

Thursday, 11 October 2018

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## RASR - a decade of dialogues aimed at finding regional solutions for border-less security challenges

Tirana, 9-11 October 2018

*40 physical and stockpile security management (PSSM) practitioners from South East Europe attended the tenth edition of RASR - workshop on a regional approach to stockpile reduction of conventional weapons and munitions.*

RASR serves as a regional cooperation based platform offering PSSM practitioners from Ministries of Defence in South East Europe as well as international organizations the opportunity to share ideas and challenges on how to best manage stockpiles. This year's RASR covered topics like disposal of large-scale ammunition, how to stop diversion of stockpiles to civilian markets or how to dispose of ammunition in an environmentally friendly way. Additionally, the participants were offered the chance to see a demonstration of unexploded ordnance clearance during a field visit to the hotspot clearance site in Durres.

Key statements from the event:

### **MR PETRO KOÇI Deputy Minister of Defence of Albania**

*RASR has gathered for almost a decade experts from the region and beyond, to share good practices in addressing challenges faced by the region to reduce the threat posed by unstable and insecure stocks of conventional weapons and ammunition.*

### **MS MONIKA BYLAITE Head of Political Section, EU Delegation Albania**

*Some of the unsecured stockpiles may result in weapons and ammunition ending on criminal markets. This is why the European Union has been supporting governments in this region, working especially through SEESAC, to ensure high standards of physical security of conventional weapons and ammunition.*

### **MR ZORAN POPOV Political Advisor, Regional Cooperation Council**

*The problem of insecure stockpiles is a regional one. Forums like RASR where practical information is shared regarding challenges, progress made and needs with the final goal of strengthening professional and technical cooperation among experts throughout the region are of utmost importance.*

RASR's draws upon regional stockpile management knowledge from partners in the region and the global expertise of international organizations and initiatives acting also as RASR Steering committee members like ITF Enhancing Human Security, NATO Support and Procurement Agency, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Small Arms Survey and SEESAC. Initially financed by the Government of the United States of America, for the last two years, RASR is financed by the EU under the framework of the EU COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2016/2356.

Read more about the Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction at <http://www.rasrinitiative.org/>



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