

CONSIDERATION REGARDING NATO AND EUROPEAN UNION RELATIONSHIP

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ABSTRACT:

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) SHARE LONGSTANDING MUTUAL INTERESTS AND FACE COMMON THREATS, BUT DEVELOPING THE EU-NATO RELATIONSHIP WHILE RESPECTING THE INDEPENDENT NATURE OF BOTH ORGANISATIONS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING CHALLENGE. SHARING STRATEGIC INTERESTS AND SIMILAR PURPOSES LIKE PROVIDING POLITICAL STABILITY TO ITS MEMBER THROUGH SECURING DEMOCRACY, NATO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATE ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST AND ARE WORKING SIDE BY SIDE IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT, CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS.

HAVING A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, COMMON VALUES AND PURPOSES PROVIDE A STRONG ARGUMENT TO ENHANCE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO AND THE EU.

KEYWORDS: NATO, EUROPEAN UNION, COOPERATION, COMMON SECURITY

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening the NATO-EU² strategic partnership is important in the current security environment, in which both organizations and their members are facing the same challenges to the east and south.

The latest effort to establish a framework for cooperation was at the July 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw, when the EUNATO Warsaw Joint Declaration was signed. Enhanced consultations at all levels and practical cooperation in operations and capability development have brought concrete results. The Warsaw Joint Declaration outlines a series of actions for the two organizations intend to take together in concrete areas, including countering hybrid threats, enhancing resilience, defense capacity building, cyber defense, maritime security, and exercises³. However, UE tasked the North Atlantic Council to review the implementation of these proposals and to report to foreign ministers by December 2016.

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² Ina Raluca Tomescu, Flavius-Cristian Mărcău, "COORDINATES OF NATO – EU COOPERATION", in proceedings "Strategic changes in Security and International Relations", 2014, pp. 258-265

³ NATO Summit Warsaw 2016 available at: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events_132023.htm

On 6 December 2016 the Council of the EU and the NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs simultaneously endorsed a set of 42 concrete proposals for the implementation of the declaration.

The proposals aim to implement the EU-NATO Joint Declaration in a practical and concrete manner, and to boost EU-NATO cooperation. Moreover, those proposals describe how NATO and the EU can work together including on countering hybrid threats, cyber defense, and making their common neighborhood more stable and secure⁴. The Global Strategy aims to guide EU external action within the current security and political landscape, and promotes a comprehensive and collective response to challenges such as the conflict in Syria, sanctions on Russia, fragility across Africa, or the fight against terrorism and hybrid threats. As the EU and NATO cooperate closely on a number of these issues, the two documents are intrinsically relevant to each other. The implementation plan for the joint declaration was presented only weeks after the Implementation Plan on Security and Defence which sets out proposals to implement the EU Global Strategy, and a week after the presentation of the European Defence Action Plan. The three initiatives combined constitute a defence package aimed at reinforcing European cooperation in this area, to move towards more effective and efficient European security and defence. The three plans have been submitted to the European Council of 15 and 16 December 2016 .

NATO's current Strategic Concept, issued in November 2010, clearly states that an active and effective EU contributes to the overall security of the Euro-Atlantic area⁵. The EU's Lisbon Treaty (in force since end 2009) provides a framework for strengthening the EU's capacities to address common security challenges⁶.

NATO AND EU COOPERATION

Close cooperation between NATO and EU is an important element and requires the effective application of all means. NATO and the EU meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of common interest. Meetings take place at different levels including at the level of foreign ministers, ambassadors, military representatives and defense advisors. There are regular staff-to-staff talks at all levels between NATO's International Staff and International Military Staff, and their respective EU interlocutors (the European External Action Service, the European Defense Agency, the European Commission and the European Parliament).

NATO and UE cooperation refers to: combating illegal trafficking in humans in the Aegean and the Central Mediterranean, the Western Balkans, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Darfur, Piracy, political consultation, capabilities, terrorism⁷ and weapons of mass destruction proliferation⁸.

Regarding combating illegal trafficking in humans in the Aegean and the Central Mediterranean, NATO defense ministers decided on February 2016 to deploy ships to the Aegean Sea to support Greece and Turkey, as well as the European Union's border agency Frontex in their efforts to tackle the refugee and migrant crisis. Standing NATO Maritime

⁴ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

⁵ NATO relations with the European Union, available at: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49217.htm

⁶ EU and NATO concerted approach for the western Balkans, available at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/76840.pdf

⁷ Flavius Cristian Mărcău și Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR", European Scientific Journal, January 2013 edition vol.9, No.2

⁸ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

Group 2 (SNMG2) is conducting reconnaissance, monitoring and surveillance in the territorial waters of Greece and Turkey, as well as in international waters. In October 2016, ministers agreed to extend NATO's deployment in the Aegean Sea and also decided that NATO's new Operation Sea Guardian will support the EU's Operation Sophia in the Central Mediterranean with NATO ships and planes, ready to help increase the EU's situational awareness and provide logistical support⁹.

EU and NATO have agreed on a concerted approach on security¹⁰ and stability in the Western Balkans and in July 2003, it was published the "Concerted Approach for the Western Balkans". The EU and NATO partnership has been key to bringing an end to conflict and stabilizing the region¹¹.

As for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 31 March 2003, the EU-led Operation Concordia took over the responsibilities of the NATO-led mission, Operation Allied Harmony. This mission, which ended in December 2003, was the first "Berlin Plus" operation in which NATO assets were made available to the EU¹².

Building on the results of Concordia and following the conclusion of the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU deployed a new mission called Operation Althea on 2 December 2004. The EU Force (EUFOR) operates under the "Berlin Plus" arrangements, drawing on NATO planning expertise and on other Alliance's assets and capabilities¹³.

In Kosovo NATO has been leading a peacekeeping force (KFOR) since 1999. The EU has contributed civil assets to the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for years and agreed to take over the police component of the UN Mission. The European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo, which deployed in December 2008, is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)¹⁴. The central aim is to assist and support the Kosovo authorities in the rule of law area, specifically in the police, judiciary and customs areas. EULEX works closely with KFOR in the field.

In Afghanistan, NATO and the EU have played key roles in bringing peace and stability, as part of the international community's broader efforts to implement a comprehensive approach to assist the country. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) helped create a stable and secure environment in which the Afghan government as well as other international actors could build democratic institutions, extend the rule of law and reconstruct the country. NATO welcomed the EU's launch of a CSDP Police (EUPOL) in June 2007¹⁵. The EU also initiated a programme for justice reform and helped to fund civilian projects in NATO-run Provincial Reconstruction Teams that were led by an EU member country. Cooperation continues following the completion of ISAF's mission in December 2014 and the launch of a

⁹ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

¹⁰ Flavius Cristian Marceau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "The vision about international security at the beginning of the XXI century", in European Scientific Journal, april 2013 edition vol.9, no.11, 301-311

¹¹ The Warsaw declaration on transatlantic security, available at:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_133168.htm?selectedLocale=en

¹² Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

¹³ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

¹⁴ A global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, available at: https://europa.eu/global/strategy/sites/globalstrategy/files/full_brochure_year_1.pdf

¹⁵ A global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, available at: https://europa.eu/global/strategy/sites/globalstrategy/files/full_brochure_year_1.pdf

follow-on, NATO-led mission to train, assist and advise the Afghan forces and defense and security institutions. EUPOL Advisers at the Afghan Ministry of Interior and the Afghan National Police are supporting the reform of the ministry and the development of civilian policing. The EUPOL mission's mandate ran until the end of 2016¹⁶.

In Darfur, Sudan, both NATO and the EU supported the African Union's mission in particular with regard to airlift rotations¹⁷.

Since 2008, in the coast of Somalia, NATO's naval forces deployed under Operation Ocean Shield and EU naval forces (Operation Atalanta) worked side by side with other actors for anti-piracy missions¹⁸.

In terms of political consultation, the range of subjects discussed between NATO and the EU has expanded considerably over the past two years, particularly on security issues within the European space or its immediate vicinity. Since the crisis in Ukraine, both organizations have regularly exchanged views on their respective decisions, especially with regard to Russia, to ensure that their messages and actions complement each other. Consultations have also covered developments in the Western Balkans, Libya and the Middle East.

Together with operations, capability development is an area where cooperation is essential and where there is potential for further growth. The NATO-EU Capability Group was established in May 2003 to ensure the coherence and mutual reinforcement of NATO and EU capability development efforts. Following the creation, in July 2004, of the European Defense Agency (EDA) to coordinate work within the EU on the development of defense capabilities, armaments cooperation, acquisition and research, EDA experts contribute to the work of the Capability Group.

Among other issues, the Capability Group has addressed common capability shortfalls in areas such as countering improvised explosive devices and medical support. The Group is also playing an important role in ensuring transparency and complementarity between NATO's work on Smart Defense and the EU's Pooling and Sharing initiative¹⁹.

As for the combating terrorism²⁰ and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), both NATO and the EU are committed. They have exchanged information on their activities in the field of protection of civilian populations against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks. The two organizations also cooperate in the field of civil emergency planning by exchanging inventories of measures taken in this area²¹.

NATO-EU cooperation not only constitutes an integral pillar of the EU's work aimed at strengthening European security and defence, as part of the implementation of the EU Global Strategy, but it also contributes to Trans-Atlantic burden sharing. A stronger EU and a stronger NATO are mutually reinforcing.

¹⁶ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

¹⁷ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

¹⁸ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

¹⁹ A global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, available at: https://europa.eu/global/strategy/sites/globalstrategy/files/full_brochure_year_1.pdf

²⁰ Flavius Cristian Mărcău și Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR", European Scientific Journal, January 2013 edition vol.9, No.2

²¹ Kristin Archick, Paul Gallis, NATO and the European Union, January, 2008, available at: <https://fas.org/qsp/crs/row/RL32342.pdf>

EU-NATO cooperation continues to take place on the basis of the following principles: openness, transparency, inclusiveness and reciprocity, in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of any Member State.

NATO AND EU POSITION ON THE THREATS

In the first ever NATO summit taking place in Poland, NATO is insisting on its mission of *defense and deterrence* while explicitly stating that it *poses no threat to any country*. This mission will consist of the persevering in the objectives outlined already in the Readiness Action Plan adopted in Wales at the previous NATO summit in 2014²². The exertion to boost security in and around Europe is based on two key pillars: protecting its citizens through modern deterrence and defense, and projecting stability beyond its borders. In June 2016, the EU published its Global Strategy, a document in which the EU re-stated that “NATO remains the primary framework for most Member States”²³. At the same time, the EU stressed the complementarity of NATO and of its own security mechanism, because the cooperation will not prejudice the security and defense policy of those Members which are not in NATO. The EU will therefore deepen cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance in complementarity, synergy, and full respect for the institutional framework, inclusiveness and decision-making autonomy of the two²⁴.

The concerns that appear from the Warsaw declaration reflect the most prominent items on the foreign policy agenda of all great western powers. These are the three partly interrelated issues of the fight against terrorism²⁵, the behavior of Russia, and unrest in Middle East.

After major terrorist attacks have been carried out on European soil, the EU sees as pivotal increasing investment on countering on counter-terrorism. With this aim, it encourages greater information sharing and intelligence²⁶ cooperation between Member States and EU agencies²⁷. NATO as well shares the concern. In 2001, after a terrorist attack, the mutual collective defense clause of the North Atlantic Charter was invoked for the first time by the US. In 2006, NATO recognized that ‘terrorism, increasingly global in scope and lethal in results, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction are likely to be the principal threats to the Alliance over the next 10 to 15 years’. NATO’s Strategic Concept, adopted at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, recognizes that terrorism poses a direct threat to the security of the citizens of NATO countries. At the Chicago Summit, NATO leaders endorsed new policy guidelines for Alliance work on counter-terrorism, which focus on improved threat awareness, adequate capabilities and enhanced engagement with partner countries and other international actors²⁸.

Key areas of cooperation with Russia, before the 2014 Ukrainian crisis escalated to the point that dialogue was suspended, included state-building and training counter-narcotics in

²² NATO Strategic Concept 2010 available at: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_82709.htm

²³http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/securing-the-eastern-european-flank-a-joint-eu-nato-endeavour_3101.html

²⁴http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/securing-the-eastern-european-flank-a-joint-eu-nato-endeavour_3101.html

²⁵ Flavius Cristian Mărcău și Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR”, European Scientific Journal, January 2013 edition vol.9, No.2

²⁶ See Flavius Cristian Mărcău și Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, “THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR”, European Scientific Journal, January 2013 edition vol.9, No.2

²⁷http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/securing-the-eastern-european-flank-a-joint-eu-nato-endeavour_3101.html

²⁸ NATO Summit Warsaw 2016 available at: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events_132023.htm

Afghanistan, as well as overall coordination on fighting terrorism²⁹, and on limiting proliferation of arms and weapons of mass destruction this institutional set up, however, NATO has strongly condemned Russian actions and rhetoric in several recent occasions. This was the case after Russia intervened militarily in Georgia in 2008, and in Ukraine in 2014. Now, after the escalation of the Crimean crisis, all practical civilian and military cooperation between the two actors is suspended, with only political dialogue ongoing in the NATO-Russia council. In NATO's narrative, Russia has breached with its action its commitments, and with that it has nullified two decades of efforts at cooperating³⁰. In view of this shift in its borders, NATO is also concerned for Russia's military activities not just in Ukraine but also on NATO borders. Another area of conflicting interests is in Syria, where NATO has called on Russia to immediately cease their attacks on the Syrian opposition and civilians, to focus its efforts on fighting so-called Islamic State, and to promote a solution to the conflict through a political transition. As far as Middle East is concerned, the war in Syria is a top concern for NATO. As mentioned, an issue of contention is Russia's increasing involvement in supporting the regime of Assad. In Syria and Iraq, the US-led coalition is progressing against ISIS, which is losing ground.

On terrorism and hybrid threats, EU and NATO agreed on a strategy to counter Hybrid Warfare, to be implemented with mutual coordination. They also agreed on concrete measures to increase situational awareness and better respond to hybrid attacks, "where a broad, complex, and adaptive combination of conventional and non-conventional means, and overt and covert military, paramilitary, and civilian measures, are employed in a highly integrated design by state and non-state actors to achieve their objectives"³¹.

Russia's destabilizing actions have prompted NATO to reaffirm its decisions to enhance its deterrence and defense posture, including by a forward presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, and to suspend all practical civilian and military cooperation between NATO and Russia.

CONCLUSION

Institutionalized relations between NATO and the EU were launched in 2001, building on steps taken during the 1990s to promote greater European responsibility in defense matters.

The 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on a European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) set out the political principles underlying the relationship and reaffirmed EU assured access to NATO's planning capabilities for the EU's own military operations³².

In 2003, the so-called "Berlin Plus" arrangements set the basis for the Alliance to support EU-led operations in which NATO as a whole is not engaged.

At the 2010 Lisbon Summit, the Allies underlined their determination to improve the NATO-EU strategic partnership and the 2010 Strategic Concept committed the Alliance to working more closely with other international organizations to prevent crises, manage conflicts and stabilize post-conflict situations.

²⁹ Flavius Cristian Mărcău și Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR", European Scientific Journal, January 2013 edition vol.9, No.2

³⁰ <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/>

³¹ Luigi Lonardo, EU-NATO Relations in the Era of Trump and of the European Defence Union, February, 2017, available at:

http://www.e_ir.info/2017/02/17/eu-nato-relations-in-the-era-of-trump-and-of-the-european-defence-union

³² Ina Raluca Tomescu, Flavius-Cristian MARCAU, "COORDINATES OF NATO – EU COOPERATION", in proceedings "Strategic changes in Security and International Relations", 2014, pp. 258-265

At the NATO Summit in Warsaw in July 2016, the two organizations outlined areas for strengthened cooperation in light of common challenges to the east and south, including countering hybrid threats, enhancing resilience, defense capacity building, cyber defense, maritime security, and exercises. Over 40 measures to advance NATO-EU cooperation in agreed areas were approved by NATO foreign ministers in December 2016.

Romania has consistently supported the development of a strong partnership between NATO and the European Union, respecting the autonomy of the two organizations and multiplying the effects of their policies and actions. A number of defining principles such as complementarity, avoidance of duplication, and transparency are important in the conduct of NATO and EU activities, enabling both organizations to respond to citizens' expectations and multiple challenges in a complex security environment³³. Moreover, both organizations are interested in ensuring stability and security at international level, so that the cooperation between them is, from a national perspective, crucial and natural. Interaction and cooperation between the two partners must be as closely linked to international developments as adaptability and rapid response to crisis situations are essential to their management and to maintaining credibility.

³³ Flavius Cristian Mărcău, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, "The vision about international security at the biggining of the XXI century", in European Scientific Journal, april 2013 edition vol.9, no.11, 301-311

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