



Centre for Security Cooperation



Joint Committee on Defence and Security of Bosnia
and Herzegovina

Annex A

“Defence and Security Committees: Regional Parliamentary Conference”

SSR-10-CF

Overview

Dates	28 - 30 November 2012
Venue	Conference Room in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in SEE, Rakitje, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia
Background	<p>The idea for this Conference was launched during the activity “Democratic Control of Armed Forces as Basic Principle for SSR: Regional Perspective” held in Sarajevo, 11 – 13 June 2012 as 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. This Conference has been kindly supported by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO HQ Sarajevo and Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP).</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.</p>
Purpose & Objectives	<p>The main purpose of the Conference is to give a broad introduction on legislative part of Parliamentary Oversight in the Region, to set out main principles and mechanisms of Parliamentary operation and to give an overview of good practices in regional parliamentary work.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Conference are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introducing mechanisms and practice of defence and security committees;• Highlighting legislation as a basic principle of the democratic control of armed forces;• Organizing parliamentary hearings – what are the legislative provisions and the good practices in each country;• Parliamentary inquiries – good practices, how to protect the independence of justice and of police investigations while doing parliamentary investigations;• Subpoena powers – how are they formulated in legislation, how are they implemented, who can be summoned by a committee and how;• Work in subcommittees – advantages, challenges, rules of procedure for the work in subcommittees;• The role of Parliament in strategic matters;• Specific challenges of parliamentary work on police / internal security issues;

- Representation of civil sector in parliamentary practice;
- Discussing problems and limitations facing defence and security committees in their practice;
- To assess 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.

Participants The event targets 3 members of Parliaments and 2 expert officials of the Defence/Security Parliamentary Committees from the following countries: AL, BA, HR, MK, ME, RS and SI. Travel costs will be covered by the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). Accommodation will be covered by RACVIAC.

Methodology The Conference will comprise speeches and presentations given by committee members and experts, followed by questions & answers sessions and a moderated plenary session at the end of the Conference. The working language will be local and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

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