



Centre for Security Cooperation



Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Annex A*

## Democratic Control of Armed Forces as Basic Principle for SSR: Regional Perspective SSR-04-S

<b>Dates</b>	11 - 13 June 2012
<b>Venue</b>	Conference Room in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Seminar is the continuation of a fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and Joint Committee on Defence and Security of Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been kindly supported by the Ministry of Defence and Sports of the Republic of Austria, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO HQ Sarajevo and Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). This Seminar will also be assisted by the Office of the High Representative (OHR).</p> <p>Effective parliamentary oversight has become crucial in ensuring that the new responses to security threats are devised and implemented with full transparency and accountability. In its absence, there is a danger of security services misinterpreting their mission and acting like a state within the state, either placing heavy strains on scarce resources, or exerting excessive political and economical influence.</p> <p>There is no doubt that knowledge, both theoretical and practical, is one of the preconditions for successful work of the parliamentary representatives, members of the committees for parliamentary oversight over the security sector. The year 2012 saw several newly elected Parliaments in the South East European (SEE) region. This is the main reason for organizing a seminar on parliamentary oversight of the defence sector, which aims to explore conditions and mechanisms of security sector control, as well as the control of financial, human and material resources.</p>
<b>Purpose &amp; Objectives</b>	<p>The main purpose of the Seminar is to give a broad introduction to enhancing parliamentary oversight over the security sector and to set out main principles and mechanisms thereof. It also aims to give an overview of good practices in adopting legislation on the parliamentary oversight of the security sector in the South East European (SEE) region.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Seminar are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To highlight basic principles of the democratic control of armed forces (AF);</li><li>• To introduce the practice of security committees in the EU member countries;</li><li>• To discuss mechanisms and practices of security committees in the SEE countries;</li><li>• To discuss problems and limitations facing security committees in their practice;</li><li>• To evaluate the situation in the SEE region in terms of parliamentary oversight of the security sector with an aim to look for possible ways for further improvements;</li><li>• To present procedures and necessary actions on adopting a Law on Parliamentary Oversight in the Area of Security and Defence (experiences of BA, ME);</li><li>• To present benefits of the implementation of a Law on Parliamentary Oversight in the Area of Security and Defence.</li></ul>

**Participants** The event targets members and expert officials of the Defence/Security Parliamentary Committees, Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs from the following countries:

- One participant from GR, RO and TR (travel costs will be reimbursed);
- Three participants from AL, BA, BG, HR, ME, MK, RS and SI (travel costs will not be reimbursed for the participants from BA, BG, HR and SI).

The corresponding representatives from other MAG countries, NATO HQ – Sarajevo, OSCE – Sarajevo, EUFOR - ALTHEA as well as regional governmental representatives are also most welcome.

**Methodology** The Seminar will comprise speeches and presentations given by key officials and experts, followed by questions & answers sessions and a moderated plenary session at the end of the Seminar.

The working language will be local and English, while simultaneous interpretation will also be provided.

**POC**

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