises and Operations,

MoD (MK). After the presentations, the floor was open for questions, answers and discussions.



Mr Ismet Ramadani from Euro-Atlantic Council, (MK)

The last session on the first day of the Conference was dedicated to strengthening NATO's Network with Partners. The purpose of the session was to bring together representatives from national defence institutions of the SEE countries, academia and the NGOs in order to create a forum which would provide an opportunity to exchange views and lessons learned and to promote NATO as an international organization and the integration/cooperation among NATO member and aspirant member countries from the SEE region. In this session, an academic point of view was presented by Ms Đana Luša, Ph.D., Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, (HR). The first working day was closed with the presentations made by the representatives of non-governmental organizations: Ms Edina Bećirević, Ph.D.; President of the Atlantic Council, (BA); Mr Ismet Ramadani; Vice President of the Euro-Atlantic Council, (MK); Mr Savo Kentera; President of the Atlantic Council, (ME) and Mr Boris Viculin, Project Manager, the Atlantic Council, (RS).

The second day of the Conference was moderated by Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., Programme Manager of Security Sector Reform Pillar in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The second day was aimed at providing the participants with the main theoretical aspects of the phenomenon of defence resource management and to remind them of the importance of Smart Defence/Pooling&Sharing models for international cooperation in the circumstances of the economic crisis and its effect on the budgets. Thus, Smart Defence was put high on the Agenda of NATO Chicago Summit in 2012.

The first session on the second day, session VI, entitled Economic and Financial Crisis and

Models of defence Resources Management started with a very interesting presentation on the Effects of the Economic Crisis/Cuts Impacts on Defence budgets given by Mr Marko Vučak, Head of Defence Policy, MoD, Republic of Croatia. Mr Vučak very specifically and realistically presented some consequences of cuts impacts on defence budgets in the Republic of Croatia.



Mr Marko Vučak, MoD, HR

Professor Erik Kopač, Ph.D., University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, gave the following presentation. In his presentation on Defence Resources Management Concepts and Smart Defence/Pooling & Sharing, professor Kopač outlined from an academic point of view the main elements of these little known concepts and models of defence resources management in NATO and the EU. Mentioning the consequences of the current financial and economic crisis, he stressed the importance of Smart Defence/Pooling and Sharing models of cooperation for the implementation process, especially in smaller countries, which the SEE countries definitively are.



Professor Erik Kopač

The third presentation, adding to the aforementioned topic, was given by the representative of the Slovenian Ministry of Defence, Mr Gregor Dolenc, Senior Advisor in Strategic Planning Division. Rather than being optimistic, as might have been expected from the title, his presentation was actually very

realistic, suggesting the crisis was an opportunity for smaller countries. Mr. Dolenc illustrated the situation and trends in the defence budget of the Republic of Slovenia, stressing the need for the implementation of Smart Defence/Pooling&Sharing models of defence resource management system described by professor Kopac.



Mr Gregor Dolenc, MoD, SI

Session IV was concluded by the presentation of Mr Davor Ćutić, Senior Expert, MoD, Croatia. In his very interesting presentation on the financial aspects of the economic crisis to procurement and outsourcing, he presented both positive and critical aspects of procurement and outsourcing. In this context, Mr Ćutić outlined some benefits and dilemmas regarding the practice of some Private Military and Security Companies.



Mr Davor Ćutić, MoD, HR

The afternoon session was dedicated to the existing and future common projects in the SEE countries. The main purpose of this session was to give the Conference participants an overview of the implementation of Smart Defence/Pooling & Sharing models in the SEE countries and to identify common future projects.

Four national presentations, each lasting for some 15 minutes, were given under a joint title of Smart Defence/Pooling&Sharing, National Perspectives of SEE countries, by LtC Slaven Arambašić; Policy and Plans Department; MoD (BA), Mr Igor Gjoreski; Policy and Plans Department; MoD (MK); Ms Radmila Pervić,

Advisor for Bilateral Cooperation, Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Defence (ME) and Major Aleksandar Vlajić, assigned for duties concerning the cooperation with NATO through Partnership for Peace, International Military Cooperation Department, Defence Policy Sector, MoD (RS). These presentations presented some worthwhile examples of the existing and future common projects to the participants.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations

The idea for organising a conference on the topic of Partnership Policy and Smart Defence in the Context of the New NATO Strategic Concept proved to be absolutely valuable.

The main purpose of the conference was to foster and support the Partnership and Smart Defence by prompting participants to discuss, share and exchange information and best practices.

The impact of the global economic and financial crisis on national economies and the partnerships are one of the most important reasons which led the participants to agree on the necessity to continue with this kind of cooperation in the SEE in the future. More specifically, they agreed that RACVIAC should organise another event of this type in the year 2013.

The goal to bring together representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Academia and NGOs in order to inform them about the current implementation and development of the Partnership Policy and Smart Defence issues in their respective countries was fully achieved.

It is also worth mentioning that, inside RACVIAC, the conference was organised as a merged type of event between two Pillars - the International Relations Cooperation (IRC) Pillar and Security Sector Reform Pillar. The event was co-organised by RACVIAC, co-sponsored by NATO, with all the necessary support provided by the Slovenian Ministry of Defence, which proves that Partnership and Smart Defence/Pooling & Sharing principles, implemented in everyday practice, always generate positive results.

Compiled by:

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