RASR
The Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction

Regional solutions for borderless security challenges

Top experts on stockpile management meet at the 9th edition of the RASR workshop

3-4 October, Podgorica, Montenegro
For the 9th time since 2009, RASR brought together government representatives on stockpile management from six countries in South East Europe and experts from several international organizations to exchange best practices and address the latest challenges related to ammunition surpluses and managing of stockpiles.

Since 2009, RASR (The Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction) workshops have been bringing together experts, governments, and international organizations working in South East Europe to promote regional solutions to challenges posed by excessive and unstable stockpiles of conventional weapons and ammunition. When stored improperly, weapons and their ammunition pose a threat to stability, security, and development in South East Europe. Since 2017, RASR workshops have been funded by the European Union though Council Decision 2016/2356/CFSP.

In the presence of H.E. Mr. Predrag Bošković, Minister of Defence of Montenegro, and H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav, Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro, the 9th edition of the RASR workshop, organized under SEESAC's secretariat, took place in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 3–4 October 2017. It addressed topics related to progress, challenges, and priorities in destroying the ammunition surpluses and managing stockpiles, including harmonizing of security and safety requirements for ammunition storage.

H.E. Mr. Predrag Bošković, Minister of Defence of Montenegro:

> *The Government of Montenegro is proud of its achievements in reducing the threat from surplus of ammunition. Almost 85% of surpluses have been reduced with generous support of donors including the United States and the European Union. We fully recognize the role of RASR in promoting and supporting these efforts.*

H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav, Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro:

> *For a long time, South East Europe faced the challenge of badly secured, unsafe and unstable stockpiles of conventional ammunition. […] This is why the European Union has been supporting governments in this region to improve the security of their stockpiles, working through the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons to ensure high standards of physical security.*

About RASR

RASR's 8 years of promoting a better understanding of stockpile management in South East Europe resulted in a group of experts that meet regularly to find regional solutions for borderless security challenges, a knowledge exchange platform hosting all relevant news, publications, and best practices on stockpile management from strategic policies to procurement processes, drawing upon regional stockpile management knowledge from 10 countries in the region and the global expertise of international organizations and initiatives such as ITF Enhancing Human Security, the NATO Support and Procurement Agency, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the Small Arms Survey, and SEESAC.

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

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