



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

## “A Decade of Peace Support Operations (PSO): South Eastern Europe (SEE) - From Consumers to Producers of Security”

SSR-02-CF

RACVIAC, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012



The conference group photo

### Abstract

The idea for organising this conference was launched during RACVIAC activity “Security Sector Reform (SSR) in the Context of Peace Support Operations (PSO), Top Down Approach”, held in Sarajevo, from 12 to 15 December 2011, by the then Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski. Over the past ten years the countries of the region have gone through the process of security and defence system transition, using tools of Security Sector Reform. Consequently, there has been a shift in their status from security consumers to security providers. Analysis of standards achieved in the security sector over more than past 10

years, national expenditures and troop contributions of the SEE countries, which are all Partnership for Peace (PfP) or NATO members, most of them well engaged in the EU integration process, proves the aforementioned hypothesis.

This one-day conference was attended by 33 participants from 7 countries, including two attendees from EUFOR – ALTHEA and SEDM Secretariat, as well as 6 keynote speakers and presenters. The keynote speeches gave the participants an insight into the current status of PSO engagement and the constraints in organising PSOs. The second part of the conference was dedicated to national presentations on the engagement in PSOs and their

expectations and challenges faced during this engagement.

### **Activity Background**

The main purpose of the conference was to confirm the hypothesis that over more than 10 years of their contribution to numerous PSOs, the SEE countries have become the providers of security, obtaining legitimacy and visibility in the international community. Being small nations and operating in the extremely demanding post-conflict and current crisis environment, the SEE countries have contributed perhaps even more than could have been expected considering their economic strength.

Apart from addressing the past and present developments in the sphere of their engagement in PSOs, this conference was aimed at tackling future participation of the SEE countries in Peace Support Operations, especially considering the fact that this engagement is a nationwide venture, now operating under extremely limited resources.



### **Activity Facilitators**

The conference was planned, organised and executed by RACVIAC, with the kind support to RACVIAC budget provided by the Kingdom of Norway.

### **Activity Venue, Duration and Participation**



The conference was conducted at the RACVIAC facilities. The event started with a welcome dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2012. It continued the next day and was officially closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2012. The participants came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. The conference was also attended by the representatives from EU – CMPD/EEAS, COMEUFOR-ALTHEA, SEDM Secretariat, COMSEEBRIG and Croatian International Military Operations Training Centre. The conference was honoured by the participation of (ret) Major General Wolfgang Jilke from Austria who gave a historical overview of UN-led operations, their development and current challenges. One of the details he stressed was that the UN PKOs may be militarily “inefficient”, but although they have a unique moral authority/legitimacy, they still cannot be taken as a universal instrument.

Another issue applicable to PSOs in general was the issue of the extent to which a PKO/PSO should contribute to broader peace building / state building efforts.

<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



### **Activity Description and Content**

The conference was comprised of presentations on the engagement of the SEE countries in PSOs and on the global perspective of this engagement, anticipating future developments in this field.

On the first working day, welcome address was given by Ambassador Branimir Mandić, Director of RACVIAC, and the opening address was made by (ret) Major General Wolfgang Jilke, Austria. This session was followed by keynote speeches delivered by Brigadier General Zdravko Klanac, Croatian MoD, Major General Robert Brieger, COMEUFOR and Colonel Massimiliano Perotta, SEDM Secretariat, who gave a profound insight into the current SEDM affairs and challenges, addressing the usage of national capabilities (experts, trainers, training centres, simulator, etc.) aimed at expanding SEEBRIG, a potential regional PSO tool, interoperability and capability.

The decision to establish a permanent SEEBRIG HQ could be the basis for redesigning the Brigade and tailoring it according to the decisions of the Ministers of Defence.

The presentation on the “Aspects of Legitimacy of Deployment of Armed Forces Abroad” was delivered by Lieutenant Robert Karaman from the Croatian International Military Operations Training Centre, while Mr Per Normark from the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate of the EU European External Action Service gave a presentation “From PSO in SEE to SEE in PSO, a Win-Win Development”.

These were followed by national presentations delivered by the representatives of all the countries participating in the conference.

The conference was concluded with a closing session during which all the participants agreed that the contribution of the SEE countries to PSOs has been worthwhile and that the current economic hardship could be alleviated by a more integrated approach to national developments in the field of engagement in PSOs.

### **General remarks**

The main objective of the conference was to present the efforts and results of the participating countries in the field of their engagement in PSOs in the period of ten to fifteen years and to increase their visibility in this important segment of both

national and international relations, which PSOs undoubtedly are.

This was clearly seen throughout the session in which national presentations were delivered and in which the main purpose of the conference was accomplished, i.e. confirming the hypothesis that over more than 10 years of their contribution to numerous PSOs the SEE countries have become providers of security, obtaining legitimacy and visibility in the international community.

Furthermore, being small nations and operating in the extremely difficult post-conflict and current crisis environment, the SEE countries contributed perhaps even more than could have been expected considering their economic strength.

Analysis of the past 10-year period of reaching security sector reform standards, expenditures and troop contributions of the SEE countries, all of which are PfP members, and some NATO members as well, has undoubtedly proven the aforementioned hypothesis.

Compiled by RACVIAC SSR Pillar