



Co-organized by: RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), DG Enlargement, European Commission

The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Institutional framework, policies and instruments 30 - 31 March 2011

IRC-07-S

EXTERNAL REPORT

Background

The EU's integration process has gained new momentum since the Commission adopted its last progress reports. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty enabled the EU to pursue its enlargement agenda, keeping thus the initial momentum towards European integration going. The EU's enlargement process contributes to stability in Europe and to the security and well-being of its citizens. It provides a unique incentive for a political and economic reform in the enlargement countries. The EU's commitment to the enlargement process reflects the Member States' conviction that it is in the mutual interest of the Union and the aspirant countries. This message needs to be presented and explained clearly to the public in order to invigorate understanding and support for enlargement. RACVIAC, whose mission is to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe, along with its international partners, stands committed to SEE's progress toward membership in the European Union.

The activity supports the capacity-building process in the countries of Southeastern Europe that are either official or potential candidates for full EU membership. The event supports SEE countries to better understand the capacity-building process in terms of accepting EU standards and values which are indispensable for their future accession to the EU.

Acknowledgements

RACVIAC wishes to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia for their organizational and financial contribution, which made this Seminar possible.

The purpose of the Seminar was to support the capacity building process in the Southeast European countries that are either candidates or potential candidates for acquiring full EU membership and to facilitate their future accession to the EU by enhancing their understanding of the capacity building process and the acceptance of EU standards and values.

Objectives were:

- to give an overview of the post-Lisbon institutional setting
- to present working relationship between the EEAS, the Commission and the Council
- to discuss and learn about the EEAS and its implications for national diplomacy
- to work towards reaching possible synergies between civilian and military tools
- to discuss the CFSP and the CSDP policy and instruments
- to analyze the main challenges on the path to the EU and to foster the EU integration of the SEE countries by enabling exchanges of opinions and lessons learned.

Venue, duration and participation

The Seminar was held at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, from 30 to 31 March 2011. It was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The Seminar gathered a total of 37 participants from SEE candidate or potential candidate countries.



Group foto

Seminar Agenda

The Seminar agenda comprised speeches by high-level representatives, which were followed by exchanges of experiences and points of view on common priorities and challenges as well as by open discussions.

The opening session started with the welcome remarks by H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, RACVIAC's Director. "Since many of South East European countries are at the doorstep of full-fledged EU membership, being either candidate or potential candidate countries, supporting their capacity-building process is of crucial importance not only for the Region, but for the whole Europe as well", Ambassador Todorčevski said. He also emphasized that precisely that - helping the SEE countries that are either EU candidate or potential candidate countries to better prepare for future accession to the EU by enhancing their understanding and acceptance of the capacity-building process - was the real aim of the gathering organised at RACVIAC.



From left to right: Amb. Nikola Todorčevski, Mr. Sebastian Knoke, Mr. Andrej Plenковиć MSc and Mr. Jens Beikufner

The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Andrej Plenковиć, State Secretary for EU Integration in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) of the Republic of Croatia. Mr Plenковиć drew attention to the civil-military approach of the EU in CSDP missions and its connection with today's situation and events throughout the world. He also referred to the Croatian experience and participation in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration, highlighting Croatia's contribution to peace support operations through its military and police elements. He used the opportunity to reiterate that by participating in the EU CSDP missions and operations, Croatia had gained valuable international experience, practical knowledge and the possibility to be recognized as a credible contributor to CSDP civil and military missions. Mr. Plenковиć also emphasized that the Croatian defence policy was harmonized with the EU and that in that field Croatia had developed all the necessary instruments for the EU integration. Furthermore, State Secretary Plenковиć underlined that Croatian activities in regional organisations and initiatives had always promoted and supported the

principles and instruments of the EU's policy towards the SEE region.



From left to right: Mr. Andrej Plenковиć MSc, Mr. Sebastian Knoke, Amb. Nikola Todorčevski; Mr. Jens Beikufner and Mr. Vidal y Delgado

After the opening part, the first speaker, Deputy Head of CSDP Division in the German Federal Foreign Office Mr. Jens Beikufner, took the floor. He addressed the audience on the topic "CSDP: Institutional Basis and Challenges". During his presentation, he gave an excellent overview of the latest developments in the EU regarding the CSDP, including: civil-military approach planning; main CFSP instruments; CSDP objectives and tasks; CSDP instruments; civilian CSDP missions; CSDP-open to third part for participation; EU-NATO relations; problems and way ahead concerning EU/NATO relations; European Defence Agency; Lisbon Treaty - a new CSDP instrument. Following Mr. Beikufner's address, the floor was open for questions and answers, which gave the participants an opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions.



Plenary session

The next speaker was Mr. Vidal y Delgado-Roig, Police Expert from the European External Action Service, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). Mr. Delgado's presentation on the European CSDP civilian missions and the CPCC explained and provided more detailed information about the genesis of the civilian CSDP missions, main CSDP actors, civilian chain of command and future challenges.

The event continued with a presentation on TAIEX, delivered by Mr. Sebastian Knoke from the European Commission. Mr. Knoke explained that the role of TAIEX was to serve as a catalyst and an instrument for facilitating and channeling requests for assistance and delivery of appropriate tailor-made expertise between the concerned institutions

and the European Union Member States. The main tasks of TAIEX are: to provide technical assistance and advice on the transposition of EU legislation into the national legislation of beneficiary countries and on the subsequent administration, implementation and enforcement of such legislation; to provide technical training and peer assistance to the officials of the administrations of the Member States; to provide programmed technical assistance to the countries of our Region and to identify further technical assistance needs.

The event moved forward with presentations on the CSDP: Mr. Vidal y Delgado-Roig presented a Case study on the EU's Rule of Law Mission in Iraq, while Mr. Jens Beikufner delivered a presentation on the Civil-military approach in EU crisis management. Mr. Beikufner's presentation also addressed the main challenges to the development of civilian and military capabilities, balanced development of civilian and military capabilities in Member States and Brussels, harmonization of civilian and military Headline Goal processes, refinement of procedures according to the operational needs, strengthening the civilian and military planning and conduct capabilities of the EU at all levels and promoting interaction between different actors and institutions of the EU in crisis management.

Following the speakers' presentations, the floor was open for the participants' questions and open discussion, which marked the end of the first working day.

The second working day started with an address by Ms. Ina Schutt PhD, European Correspondent's Division, German Federal Foreign Office. Ms Schutt's presentation dealt with the CFSP: Instruments, Structures and Financing. More specifically, she addressed the history of the CFSP development, the CFSP aims and characteristics, the CFSP players, structures, instruments and financing. In addition to that, Ms. Shutt also delivered a current case study concerning Libya, with the aim of presenting a real picture of the way in which the CFSP works, by providing the participants with a practical, present-day example.



Plenary session

Following this interesting presentation, the floor was given to Ms. Patricia Galvao Teles, Legal advisor at the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU, who delivered two presentations. The first one provided an overview of the EU's institutional setting following the entry into force of the Lisbon

Treaty. Ms. Galvao Teles drew attention to the following novelties: the European Council becomes an Institution with a Permanent President; Council/European Parliament: more co-decision and new areas of Qualified Majority Voting (QMV); HR/VP: five-year term of duty, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Council, Head of the EEAS; disappearance of the Pillar structure, but maintenance of Special Features in the CFSP; simplification of the procedures, but with more actors and more coherence in External Relations. Ms. Galvao Teles's second presentation dealt with the European External Action Service (EEAS): State of play. She highlighted that the EEAS was one of the most innovative features of the Treaty of Lisbon, which would ensure more consistency and visibility in the EU external action. The EEAS, consisting of officials from the Council, Commission and Member States (MS), assists the High Representative (HR) and works closely with the diplomatic services of MS.



Plenary session

Seminar closing remarks

The seminar entitled "The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy: Institutional framework, policies and instruments" was the first event organized by the European Commission in RACVIAC. The Seminar successfully provided a comprehensive framework for exchanging experience and valuable information. The seminar's initial objectives and main goals were all successfully achieved. The Seminar represented an excellent platform for sharing knowledge of the EU institutional setting, structure and policies. It allowed the national representatives to engage in open discussion and to exchange different national and individual best practices and points of view.

This event has proved that RACVIAC's efforts are part of the capacity-building process in SEE countries, in terms of promoting EU standards and values and preparing the countries for their future accession to the EU. RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation once again confirmed itself to be a hospitable setting for engaging in fruitful dialogue.

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