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## **EUROPEAN DEFENSE MANAGEMENT: A BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY, STRATEGY AND FORCES**

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### **Abstract**

The balance between security, strategy and forces represents a solution for the European defense management, as a key point for stability and prosperity for all countries in this region. New security architecture is necessary in Europe. And this will be a good way for European leaders to show their capacity and understanding to solve and develop a positive strategy. Harmonization of security, strategy and forces is the absolute key for success. The last but not the least, economic and military cooperation is probably the best method to improve peace, security and prosperity in Europe. Harmonization of political and economical differences, and more between security, strategy and forces could be probable the first step and maybe the principal key for a common defense approach. This paper presents a few considerations regarding with past, present and future of Europe and tries to demonstrate that some solutions for the European defense cooperation are possible.

*Key words: European Union, defense management, security, strategy, forces, cooperation, leaders.*

### **1. Introduction**

Nowadays, when the global economic crisis affects all the countries and when we can easily see that it would be better if we could stop the fire in the Middle East, the leaders should be more careful with words like: security, strategy and forces. The gas crisis between Russia and Ukraine which affected a lot of countries from Europe is obviously another very good example.

The European Union of today is the major player not only in Europe but also in the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian regions. The European Union is the result of a process that began after The Second World War when the European Coal and Steel Community were created. The institutions have been developed year after year, step by step, and today we can observe a powerful organization with good governance and fundamental principles about democracies.

The last major events: 9/11 terrorist attacks, Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Russia-Georgia conflict, global economic crisis, Russia-Ukraine disputes, North African uprisings, show us that around the World it is necessary to develop a new security architecture. States with lack of democracies are a very good environment for terrorists, pirates, smuggling or other potential threats. We have to deal with a lot of problems: pirates, drug trafficking, poverty, and smuggling. For European countries and for the EU especially, the most important thing is to find the best solutions for the future, in order to develop and protect democracies inside Europe and to develop procedures for a common defense management.

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The cooperation of the EU with the United States and Russia is the main objective. Perhaps, the best solution in the future for this region is cooperation between US, EU and Russia, where the European Union could become the link between the US and Russia. Economic and military cooperation inside Europe and between the European Union, United States, and Russia is probably the best method to improve peace, security and prosperity in Europe with a lower cost.

### **2. Building the future**

Europe is one of the most important regions in the World. In Europe, there are 50 states (27 in EU) and live around 730 millions people (492 million in the EU) and they represent around 11% of the world's population. It has 10,180,000 square kilometers (4 326 in EU) and is the sixth continent in the world. The most important languages are the Romance, the Germanic and the Slavic languages, and the Christianity is the first religion. The European Union is the most important and the biggest organization in Europe. [1]

The EU is the result of a long process: in 1947, The Treaty of Dunkirk, a defensive alliance, was signed by France and the United Kingdom and the next year The Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was established. [2] Following, on 17 March 1948, The Treaty of Brussels alliance was signed between Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom and on the 7-11 May 1948, the Congress of Europe was held in the Hague. Delegates expressed their support for the political and economic integration of the countries of Europe and for the adoption of a human rights chapter and a European Court of Justice. Another important event in this period happened on 4 April 1949 when The North Atlantic Treaty, setting up the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), was signed between the USA, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. [3]

During the Cold War, Europe was divided between two influences, one from the West with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and one from the East with Warsaw Pact. After the Cold War the EU had a decisive influence in the democracies evolution in Europe.

With a GDP of €12,279.033 billion (\$16,242.3 billion) in 2010, the EU is an important player in the world. Indicators like: "Expectation of life in EU (2002) 74.8 for Males and 81.1 for Females; total active population aged 15 years and over 210,343,000 (2002) or 8.8% unemployed persons from active population support the previous idea. [4]

The EU has Trade and Co-operation Agreements with Third World, other than Lomé Convention and Euro-Med, and has links with other regional groupings, including: Andean Community, Mercosur, Gulf Co-operation Council, ASEAN, SAARC.[5] The Middle East and former USSR region are very difficult regions in the world. It can be seen that a dangerous war between Israel and the Palestinians killed a lot of people. We can say who is the winner? When between two men there is too much hate, it is very difficult to find the good ways, the best solutions, and finally, the way for relationships. It is very difficult to find the best solution for peace in these regions but, there are solutions to avoid the war.

On the other hand Russia is the largest country in Europe and in the World. It has the main resource means of oil and gas in this part of the World. The former Soviet Union was a big power in the world. After the 1990s, Russia has lost power every year. Now, it

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makes steps to become again a big power, but first of all it needs to develop a greater economy and democracies.

In Europe are two important projects “Nabuco pipeline” and “South Stream pipeline”. The Nabuco pipeline is a European project oil pipeline with 31 billion cubic meters capacity. This pipeline will pass from the Caspian area to Western Europe. Some problems now exist between the EU and Turkey in regard to transit through Turkey. The second important project is a Russian project and it will connect Russia with Europe through (and under) the Black Sea. For Europe, it is very important to find other sources and, at the same time, to keep good trade relations with Russia. The Caspian Sea region could be a good opportunity but is not a long term solution. It is one of the potential alternatives but for Europe it is mandatory to find alternatives energy sources in the future.

The production of natural gas in the EU, in 2001, was estimated at 8,263,529 terajoules (net caloric value) and the total imports of all energy products around 1,261,404 metric tons of oil equivalent.[6] During the last 10 years, the production was decreasing and the imports were increasing. It is clear that, in the future, the energy security could be major problem for the EU and for the entire World. For this reason all countries leaders around the world should cooperate and work more to find other resources.

Also the leadership in Russia could be a long term problem. For the former Soviet Union States with fragile democracies, leadership could be the first step. Economic and military cooperation is probably the best solution to improve the fragile democracies in this sensitive region. Maybe the best course of action for EU, NATO and US is to find a long term solution. It could be more profitable for Russia to increase the instability and insecurity in region? This is too difficult to state now. The increasing influence of Russia in Europe and in the world is very important. The security environment in the region, in Europe or in Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian regions, is a product of a lot of interests. The enlargements of NATO and UE are seen as a possible threat for Russia. In the same time the increasing dependence of EU energy security on Russia is not a good way ahead. So, it is mandatory to find a potential alternative for the future. The challenges and opportunities have to be put in good balance in order to find the optimal and the enough.

The European Union interests are very clear: to promote democracy, respect for human rights and good governance. For the EU it is important to fight and develop plans for increase of democracies after the fall of communism in Europe. Corruption and poverty in transition from communism to liberalism are serious problem for a lot of countries.

The fight against organized crime and terrorism is also one of the most important goals for the EU. The terrorist organizations can easily find good opportunities in weak states, that are very good environments for organized crime and terrorist organizations. The EU's preoccupations in this field are obvious, and the EU tries to reduce risks for weapons trafficking, drug trafficking and human trafficking. The conflicts in Transnistria, Georgia, and Kosovo increase the risks of violence and instability in Europe and the leaders of those countries have also a lot of problems to solve. The reconstruction after the war is not complete in those regions, and this is a big challenge for European leaders. On the other hand it is important to solve the frozen conflicts and consolidate regional stability.

Another challenge for the EU is the Turkey and Norway question. Turkey and Norway have a special relation with the EU. European Integration and Atlantic Security is for the most states a big issue. The Kurdish issue, the tension between Turkey's Western identity and its Middle Eastern orientation caused a long discussion and wait to join to EU. These are only a few elements in this question. Turkey is a NATO member, and as a US security partner it is real and has developed from 1949 to nowadays. Turkey has the second

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largest army (after the US) in NATO and an important military budget. Some divergences between Turkey and the US or the EU still exist: Cyprus, Greece, and the Nabucco pipeline project. The religious differences could be easily solved if the leaders could understand and work together for peace. The problems could be better solved through military solutions and only through political dialogue and hard negotiations. Maybe the art of negotiations is very important in this case.

“The complexity of the European region could be analyzed from a different angle. Norway’s relationship to Europe and the Atlantic region-both within and without the remit of security policy-has been dominated in the 1990s by the question of membership of the European Union: preparing for it, campaigning about it, rejecting it, and doing without it. Through this process, Norway has decided-by a small margin and amid heated controversy-to stand virtually alone”. [7]

We can discuss more about security, strategy and forces. In Europe, today are some important actors or players: EU, US, Russia, Turkey and, probably the last but not least China. The interests of these actors can be better compared. For the EU and the US the challenge of promoting a strategy to improve security, prosperity and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian region is a good opportunity to develop closer relations. On both sides of the Atlantic in the last four years probably the distances between the east and west Atlantic were bigger and bigger. The Bush Administration criticized the Europeans for weak contributions to their defense or NATO budget. Some Europeans leaders criticized the Bush Administration for Iraq intervention and economic crisis. Other countries tried to find a good balance between the EU and the US. A lot of articles and many books spoke about the European aspirations to provide self defense from the end of the Cold War and the process of European Unification. It was clear the Iraq dispute between the UE and the US “Efforts to co-ordinate Europe’s joint position are not necessarily always going to be translated into a different position from that of the USA. But the temptation for Europeans to differentiate themselves from Washington’s view on almost any issue is very strong: instinctively, many European governments regard a decision to follow the US lead on any crisis as a humiliation. This was clear in the Iraq dispute, where those who supported the USA were either regarded as Washington’s ‘poodles’ or as simply ‘un-European’”. [8]

The different points of view about the Russia-Georgia conflict, the economic global crisis or the War between Israel and Palestinians still exist. The security, strategy and forces are the most important words at this time in these questions. The main questions about the concepts, about the visions or about the future still remain for the Europeans and Americans leaders. It’s too hard to coordinate Europeans’ and Russians’ and Americans’ points of views. But it is not impossible.

### **3. Conclusion**

“The Treaties of Rome weren’t built in a day: and the Treaties of Rome (in force in 1958) were big building block in a long and complicated process that has constructed the present European Union”. [9]

The most important objective for the European Union is to unify all European countries. Nowadays, most of the countries of Europe have joint together. Other countries hope to join the Union in the future and to increase their economies and standards.

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“Too much American hegemony is dangerous for the Americans as well as for others. Only the EU has the potential to be at least an equal partner with respect to the economy, the environment, and soft security, though not defense.[10]

We can make comparisons between American and European democracies, the old and young, good or bad, yes or no. Optimal or enough are very hard to find. Perhaps the best solution for the future is cooperation and open dialogue. Building partnership capacity is a key goal of the EU and the US strategy in Europe and also in the world. Nowadays is a big difference between reality and the desired status.

The US point of view about democracies could be better or not than the European point of view. The European countries, the most powerful in the EU, had had colonies and a lot of long-lasting wars. The US democracy is maybe more fresh, clear and clean. A very good example for a lot of European countries is the transition from the Bush Administration to the Obama Administration. The transition, how the system is managing, the economic crisis shows us that the US has a very good system that can manage the big problems safely and close to the people.

Maybe we can realize that a good balance and working system is not as important as who is the leader. Economic shocks, the management of the trading and financial systems have different perceptions. In Europe, countries with weak economies have big problems. At the same time important economies from Europe have problems to managing the economic crisis. The impact to the populations could be dangerous for the non-democratic states.

Economic and political reforms projected for the future several years is maybe the only option for the near future. In regard to economic crisis the Europeans have to develop more pragmatic programs.

Cooperation between the EU, US, Russia and China is necessary for reducing the impact and the consequence of the economic crisis on the main sector in development of: infrastructure; transportation and energy; science and technology; economic activities; trade; environmental protection; institutional and social sectors.

Another important framework of regional cooperation between Europe, the EU and the US is NATO. NATO has become an important and a constant actor in Europe. The question is: “NATO or EU first?” NATO leads the Euro-Atlantic strategy and provides security, stability and prosperity in this region. NATO’s security umbrella, NATO’s Open Door Policy, NATO’s Concept of Defense against Terrorism are only a few subjects for European leaders and American leaders to approach in the same manner. The US has annually a military Budget significantly higher than other countries. To identify the common problems is very important for the European Union and the United States and to start building a new transatlantic partnership could be a very good idea. It’s very difficult for the majority of states to find resources to support their military budgets, the security umbrella or a new strategy. At the moment a balance for each European country, for the EU or the US is very important. A balance between strategy-security-forces inside and outside for each country, for EU or US is probably the best solution for the future, for stability, security and prosperity in Europe and in the Euro-Asian or Euro-Atlantic regions.

The gains for membership: political, psychological, security, prosperity in both cases, NATO and EU, are very important for each country. The gains for the organizations: people, spirit, resources and human potential could be very important. In these conditions European common self defense could remain a “dream” not just for a short term.

A lot of articles and many books have been written about the Europeans’ aspirations in regard to self defense. It’s too hard to coordinate the Europeans’ point of

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view? This requires more attention and much hard work. At the same time it is more difficult to harmonize the view points of the US, EU, Russia, and China. Questions about their relationships still remain and have to be discussed further.

”EU countries can already conduct some operations using their own national planning headquarters, and it is difficult to conceive of any future crises when the Europeans feel strongly enough that they wish to engage militarily, but the Americans have no interest. More importantly, given the nature of crises in which Europe may be involved, it is difficult to imagine a military operation in which capabilities will not be required”.[11]

Brussels and Washington should use the recent, but not only, experiences to focus a bilateral cooperation and promote further economic, political and military strategy. That means for both, more work and more negotiation. They should fight together against regional and global threats such as terrorism or unresolved territorial disputes or latent historical problems and find the best way to deal with these. At the same time, the EU and the US could bring Russia closer and “build bridges” across the World for security and peace. Positive thinking is probably the main important thing.

The national and international interests are numerous, but the most important for us is to share our experiences and learn more. We can learn about democracies or economy more when these can be discussed freely and in a friendly manner. And maybe it is not so important that the grass is not green around the World. Much more flexibility and mobility is necessary not only for NATO troops, but also in economical and political fields. A good balance inside the European Union, inside Europe, between the European Union and the US, is obvious needed to build better structures. Perhaps economic crisis will show us that is a main goal. A balance, between idealism and pragmatism, between security, strategy and force is probably the best solution and the key point for stability and prosperity in Europe and in the world.

The leaders, the new leaders in Europe and US, have the opportunity in this complex process to use the international and domestic rules, to reduce vulnerabilities and increase harmonization interests for a better future common defense cooperation.

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