DETERMINANT ANALYSIS OF EXTERNAL INFLUENCE ON THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

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Abstract: *The EU membership of Bulgaria has created new opportunities for enhancing the country's role and prestige in the international community. Bulgaria is actively involved in the efforts to reform the world's organisations to increase its efficiency and the further democratisation of the system of international relations. In the present paper some determinants of the external influence on the Bulgarian national security policy are analyzed and described.*

Keywords: external influence, determinants, security, policy,

1. Introduction

Bulgaria is a strong supporter of the universal democratic and humane values, and is guided by the idea of their safeguarding and promotion as a framework for its foreign policy. The EU membership of Bulgaria has created new opportunities for enhancing the country's role and prestige in the international community. [1]

Bulgaria is committed to the development of a united, strong, efficient European Union.

Bulgaria is in favour of intensifying the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO, and broadening of the Transatlantic dialogue. [2] NATO and EU capabilities are, to a large extent, mutually complementary. The instruments at the disposal of the two organisations cover a wide range of military capabilities and potential in the field of stabilisation and reconstruction. [3]

This article is focused on the revealing of the main determinants of the Bulgarian security policy.

The main purpose of this study is to analyse the revealed determinants of external influence and includes an attempt to describe their main characteristics.

2. Determinants of the Bulgarian security policy

The National security policy of the Republic of Bulgaria and its relationships may be presented as directly influenced by the security policies of allied countries, NATO, EU, OSCE and the Balkans on one hand, and the ever-growing influence worldwide of the security policy of Russia and of the Middle East countries on the other. [4]

The determinants we accepted for the purpose of the present study are presented on the Figure 1.

Fig. 1 Determinants of external influence on the national security policy

In view of the dynamic characteristics of these determinants, it is necessary to analyze the degree of their influence by giving weight factors to each of them. It is possible to deduce relationships by presenting them in a mathematical form in which the national security policy of the Republic of Bulgaria is presented as an argument of the values of these variables, namely:

$$P_{BG} = f(P_{NATO}, P_{OSCE}, P_{EU}, P_{BAL}, P_{RUS}, P_{MIE}) \quad (1.1)$$

where:

- P_{BG} – National security policy of Bulgaria;
- P_{NATO} – NATO security policy;
- P_{OSCE} – OSCE security policy;
- P_{EU} – EU security policy;

- P_{BAL} – security policy in the Balkans;
- P_{RUS} – Russia's security policy;
- P_{MIE} – Middle East countries' security policy.

The determining of the weight coefficients in itself is a challenge which lies in proportional valuation of the determinants of external influence (security policies), in their capacity as values of the main argument (the national security policy of the Republic of Bulgaria).

3. Dynamic characteristics of the variables and evaluation

In line with its national political commitments, it is logical that the values of the following determinants P_{NATO} , P_{OSCE} , P_{EU} be given the highest weighting compared to the other variables P_{BAL} , P_{RUS} and P_{MIE} .

Table1. Weight coefficients of external influence determinants

External influence determinants	Weight coefficient κ
P_{NATO}	0.3
P_{OSCE}	0.2
P_{EU}	0.2
P_{BAL}	0.1
P_{RUS}	0.1
P_{MIE}	0.1

In view of the recent achievements in the field of technical equipment and combat readiness of Russian Armed Forces, it is necessary that weighting of NATO and

Russia strive for equality (not necessarily reached) in the processes of our consideration – i.e. $P_{RUS} = P_{NATO}$.

The National Security Strategy

defines the term “national security policy” in the following way: *"The national security policy is a complex of interrelated priorities and sector policies, consistent with the security policies of the EU and NATO."* [5]

The logical distribution of the weight coefficients suggests that the impact of NATO security policy (PNATO) on the national security policy of the Republic of Bulgaria be of utmost significance at present ($k = 0.3$), given the military nature of the North Atlantic Pact. The OSCE and EU security policies are to be defined as second in terms of influence as their value ($\kappa=0,2$) corresponds to the nature of their relations with our country. The lowest

values are given to the impact of security policies in the Balkans, Russia and the Middle East ($\kappa=0,1$).

However, the recent events in Macedonia, in other Balkan countries and the Middle East, as well as the increasing role of Russia as a leading military force worldwide, create prerequisites for these low weight coefficients to change their values in ascending order.

With these values of the weight coefficients of the determinants of external influence it is possible to present the dependence of our national security policy in the following way:

$$P_{BG}=0,3.P_{NATO}+0,2.P_{OSCE}+0,2.P_{EU}+0,1.P_{BAL}+0,1.P_{RUS}+0,1.P_{MIE} \quad (1.2)$$

The National Security Strategy of Bulgaria defines as crucial interests the creation and maintenance of a favorable and predictable security environment, based on the effective functioning of the Bulgarian institutions in cooperation with those of the EU and NATO to achieve our collective security and improve its condition through the development of interoperability. [6]

4. Determinants analysis results

How can we respond to new challenges and changes? Can we create new and additional opportunities to improve our national security policy, through the mission of "mediator" in our regional context? In view of the focus of this report, it is adequate to highlight the declared national interest in maintaining good neighborly relations and ensuring regional security and stability, as well as the interest in the development of the regional cooperation in the Black Sea Region. With the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, the Black Sea became an external border of the EU, which brought the need for coordinated actions at European level and adequate regional policy. Thus, in 2008, the Black Sea Synergy Initiative put the beginning of a new stage of the regional cooperation. [2]

The initiative offers 13 areas of cooperation (the highest potential of country being in the field of tourism with its three main forms: cultural, historical and recreational), as well as creating a Black Sea Civil Society Forum, strengthening of academic and student networks (regional aspect), creation of the Institute for European studies in the Black Sea Region. In case it is necessary to evaluate the impact of the Black Sea countries security policy, it is possible to introduce a PBSC variable (Policy of Black Sea Countries) with the respective weight coefficient.

Western Balkans can be characterized by prevalence of positive trends due to the active involvement of the international community in resolving traditional and newly-emerging issues. An important step towards a lasting stabilization of the region is the accession of Albania and Croatia to NATO and maintaining the prospect of subsequent accession of other countries from the region. Meanwhile some serious risks to the democratic and sustainable development of countries in the region are being preserved. Attempts to reproduce stereotypes from the past, caused by specific regional environment and creating security risks are continuing.[7] The

increasing influence of the processes taking place in the Western Balkans on the national security policy of our country, could be expressed by the following variable P_{WBC} (Policy of West Balkan Countries).

The majority of the military equipment in use by the Western Balkan countries and by the European countries members of the "Warsaw Pact" has been produced in the former Soviet Union and in the former Comecon member countries.[8] At the same time American and Western European equipment is being introduced. The Bulgarian military industrial complex has occupied and is still occupying a higher place in the production and readiness of production of military products and elements for them, as compared to other European countries. This gives us the opportunity to utilize the currently available military industrial capacity and offer to perform technical unification of the armament and technical means of the armies (by arms and services) of the United States and Russia. The ultimate goal - joint military missions in the future, aimed at third countries, threatening the world peace.

In support of the formulated hypothesis about the mediator role of our country, we would like to put an emphasis on texts from adopted strategic documents, according to which Bulgaria is actively involved in the formation and implementation of the good relations of EU and NATO and the Russian Federation, adhering to the position that it is necessary to apply a holistic approach to the issues concerning security and cooperation while respecting the objectives, principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter, the Pact of the North Atlantic Treaty, the EU Treaty, the Statute of the Council of Europe

and the founding documents of the OSCE.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it should be noted that peace, security, development and prosperity are currently more interconnected than ever before. Security environment is becoming particularly important for the processes in society and in the lives of citizens. EU relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are developing mainly within the framework of the Eastern Partnership; Russia has become a strategic partner and is leading an independent dialogue with the EU; the policy towards Turkey is determined in the process of EU enlargement and in accordance with its role in the Middle East, Southern Mediterranean and other important European regions and conflicts. However, the Republic of Bulgaria should actively participate in the establishment and implementation of EU and NATO relationship with the Russian Federation, adhering to the position that it is necessary to apply a holistic approach to the issues concerning security and cooperation, acting as a role model and being a "mediator" when it comes to the security in the Balkans.

The foundation on which Bulgaria's crucial role as a mediator in the complex processes of cooperation and security issues is built, not only regionally but also globally, is not a figment of someone's idea. There are irrefutable historical, cultural and spiritual facts that put our country at the forefront and attribute it a significant role in the implementation of the comprehensive approach to the establishment of correct relations between the leading countries, USA and Russia, in the contemporary security environment

References

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