

TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT TRANSFORMATIONS AND RECENT NATO AND EU DOCUMENTS

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Abstract: *Euro-Atlantic security is endangered by various risks and threats specific to the XXI century. NATO has developed cooperation relationships and partnerships with the majority of the global security actors, but NATO will still have a special relationship with the EU, which currently shares the same values and strategic interests as the North Atlantic organization. NATO – EU cooperation and common strategic objectives are visible also in the approach to the problems of defense in the context of budgetary constraints. Thus two parallel concepts involving procurement (and sharing) of machinery and modern military capabilities, as well as cost sharing between member countries have developed. NATO's action capability remains unmatched worldwide in terms of possibilities to deploy and sustain the military power in order to protect the safety of the Alliance members and to contribute to global peace and security.*

Keywords: *Euro-Atlantic security, cooperation, "Pooling and Sharing", "Smart Defence", defense budgets, military capabilities, sustainability, efficiency.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The documents of the Chicago Summit (2012) and NATO's Strategic Concept developed at Lisbon (2010), describe a security environment that contains a broad and constantly evolving set of opportunities and challenges to the security of NATO territory and its population. While the possibility of an conventional attack against NATO is low, conventional threats can not be ignored. The persistence of regional conflicts continues to be a matter of great concern for the Alliance, as well as growth of defense expenditures in other parts of the world and the acquisition of more advanced capabilities by some emerging powers.

Globalization, emerging security challenges such as cyber threats, environmental and resource constraints, the risk of energy supply disturbance and the emergence of new technologies will continue shaping the future security environment in areas of interest for NATO. A number of vulnerable, weak and stranded, or in process of stranding countries, along with the increasing capabilities of non-state actors will continue to be a source of instability and potential conflict.

These disturbing factors, along with challenges such as terrorism and piracy, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the development of laser weapons, nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, electronic warfare, access to outer (circumterrestrial) space, threats posed by ballistic missiles, cyber attacks, actions that create health risks, climate changes, water scarcity and increasing energy needs will be in the future threats and vulnerabilities to the NATO security environment and areas of interest, with the possibility of influencing the political-military NATO actions, both in planning and during the course of actions.

According to the Lisbon Strategic Concept (2010) the three tasks set for the alliance will be continued, namely: collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security. Heads of states and governments participating in the Chicago Summit (2012), solemnly reaffirmed their commitment to preserve transatlantic connection sealed by the Treaty of Washington in 1949 and to fully respect the principles and purposes of the UN.

They highlighted that the Alliance will remain on a liaison framework in terms of collective defense, security consultations and shared decision making.

2. NATO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

Afghanistan will continue to be in NATO's attention after 2014, in the sense of material, political, financial and military (training and assistance missions) support, based on the existing long-term partnership.

Financial support will be developed based on the mechanisms and arrangements already existing, by implementing their principles of efficiency, flexibility and transparency, taking measures against corruption, respecting the decisions taken on the Conference on Afghanistan from Bonn (December 2011).

Besides involvement in Afghanistan, NATO is interested in the security and stability in the Balkan and in the Black Sea regions. KFOR mission will continue to run in compliance with the UN mandate (UNSCR - 1244) and in cooperation with major security actors and Kosovo authorities in order to comply with the EULEX law.

Simultaneously, NATO is involved in global peace and security through other missions, including: the counter piracy operation "*Ocean Shield*" in the Horn of Africa, with prolongation until 2014, which is conducted in cooperation with the EU "*Atalanta*" operation and other naval forces; the maritime operation "*Active Endeavour*" in the Mediterranean against terrorism; supporting the *African Union mission in Somalia "AMISOM"*, on its request, by air and sea actions; the assistance mission in Iraq - "*NATO Training Mission in Iraq*" (NTM -1).

The Alliance has developed cooperative relationships and partnerships with majority of the global security actors. Among them we can mention the UN, EU, OSCE, Russia, the Mediterranean countries, the African Union, the Arab League and others. NATO will continue to have a special relationship with EU - an actor who currently shares its values and strategic interests.

The strategic partnership with the EU needs to be improved in the following directions: cooperation in the development of military capabilities in these days of austerity; practical cooperation in military and civilian operations; broadening the base of political consultation discussions through a structured dialogue between NATO Secretary General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

All these must be understood on the background of close collaboration in terms of collective work within the main missions in progress. In this context, NATO recognizes the need and importance of further development of the CSDP of the EU and a strong European defense.

The NATO - EU close cooperation and common strategic objectives are visible in the approach to the problems of defense in the context of budgetary constraints.

Therefore, two concepts involving acquisitions (and sharing) of machinery and modern military capabilities as well as cost sharing among member countries have developed in parallel.

It is about the European "*Pooling and Sharing*" concept and the NATO "*Smart Defence*" concept which are intended to be complementary to each other, especially for member countries of both organizations. These concepts provide a basis for a new type of cooperation, for the acquisition and maintenance of military capabilities at the level of nowadays requirements, equally necessary in both NATO and the EU in order to fulfill all security tasks.

All measures of implementation involve carefully establishing priorities and precise coordination of material and financial efforts in the context of economic crisis affecting member countries since 2008.

Years of recession that followed have imposed restrictions in the defense budgets of the Member States and the effects can be seen at the level of contributions of the Alliance members, and also in the budgetary mechanisms of EU military operations, conducted under the aegis of the CSDP.

The crises have affected the current relations between different states, as well as governance systems of the states, especially in the Arab world of the Mediterranean area, leading us to the conclusion that the changes produced require the existence and use of modern military and civilian facilities, quick and easy-to-use anywhere in the world.

NATO is required among other things to demonstrate political determination to reduce the contribution gaps with funds and also the endowment and equipment level with military technology between the United States and other Member States. Until now, U.S. has always supported the Alliance, but in the current crisis it is necessary to review the situation through the concept of "*Smart Defence*".

3. THE EUROPEAN "POOLING AND SHARING" PROJECT

This project has legally took shape on November 30, 2011, at the Reunion of Defence Ministers from EU countries, when they talked and took a political commitment concerning the shared development of new military capabilities as well as their use in common. Moreover, the Defense ministers approved a list of 11 projects through which they have made a commitment to implement them together by using the *European Defence Agency* (EDA), which in principle takes into account four functions: promotion of research in the field of defense and technology, development of military capabilities, promotion of cooperation in armaments field, creation of a competitive European defense equipment market and strengthening the European defense, the industrial and technological base of it.

EDA performs in Europe a comprehensive approach by contributing to the development of military capabilities while setting the basis for a fair and genuine transformation of the European defense industry, where requests / demands and optimal logistics are connected in order to save time and money for EU participating countries.

The aim of the activity is to improve the EU's defense capabilities in order to solve the tasks imposed by the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The cause that determined the concept of "Pooling and Sharing" represents the decline of defense budgets of EU Member States over the last decade, during the financial crisis. On the other hand European armies increased their international cooperation for developing military capabilities, but certain goals set by Project Global 2003 and 2010 remained unresolved. This is evidenced in the analysis of actions carried out in Libya in 2011. Initially, the concrete proposal, known as the "Ghent initiative" - initiative to intensify military cooperation (November 2010), came from the representatives of the ministries of defense of Germany and Sweden, participating in EU Defense Ministers' Meeting in the town of Ghent, with the aim of maintaining and improving EU Member States' operational capabilities, taking into account improvement of effect, sustainability and cost effectiveness. In May 2011, they demanded the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security to request the European Defence Agency (EDA) to make concrete proposals for cooperation by applying concept of "Pooling and Sharing".

The purpose of this action is to operate in a pragmatic way in order to maintain and improve European defense capabilities in the context of cuts to national defense budgets. Is thus hoped that it will be established the premises for EU countries' armed forces to be equipped properly and to be well trained. It is also aimed that problems that have had a negative effect for actions in Libya (2011) to be rezolved.

By "Pooling and Sharing", Member States may collectively acquire capabilities that could not be purchased individually, thus amplifying cooperation by sharing the benefits of joint purchases of military capabilities, preventing duplication and reducing costs.

These capabilities are critical to operations under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and will assure the independence of the EU regarding third parties.

The projects approved by the EU performed for the implementation of "Pooling and Sharing" concept by EDA covers a wide range of areas such as: field hospitals, helicopters units training, future satellite communications, air refueling, maritime surveillance, intelligent ammunition, European Satellite Communication Procurement Cell (ESCPC), pilots training, Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR), the European Centre for Transport, shipping logistics.

For example, through the helicopters units training program started in 2008, were trained over 150 crews using the expertise of "pooling and sharing". European Satellite Communication Procurement Cell (ESCPC) needs data that can only be obtained by using drones (UAVs) and further processing of data via SATCOM capacity. Using the European concept, costs of the whole process are reduced by at least 10% and it is ensured a fast access to information. By using the concept of "Pooling and Sharing", the 5 European SATCOM satellite data procurement systems which exhaust their operational resource until 2025 can be replaced easily. In the same manner, the problem of intelligent ammunition, that proved to be insufficient and largely provided by the U.S during actions in Lybia, can be solved.

It can be said that there is a wide range of options for "Pooling and Sharing" project platforms and subsystems developed to synchronize national maintenance programs. This marks a new phase of CSDP military capabilities in the EU, representing a step forward from the EU's ambition to be a first-hand player to concrete actions in the establishment and maintenance plans of credible military capabilities.

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To solve the tasks set by "Pooling and Sharing" concept, EDA works closely with NATO similar elements in order to avoid duplication of activities and to take into account the complementarity of the concept of "Smart Defence". At the present moment, assurances that the two concepts reinforce each other are given.

4. NATO MODERN COOPERATION CONCEPTS IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE

NATO focuses its "*Smart Defence*" efforts to resolve key issues relevant to present and future actions. The projects in which the Alliance is engaged are especially strategic and consist of: force preparing and training, ballistic missile defense of the Euro-Atlantic area, intelligence, improvement of the research, surveillance and reconnaissance; effective engagement and force protection. To achieve the desired effect by applying the concept of "Smart Defence", Members need to prioritize and choose the best solution available for several countries. Currently, the Alliance can play a guiding role for choosing the best, most efficient, safest and cheapest solution for the benefit of all members in the current crisis.

For achieving success in terms of this concept NATO Member States have to cooperate so that most states could use equipment and capabilities that normally they would not permit. Cooperation must be based on the states interest for a certain category of deficient military capabilities, on geographical area of the various states, on states affinities, culture, economic and financial power. The primary responsibility of coordinating activities should belong to the Allied Command Transformation (ACT), with the objective stated to perform the tasks of NATO force vision for 2020.

NATO's partnership policy, recently approved by the Foreign Affairs Ministers in Berlin in 2011, represents the basis of cooperative security set in Lisbon (2010). This way, the foundation of a free and prosperous Europe was built, by establishing a lasting peace and developing Euro-Atlantic relations with the countries in the vicinity area of NATO. The main forms of cooperation are implemented by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, Mediterranean Dialogue, Partnership for Peace, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, cooperative relations with third countries anywhere in the world, cooperation in the development of training and conduction of operational missions.

Cooperation involves among others the important issue of financial contributions which support NATO-led operations, especially during the crisis period that humanity endures. In Chicago, the importance of flexibility in the field of the cooperation was reaffirmed.

Common challenges and threats have generated policies to combat them. In this category there are policies against weapons of mass destruction, against terrorism, defense against cyber attacks and nuclear non-proliferation.

Alliance security is threatened primarily by: terrorist attacks, energy resource depletion, risks to human health, climate changes, increased energy consumption, deficit in water resources. Also, there should be considered potential ballistic missile attacks over the population, territories and forces of NATO European states, which have generated development of ballistic missile defense capabilities (BMD) in the Alliance. In the declaration of the Heads of States and Governments of NATO in Chicago, it is shown that the missile defense can be complementary to nuclear weapons in the discouragement phenomenon, but it can not substitute these weapons. These capabilities are purely defensive. At the same time it was stated that the Alliance has reached an intermediary capacity in this field.

NATO as an alliance whose main objective is collective defense, must confirm the power and capability of discouragement and defense. These objectives can be achieved through the existence and maintenance of reliability of nuclear, conventional and ballistic missile defense capabilities, thus being able to satisfy the Lisbon Strategic Concept (2010). On this basis it was decided the *NATO Forces Objective 2020*, capable of maintaining the Alliance leadership position worldwide in defense and security problems.

NATO allows Member States to jointly acquire a higher level of security compared to the situation in which they would act on their own. It will give further consideration to the transatlantic link and solidarity within the Alliance and to the division of responsibilities, roles and risks in order to deal with the challenges that arise for European and North American states.

The Alliance recognizes the importance of a stronger and more capable European defense and welcomes the EU's efforts to strengthen its capabilities and to resolve common security challenges.

These efforts are themselves an important contribution to the transatlantic link.

The NATO power consists into Allied forces and is resumed to: training, equipments, interoperability and experience of forces that are led by the integrated command structure. The success of Alliance forces in Libya, Afghanistan, the Balkans and in fighting piracy is a fair example of action capacity of NATO that remains unmatched in the world in its ability to deploy and sustain military power in order to protect security of Alliance members and to contribute to global peace and security. The current results represent the effort of over six decades of close cooperation in the field of defense.

In light of these progresses, NATO has established the Objective of Forces 2020: modern, better equipped and connected, educated, trained and controlled forces so that they can work together and with partners in any environment. The fundamental thing to achieve this objective will be the improvement of the way in which will develop and ensure capabilities for Alliance missions. In addition to the essential national efforts and existing, proven multinational cooperation forms, such as strategic air transport, warning and air control segments, Alliance must find new ways to cooperate more closely in order to acquire and maintain key capabilities, high rank capabilities on what is imperative and regarding the defense plans changing. It also should be deepen connections between the Allies and between them and their partners, based on mutual benefits. Maintaining a strong defense industry in Europe and increasing the potential for cooperation in the Alliance defense industry remains an essential condition for achieving the necessary capabilities of the 2020s.

Smart Defense is the heart of this new approach. The development and implementation defense capabilities is primarily a national responsibility. But, as technology becomes more expensive and defense budgets are affected by the crisis, there are key capabilities that Allies must achieve by collective effort.

Are remarkable the Allies efforts and decisions to continue the specific multinational projects for a better protection of forces, a better air and land surveillance and a better preparedness. These projects will contribute to the improvement of operational efficiency, budget savings, and closer ties between the allied forces. Therefore, they will become the starting point for many others future Smart Defence projects.

Based on this success: the "*Connected Forces Initiative*" will be built, joint exercises will be enhanced and improved, education and the training of Alliance personnel will be extended, thereby complementing national efforts, NATO Response Force - NRF will be used more often, so that it can play an important role in improving the ability of Alliance forces to work together and to contribute to discouragement and defense missions; the ties between NATO command structure, NATO's force structure and national HQs will be strengthen. Last but not least, Allies connections with partners will be intensified as much as possible, so that we can operate together.

Although improvements have been made since the last Summit, more is need to be done on the line of capabilities and cooperation. For this purpose, the *Defence Package* was adopted to help the Alliance in the development and deployment of missions capabilities needed. Transformation of structures and procedures for greater efficiency and better use of national budgets will de continued. Defence Package is designed to advance the three components of the Rasmussen's plan: *cooperation, prioritization and specialization*. The last of these is particularly sensitive because it could deliberately involve countries to give up certain specific capabilities and rely on others to provide them during operations - thus raising issues of sovereignty. The package includes 20 projects, covering, among other things, the issue of sharing maritime patrol aircrafts and improving the availability of precision weapons for combat aircrafts. Each project will be acquired through volunteering by a leading nation. Their number is not too high, and these projects are called "emblematic" because some of them are essentially symbolical, designed to build mutual confidence.

CONCLUSIONS

Alliance leaders are determined to ensure that NATO keeps and develops the skills necessary to perform its core tasks of collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security so as to play a key role in promoting security in the world. NATO must fulfill these responsibilities while solving the problems created by the acute financial crisis and geo-strategic development challenges.

The basic capabilities of the Alliance generates a constant debate among members on the issue of "collective defense" in accordance with Article V of the NATO Treaty. Question arises whether this mission is the main engine of NATO Member facilities, or if, as the U.S. and other developed nations claim, the priority of having deployable, usable forces, prepared for international operations. To rephrase, we can wonder whether deployable forces are indeed available for use in all Member States, if considering the problems encountered by the Alliance during the major operation in Lybia.

Probably not all 28 NATO countries can participate in the efforts required by the **Defence Package**. The reality confirms that only some groups of countries can offer capabilities to the Alliance. The focus is now on implementation of the concepts mentioned, which is a challenge and requires a strong political will among member states of the Alliance.

The development of European military capabilities will strengthen the transatlantic link, will increase the security of all Allies and will stimulate a fair sharing of burdens, benefits and responsibilities in cooperation with the Alliance. In this context, NATO will work closely with the European Union, as agreed, to ensure that Smart Defence and Pooling and Sharing initiatives of the EU are complementary and reinforce each other. The success of the Alliance efforts will continue to depend on mutual transparency and openness between the two organizations.

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