

CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract: *The intrinsic links between national security and other types of security also results from the fact that the threats and challenges of the 21st century no longer address the national segment, but also the entire international community, which causes the occurrence of security structures at all levels to manage the crises that arise at some point internationally. It is known that in terms of security, states usually adopt a mutual security and defense policy, using human, material, financial and information resources available to everyone in a collective manner. If NATO is a good and eloquent example in this sense, a viable solution against risks and security threats from a regional perspective appeared in the European Union, which has its own policy for security and defense able to integrate national security polity of Member States in that of the Union.*

Key words: security, strategy, politics, capabilities, implementation.

1. Introduction

The issue of security is today a major concern of human society. This is because security is essential to the life of individuals, communities and states. In the traditional sense, the term security is the effort to safeguard the integrity of the national territory, protecting the country's population, protecting political independence and national sovereignty against external force exercises.

The idea of national security can not be analyzed and understood without the idea of state, since it is the reference object of national security. This is all the more important as, in turn, states are the most important international players, through their characteristics, and especially through the resources of power, states often overwhelming the other actors of international life, thus becoming „the universal standard of political legitimacy”.

National security is almost invariably considered as the main concern of every

state and national survival as the supreme goal and first priority of any state's security policy. “*The idea of national security involves preserving the livelihoods of the respective nation, independence and territorial integrity of a state in the absence of external interference or subversion, so the nation can enjoy certain moral, cultural and material standards fixed by itself and to keep its position on the international stage. Security is equally a means to fulfill the above conditions and a goal in itself*”[1]

It has always been the main component of the general policy of a state, national security policy also being called “big politics” or “high politics”, central to any government debate and the element around which the other policies of a state were developed. Even if the concept of security today takes other forms or sizes, the national security policy remains central to the state.

National security means all political and diplomatic, economic, military, ecological and other measures that provide state's independence and national sovereignty, territorial integrity, internal constitutional order and its own value system. This explains the frequent use of concepts such as:

- *economic security* (financial and banking system, energetic resources, industry, agriculture, food, trade etc.);

- *political security* (stability of the constitutional system and the rule of law, but also the physical protection of public figures);

- *social security* (balance and relations between groups and social protection system);

- *ecological security* (preventing disasters of any type);

- *IT security* (protection of computer systems and telecommunications networks);

- *information security* („protection status of the informational needs of the individual, society and state, which would ensure their satisfaction and their gradual evolution, independently of the internal and external informational threats”);

- *food security* (protection and control system, aimed at consumers' health, raw materials, farming practices and food processing activities);

- *cultural security* (prevention of cultural environmental pollution with elements of subculture or cultural intrusion);

- *military security* (everything related to the armed forces). [2]

All nations are preoccupied with defending the homeland (physical protection of citizens of a national state and the preservation of territorial integrity thereof), liberty (keeping the political system of the state and the possibility to choose the form of government and their political institutions), economic well-being and world order (the interest of a nation to establish and maintain an environment, an international political and economic

conjuncture, in which they can feel safe).[3]

In the context of the beginning of the 21st century, national security is an essential attribute of national state, with extensive connections in the subregional, regional and international levels. The intrinsic links between national security and other types of security are also resulting from the fact that the threats and challenges of the 21st century no longer address only to the national segment, but to the international community, which causes security structures at all levels to manage the crises that arise at some point internationally.

Therefore, each state tries to reduce insecurity, either by reducing its vulnerabilities, or by preventing or reducing threats. These alternatives are at the basis of national and international security ideas.

2. Aspects regarding the national security management from the European Union perspective

2.1. The European dimension of national security

Even though cuts in military spending in the crisis that Europe is experiencing, puts its imprint on the development of European military capabilities in achieving its security and defence objectives, the European Union is developing cooperation with important actors on the world stage, NATO being, certainly, the most important of them. This allows the European Union to remain an important pillar of security not only at regional level.

By the policy approached, the European Union can contribute significantly to establishing a system of multilateral security that would allow building a more prosperous world, fairer and safer by implementing the two strategic policies that the EU is trying to implement, namely: Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Common Security and Defence Policy designates a system of cooperation between EU Member States in the field of foreign and security policy, being the „second pillar” of the European Union, together with the European Community and Cooperation on Justice and Home Affairs (JHA). *„Efforts to develop European identity demonstrate an increasing share, accountability and physical involvement of Europeans in what they define European affairs that should be managed by Europeans.”*[4]

The concept of European Security and Defence Identity was developed in close correlation with two concepts, developed later. Firstly, we refer to the *Common Foreign and Security Policy - CFSP*, which designates a separate section (Title V) of the Maastricht Treaty and is one of the three pillars of Europe’s construction. Secondly, there is the *European Security and Defence Policy - ESDP* or, respectively, *Common European Security and Defence Policy – CESDP*, a concept that has gained in recent years more and more substance and that is intrinsic part of the CFSP.

CFSP development premises were stipulated by the Treaty on European Union (TEU) in 1992, the preamble of which states that Union members are *„determined to implement a common foreign and security policy, including the establishment, in perspective, of a common defense policy that might lead, in due course, to a common defense, thereby reinforcing the European identity and independence, in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and worldwide.”*[5]

European Security and Defence Policy - ESDP officially became the Common Security and Defence Policy – CSDP after the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon on December, 1st 2009.

Specifically speaking, the Maastricht Treaty (1992) was the first document that included provisions on the European Union's responsibility in terms of security

and the possibility of a common defense policy. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) humanitarian and rescue missions were included, peacekeeping missions and fighting forces in crisis management, including peacemaking missions (called Petersberg missions).

Putting together the elements that are the main risks and threats to national security - terrorism committed to maximum violence, availability of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, the weakening of the state system and the privatization of force - the European Union could be faced, indeed, with a radical threat.

Not least, we should mention the European Constitution Project on a Constitution for Europe (The Draft EU Constitution) signed in Rome, on October, 29th, 2004 by the Heads of State and Government of member countries and candidate countries, where the new concept *CSDP* replaces the old concept of *ESDP* and its extended version *CESDP*.

The project also brings five important novelties in the sphere of Common Security and Defence Policy[6], respectively:

- extending the Petersberg missions;
- decision to set up a European Agency in the field of Armaments, Research and Military Capabilities, *European Defence Agency (EDA)*;
- implementing structured cooperation at international missions;
- the possibility of closer cooperation of EU states in the sphere of mutual defense;
- the introduction of a solidarity clause for cases of terrorist attacks and natural disasters or disasters caused by man.

In the context of identifying the institutional and decision-making elements involved in developing the capabilities, it should be noted that the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Security and Defence Policy

(ESDP) are thus one of the three pillars that form the foundation of the European

Union as it can be seen in figure number 1.

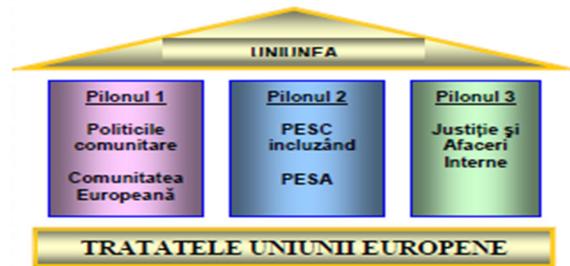


Figure no. 1 – Pillars of the European Union

2.2. Security Strategy and EU capability development

A new stage of development of European identity in security and defense matters was the adoption of *Security Strategy of the European Union (A Secure Europe in A Better World)*, developed under the coordination of the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, at the Summit from December 2003. „*Solana Document*”, as the Security strategy would be known, aimed at „*establishing the strategic objectives of the European Union in terms of playing a role much more pronounced in the global approach to confront new types of risks and threats.*”[7] [8] Security Strategy and the *Headline Goals 2003 and 2010* represent important milestones in the identification and generation of European military capabilities. *The global ESDP objective – Headline Goal (HG 2003)* [9] was adopted by the European Council in Helsinki (December 1999) which aimed to make available for the EU of a package of forces and capabilities to enable the implementation of the Union’s Petersberg missions. The European Council of June 2015 has identified priorities for the coming years in the field of internal security of the European Union by putting particular emphasis on the following: preventing and combating terrorist and radicalization in terrorist purposes and recruiting and financing for terrorism;

ensuring enhanced security to borders; preventing and combating serious and organized crime; preventing and combating cyber crime and increasing cyber security. In this context, implementation tasks of numerous ongoing projects were assigned; developing a new global strategy for foreign and security policy until the summer of 2016; continuing the implementation of a comprehensive approach in terms of conflict and external crises; civil and military capacities development; continuing and deepening dialogue on security with NATO, UN, OSCE.

Continuing the same security policy stipulated in the Security Strategy, with emphasis on the capabilities, at the European Council of June 2004, the Member States decided to adopt a new approach in terms of *European Capability Development Process* of security and defense.

Challenging the new vision on military capabilities represents a realistic position to respond to challenges of European security environment in conjunction with the possibilities of EU member states and the EU as an organization to support this important area for security and defense of our continent. This is also visible through the establishment of agencies with responsibilities in the field of military capabilities such as:

a) *European Security and Defence College – ESDC*;

b) European Union Institute for Security Studies – EUISS;

c) European Union Satellite Centre - EU SatCen;

d) European Defence Agency –EDA.

The current military *capability development plan (CDP)*, approved in March 2011, establishes priority capabilities, identifies potential risks and outlines guidelines for the definition of the capabilities that may converge towards projects and programs that can be carried in collaboration [10].

At the same time, future development of EU military capabilities is closely linked to the implementation of the concept „*Pooling and Sharing*”, whereby Member States can collectively acquire capabilities that could not be purchased individually. These capabilities are critical to the operations under the Common Security and Defence Policy, and might ensure EU independence regarding third parties. This new way was adopted, given the hardships and difficulties faced by the EU and each of its member states.

Pooling and sharing effort refers to initiatives and projects of the Member States which lead to the development of cooperation to cover the full spectrum of capabilities’ development, from the identification and harmonization of military management and support requirements to certification and standardization. The objective is to support cooperative efforts of Member States, based on the following principles [11]:

- Political will and commitment;
- Cost-efficiency;
- Flexibility;
- Efficient usage;
- Availability and security of supply;
- Complementarity with NATO „Smart Defence”.

The most important purpose of substantiation and support of this initiative was to maintain and enhance the operational capabilities of each Member

State, based on a better effect, resulting in the interoperability, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

A joint development of key military capabilities and, at the same time, the possibility that each army uses them is the ultimate objective for policy makers in the field of defense and security.

2.3. Romania’s contribution to strengthening European security

Romania has continuously pursued and followed its own foreign policy convergence with the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, being an active participant in the political dialogue within the European Union and playing a constructive role in CFSP.

Romania is contributing to the formulation of positions, declarations and endeavours of the European Union and applying them in compliance with the restrictive measures imposed by the EU, UN and OSCE. Romania shares the fundamental values of the European Union and the Member States: democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, protection of minorities and religious tolerance, the development of a market economy and social cohesion. Romania also supports non-proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and is a signatory to all relevant international agreements in the field, being part to all international treaties on weapons’ control.

Being a member of UN, Council of Europe, NATO and a number of other international organizations, Romania is an active promoter of regional cooperation by participating in a series of regional organizations or groups.

It is noted that Romania has shown a sustained interest in the development of the European Security and Defence, mentioning that Romania has stated willingness to contribute to rapid reaction force missions of the EU and to EU civilian instruments for crisis management.

Romania passed a law allowing the international sanctions on the decisions taken in the CFSP framework establishing sanctions and restrictive measures on certain countries or non-state entities.

Moreover, Romania is an active participant in the sphere of security and defense policy of the European Union CSDP which assumes that it represents a higher stage required by the development of the EU's ability to manage the military and non-military crises occurred in Europe and its neighborhood. It considers it necessary to maintain this complementarity process with the NATO development, so that European defense should not turn into an element of counterbalance to the Euro-Atlantic defense effort.

Romania is actively involved in numerous missions and operations carried out under the policies of the European Security and Defence, becoming aware of the importance and scope that they will acquire in the context of EU endeavours to promote the functioning rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance, as well as related fields, all having direct implications on the stability and national security.

Romania's national contribution alongside other Member States covers both civil and military areas, being present in many missions conducted under ESDP.

Membership in NATO and Romania's involvement in the development of ESDP highlighted the need to ensure a set of capabilities that allow our country to support the development of foreign policy objectives through participation in international missions and operations.

Romania will continue to work towards exploring ways to diversify and optimize the contribution of civilian and military experts in the European Union missions.

Romanian legislative framework is essential to harmonize values and national and EU interests derived from the CFSP.

In this context, the documents of utmost importance for security and defense policy of Romania are harmonized with EU security strategy, NATO strategic content and other documents of major importance on security and defense of the two organizations mentioned.

In the context of security and defense, Romania consolidates its Common Foreign and Security Policy with the European Union policies, means through which we are assured with a structured and functional status, which forces us to act in full compliance with it.

Therefore, along with other Member States, Romania contributes to the proper functioning of the Union as a whole, which implies the presence of its active and effective contribution to good European policy management. In this context, ROMANIA invited all Member States of the European Union institutions and services and JHA agencies to mobilize expertise and allocate the necessary resources to ensure a response to political and operational level for implementing the renewed Homeland Security Strategy of the European Union for the period 2015-2020.

3. Conclusions

Through the approached policy, the European Union can contribute significantly to establishing a system of multilateral security to allow building a more prosperous world, fairer and safer. In order for the Security Policy and Defence of the European Union to become more effective it is necessary for the EU to become more active in pursuing its objectives by civil or military means, more consistent, through the efforts and by ensuring unity of command in a crisis, more capable, by allocating more resources, avoiding duplication, better coordination of existing resources. Romania promotes a valued interest in achieving regional security and stability, through firm orientation towards European integration, making efforts for taking a

proactive role in regional security,
membership being a major providing

Romania an important guarantee for
strengthening national security.

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