



“Regional Security Cooperation Initiatives – Strengths and Weaknesses”

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Content:



- 1. Historical background of security cooperation in SEE;**
- 2. Regional security cooperation initiatives – current situation;**
- 3. Strengths and weaknesses of the security cooperation;**
- 4. Suggestions for improving security cooperation.**



1. Historical background of security cooperation in SEE



Security cooperation in the South East Europe took place within the multilateral and bilateral relations among the Balkan countries:

1. Cooperation and integration of the Balkan countries at the beginning of the XX century:
 - formation of the military alliances of the Balkan states – the first in 1866 and the second in 1912.
2. The attempt to establish multilateral cooperation between the two World Wars:
 - formation of the Balkan conference in 1929. in Athens (**first Balkan conference was held** from 5 to 12 October in 1930, in Athens, **the second**, from 20-25 October 1931, in Istanbul Ankara, **the third** from 22 to 27 October 1932, in Bucharest and the **fourth** from 4 to 11 November 1933, in Thessaloniki).
 - On the French initiative the Balkan pact was formed on 9 February in 1934 in Athens (four -part agreement, among Romania, KSCS - Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slavs, Greece and Turkey)



1. Historical background of security cooperation in SEE



3. The attempt of Balkan integration in World War II and during the Cold War:

- Under the influence of Great Britain on January 15 1942, in London an Agreement was signed among the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slavs, and Greece on the establishment of the Balkan Union countries (never implemented);
- Immediately after the World War II the idea of forming a **Balkan Federation** among Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania, and then between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria was initiated (with no success);
- At the initiative of the United States and Italy the **Second Balkan Pact** was formed on February 28 1953, in Ankara, among Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey (very important because it was first path of Yugoslavia towards NATO);



1. Historical background of security cooperation in SEE



4. Multilateral cooperation in the Balkans during the period of Detante:

- After the formation of the CSCE (OSCE) in Helsinki in 1975, the cooperation between the Balkan states was restored;
- In Athens in February 1976 was restored multilateral cooperation between Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Turkey, renewed with a list of 162 areas of possible collaboration. From 1976 to 1988, were held several expert meetings in different areas (Albania did not participate due to isolation);
- In February in 1988, was established the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Balkan countries, at the time when the first conference was held in Belgrade;
- The second conference was held in Tirana in October in 1990, During the 1991, the work of the Conference was stopped due to the wars in the former Yugoslavia.



2. Regional Security Cooperation Initiatives



After the wars in the former Yugoslavia in the nineties of the last century, in order to stabilize the region and the implementation process of transition in the Balkan countries, a series of initiatives were started in the security sector, primarily by NATO and the EU.

Every initiative in its content has a number of projects and sub-projects in certain areas of the security sector

For a discussion on this occasion we point out the following :

1. South-East Europe cooperation Process – SEECP (established in 1996);
2. South-East Europe Initiative – SEEI (1999);
3. South Eastern Defence Ministerial – SEDM (1996);



2. Regional Security Cooperation Initiatives



4. **Regional cooperation Council – RCC** (2008, as the successor of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe which was launched in 1999);
5. **Center for Security Cooperation- RACVIAC (from 2007)** (*former, Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre, from 2000*);
6. **South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of the Small Arms and Light Weapons –SEESAC (2002)**
7. **US – Adriatic Charter - A5 (2003);**
8. **Initiative to help countries in Southeast Europe - SEEC** (*Southeast Europe Clearinghouse, 2004*). From 2011 it is **Forum of Defense Cooperation in the Western Balkans** within which function: Peace Support Operations Training Centre – PSOTC, in BiH, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Training Centre –CBRN TC, in Serbia and Regional Training Communication Center – RTCC, in Macedonia, (*in the process of forming is the „Regional Training Center for helicopter pilots”, Montenegro*).



2. Regional Security Cooperation Initiatives



9. **Suotheast European Cooperative Initiative** (within which the *SECI Regional Center for the Combating of Transborder Crime functions (from 1999)*. From 2009 the SECI Center transformed into Southeast European Law Enforcement Center – SELEC
10. **Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe - DPPI SEE (2000);**
11. **Regional Anticorruption Intiative - RAI (2000);**
12. **Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative - MARRI (2003);**
13. **Southeast European Police Chiefs Association – SEPCA (2002);**
14. **Police Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe - PCC SEE (2007);**
15. **Marshall Center Alumni Association for Southeast European Security – MCAASEES (2011)**



3. Strengths and weaknesses of the security cooperation



Strengths

1. Creating favorable conditions for overcoming the traditional Balkan problems (ethnic, religious, territorial, etc.)
2. Strengthening trust between the SEE countries and the creation of better conditions for the improvement of cooperation in all fields;
3. Increasing levels of stability and security in the region;
4. Developing partnerships with other countries outside the region which participate in the regional initiatives;
5. Economic savings through the use of common resources;
6. Providing better conditions for faster and more efficient process of European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations;



3. Strengths and weaknesses of the security cooperation



WEAKNESSES

1. A large number of regional initiatives;
2. The low level of coordination and planning, which causes duplication of activities in the regional initiatives;
3. The lack of regular sources of funding for a stable and constant functioning of the regional initiatives and in the end, it all depends on donors;
4. Absence of regional research institutes and centers to develop joint projects in the field of security in short, medium and long term.



4. Suggestions for improving security cooperation



1. Implement the unification of some initiatives toward the areas in the security sector in the countries of the region.
2. Functioning of the initiatives linked to NATO and the EU on regional basis according to projects "*Smart Defense*" and "*Pooling and Sharing*". This will increase the level of coordination and planning regional activities.
3. Emphasize the importance of financing regional initiatives, raise level by increasing the obligations of Member States and international organizations.
4. Develop an institute or center to handle scientific researches and development of joint projects in the field of security at regional level in cooperation with NATO, EU and U.S.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION