



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

Integration and contribution of SEE countries to CSDP

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Venue Belgrade, Serbia

Background The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which is the operational civilian and military part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), is today one of the most dynamic areas of the European Project. The European Union is thus gradually emerging as a major player on the international scene with a strategic vision embodied in the European Security Strategy which identifies global challenges and key threats to the security of the European Union and clarifies its strategic objectives in dealing with them, such as building security in the EU's neighbourhood and promoting an international order based on effective multilateralism.

Common and synchronized adoption of demands, which are cumulated in the CSDP concept, could be one of the instruments stimulating effective reaching of CFSP/CSDP standards as part of the EU integration. Different concepts of crisis management and the necessity for harmonisation with regard to CSDP standards have increased the needs of candidate and potential countries in the pre-accession phase pertaining to the procedures, management, capabilities, knowledge, etc.

This event is aimed at adopting a comprehensive approach, relying on the experiences that will be presented to the participants by distinguished speakers from the European Union, with regard to different issues on the relation between CSDP and national security and defence in the South East European (SEE) countries, lessons learned, future expectations and needs. The exchange of views with the lecturers from the EU is aimed at supporting the implementation of CSDP policy, as well as future and foreseeable cooperation on CSDP among the SEE countries.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of this event, which will be conducted in the form of panel/session discussions, is to contribute to regional security cooperation in South-Eastern Europe as an important tool aimed at promoting European integration efforts. The activity is aimed to increase recognition of the importance of CFSP/CSDP, as part of the SEE countries' integration in the EU.

The objectives are:

- to provide information and prompt discussion in the SEE countries concerning security and defence issues, challenges and achievements with regard to the CSDP activities,
- to explore and identify ways of influencing CSDP with regard to security and defence of the SEE countries.
- to analyze and compare experiences of new EU members in terms of security and defence,
- to consider current and potential impacts of other entities of Euro-Atlantic security integration, as well as other security-relevant actors, in terms of security and defence of the SEE countries in the process of their accession to the European Union.
- to promote optimal ways of systematizing the activities of preparation and cooperation of the SEE countries in the field of security and defence in the process of their accession to the EU;
- to develop confidence and strengthen readiness of the SEE countries to develop cooperation within CSDP and beyond.

Participants Approximately 120 participants from the signatory countries of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The participants should be either civilian or military officials at the decision-making level and experts representing relevant institutions dealing with the event's 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 conference will be conducted as a combination of presentations, panels and open discussions. All materials presented or produced, will be distributed in electronic form on a CD.

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