Threats to Romania generated by the status of a NATO and EU

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Abstract
Romania's status as a member of NATO and the European Union makes the eastern border a common border of the two organizations.

Romania being on the border of the two organizations has created a significant new geopolitical and geostategic position. Therefore, on the one hand we are witnessing the actions aimed at strengthening defence and security of the Romanian state and on the other hand it is increasingly becoming a possible target of threats. Based on these considerations our study aims to analyse the diversity of potential threats to Romania.

Keywords: threat, conflict, security, terrorism, vulnerability

Rezumat
Statutul României, de membră a Alianței Nord-Atlantice și a Uniunii Europene, face ca frontiera de est să fie, concomitent, granița de răsărit a celor două organizații.

Situarea României la frontiera celor două organizații a dat naștere unei noi și semnificative poziții geopolitice și geostrategice ale acesteia. Deci, pe de-o parte asta înțărească apărării și securității statului român, pe de altă parte acesta devine tot mai mult posibilă țintă a unor amenințări. Pe aceste considerente, este realizat și studiul nostru care își propune analiza succintă a diversității amenințărilor la adresa României.

Cuvinte cheie: amenințare, conflict, securitate, terorism, vulnerabilitate.

JEL Classification: R58, E69, K39, F52

Introduction
Romania's North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU) membership transforms the Eastern border, simultaneously, in the Eastern border of the two organizations. To some concern, the NATO Eastern border poses no particular problems, this organization being both political and military and, therefore, the territorial aspect matters only concerning to the security and the defense of its members in case of external military aggression by other state or group of states.

On the other hand, the new Russian military doctrine indicates that "NATO is a fundamental threat to the security of the country and underlines that the main external risks for the country are the NATO expanding military capabilities directly to the Russian borders and the destabilization from several regions, stressing Russia's concern about the measures taken to construct a global missile defense system in Eastern Europe."1

Contrarily, the European Union's Eastern border reveals some particularities that Romania must take into account in its actions for defense and security of this area. The particularities arise from the fact that virtually the European Union possesses all the characteristics of a state, unique and unified territory as a space for life and work in common of member countries, of its citizens. The respect of these values is one of the conditions of belonging to the Union, which means that the state not adhering to them or not respecting them has no place in this organization. We appreciate that these values, in a summary form, concern: a. democracy and human rights;

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1 Ria Novosti, March 2015
b. a competitive social market economy, which tends to social progress and a high level of environmental protection;
c. social and territorial cohesion.

The essential defiance that the European Union has to deal with is to ensure that the values it constantly and consistently promotes are viable in a world where they are constantly challenged or threatened by: the terrorist threat versus freedom, trades globalization versus social progress, rivalry versus cohesion etc.

It is for the European Union to find the way to materialize its values in response to a triple challenge: democracy and human rights, social market economy and social and territorial cohesion. Basically, through its way of organizing and functioning, by its internally and externally followed objectives, the European Union sums all the characteristics of a state territory. Therefore, it has a physically Eastern border that allows it to come into contact with those in its neighborhood and beyond.

At this boundary there are threats to E.U. security and defense, as a multi-country economic, political, social, cultural and military entity. Thus, Romania, as a member of this organization since 2007 and "owner" of the Eastern border of the European Union has taken a series of rights and obligations, including the security and defense of the borders. Beyond this, however, new threats have emerged in nearby Romania or even threats that can be generated on our national territory.

In other words, "Romania, in addition to meeting the challenges of European integration, must face threats from the border to the East, as the boundary of the European Union. Mainly, it is all about threats such as illegal migration, activity of criminal organizations in Russian and former Soviet space; cross-border crime" (Dutu, 2006) etc.

The main threats to Romania

The recent events in Ukraine which culminated in the annexation of the Crimean peninsula by RUSSIAN Federation, but subsequent clashes in the Eastern and Southern regions of Ukraine, contribute to security environment degradation in the Black Sea region.

However, the possible Russian military intervention in order to occupy regions in southern Ukraine and of the Ukrainian Black Sea coast, in order to achieve a "corridor" between the Russian Federation and the Crimea, facilitating quick access to the entire NATO Eastern flank can significantly amplify military threats against Romania.

"Strengthening the military presence in Crimea (reopening a missile alert station in the attached peninsula, reinstatement of the naval base in early December 2014 and the stationing of a large number of aircraft fighters - 24) configures an important military landmark at the Black Sea"2.

Moscow makes these challenges deliberately to intimidate. "Russia interprets a more aggressive score, as done in Ukraine from March (2014), with the annexation of Crimea and the support of pro-Russians rebels in Eastern Ukraine."3

Although at this time indicators of a direct threat to NATO’s member states security do not exist, the unpredictability of the situation in Ukraine and the fact that the Russian Federation has re-dislocated weapons systems and military equipment in Romania’s strategic interest area, and the Russian Air Force continued the execution of air reconnaissance missions and responsiveness testing to unauthorized use of national airspace in order to test the reaction of the West, require a cautious approach of development opportunities.

However, in the presented context, a possible escalation of the situation in the region, combined with the complex mechanism of political decision-making process in NATO and the Russian Federation’s capabilities to develop political, psychological and communication strategies can make the Romanian Army to fight independently until the actual intervention of NATO’s forces.

"In Romania's internal affairs there are highlighted some types of vulnerabilities to national security that find their sources in policymakers, economic and social factors existing in our country: persistence and worsening problems of an economic, financial and social nature, generated by the global

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2 Ria Novosti, March 2015
3 Brooks Tigner, HIS Jane’s Defense NATO specialist
economic crisis; delay of structural reforms; increased corruption and mismanagement of public resources; inefficient reactions of governments in the face of deepening economic crime and disturbance of public order and safety of citizens; maintaining potential sources and causes of social conflicts; environmental non-compliance in the functioning of industrial projects; lowering the level of public trust of citizens in state institutions; maintaining a low level of informational infrastructure and delays in its implementation at standards imposed by globalization dynamics etc."

The EU should develop action policies to appropriately manage the movement of goods and individuals on the new frontiers. Porous before the EU expansion, these borders must now restrict illegal immigration and reject criminal activity. There is already a first measure – the visa - which is now required of all those who are transiting the EU.

The new EU frontier will have to face a huge flow of illicit labor and other forms of human trafficking. An increasing share of illegal immigration in the EU comes from this region. These migratory movements could effectively contribute to the increase of HIV/AIDS infection within the EU, due to its large number of carriers in Eastern Europe and especially in Russia and Ukraine.

At the same time, a real threat to Romania is the illegal migration. Until joining the EU, Romania was the only a crossing country for the illegal immigrants towards the Membership States of the European Union, but after January 2007, it has become both the "target" of some of these illegal immigrants, and the access "gate" to their entering the Union.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that out of a total of 130 million immigrants per year, between 20 and 40 million move clandestinely, this means that, at any moment, four million individuals have the status of immigrants. Five hundred thousand people would enter the US each year and some other 500,000 in Europe. This traffic would generate a profit raging from 3-10 billion dollars.

"The number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea - from the coasts of Libya to Italy - has exploded in the first half of this year, as the European Agency for Boarder Management FRONTEX informed. According to it, in January-July (2014), immigrants in Europe have reached 78.300, as compared to 12.915 in 2013. This is an issue that has always concerned the European institutions, without finding a solution for that this burden on southern European countries to be borne by all EU Member States".

Another threat to note is the organized crime networks that exist in Eastern European countries or in their immediate vicinity, operating in the EU.

Thus, in the European Union, in addition to organized crime groups belonging to member states, organized crime groups from outside EU operate, such as:

- Albanese groups dealing with drug trafficking, illegal immigration, human trafficking;
- Chinese groups that are smuggling chemicals needed for the manufacture of synthetic drugs, product synthetic drugs, deal with illegal immigration, credit cards fraud;
- Russian groups consisting of ethnic belonging to the former Soviet states which appeal to all kinds of organized crime;
- Romanian groups which are dealing with theft of goods, prostitution, credit cards fraud;
- Bulgarian groups whose actions aim towards prostitution, counterfeiting of euros, credit card fraud;
- Turkish and Kurdish groups that particularly perform heroin trade;
- Nigerian and Moroccan groups whose main action is the drug traffic.

Noteworthy is the good organization of these groups, a certain specialization on specific crimes and the struggle to monopolize and t control 'the market'. The activity of organized crime has a constant evolution and the effects generated are devastating. In this context, it is

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4 National Defense Strategy, Bucharest, 2010

5 Explosion of the number of immigrants, Gazeta de Sud Newspaper, 16th August 2014
not surprising that the city streets are transformed by prostitution and drug-related violence, and auto theft makes the insurance premiums to rise, and proliferation of smuggled goods deprives the state budget of important revenues, gang war leads to innocent casualties, illegal immigrants cross the borders and are exploited. This merciless and destructive kind of behaviorism is motivated by the attraction of quick gain.

At economic level, organized crime has monopolistic tendencies materialized through: the whole purchase of national economies key sectors, privatization exploitation, alliances between criminal groups. Therefore, Mafia acts against the state and legitimate governments. At the same time, the organized crime can be perceived as a matter of national security, but also international (through its transnational ramifications). The evaluations of organized criminality indicate an increase in organized crime phenomenon. In 2004, experts from the IMF and the World Bank estimated that internationally, the aggregate amount of narco-currencies in the hands of transnational organized crime was 1.450 billion. Hence, their actual ability to corrupt some people with responsibilities in various states institutions and even some politicians.

We notice an obvious reality: organized crime has a number of "targets" that are aimed at national, regional and global level. We consider that these targets are:

a) Narcotics, where drug trafficking is 50% of organized criminal activity, with a turnover estimated by the UN at 400 billion dollars (equivalent to Spanish gross domestic product), that is 8% of world trade;

b) Weapons traffic experienced a special scale. Only 3% (18 million) of 550 million small arms in circulation in the world are used by government, military and police forces. Almost 20% of these weapons trade is estimated to be in the hands of organized crime, such as Russian mafia, in particular, which brings weapons trafficking more than a billion dollars a year;

c) Human trafficking encompasses two markets: illegal immigration, on the one hand, suggesting the immigrant consent, violating a state law and an arrival at the destination; traffic or treatment of persons, on the other hand, does not cover: confiscation of passports, physical or moral pressure, exploiting the victim and the absence of a fixed destination. According to EUROPOL, the leading countries providing human beings, today, would be: Moldavia, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. The networks use different routes, including the route passing through Romania, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Austria and thence to the Czech Republic, Poland, Scandinavia or towards Germany, France and United Kingdom;

d) Intellectual property piracy which costs a lot the states economy. 30% percent of software in Germany and the UK are produced illegally, 40% in France and Japan, 60% in Greece and South Korea and in Russia only 8% of software and 3% of video games are authentic;

e) Money laundering. It should be noted that organized crime networks have become masters in money laundering. IMF assesses an annual turnover of criminal organizations at nearly 1,500 billion dollars, taking into account both the volume of annual earnings in various fields of traffic and revenues heritage, often integrated into the formal economy. Between 600 and 1000 billion dollars are washed every year (2 to 3% of gross world product), of which the bulk of the profits are generated by the sale of drugs. Recycling aims to turn cash into funds. Most often, the process consists in obtaining fictitious receipts, by hiring "understanding" intermediaries (exchange agents, family businesses etc). Casinos and broader gaming industry commonly serve as a place of such operations. Capital is then placed in a bank "that does not ask too many questions," in which this money become electronic money through the help of a computer. This operation is most often done in an offshore banking establishment, which serves as logistical support for laundering money. The money "washed" can enter an honorable bank and then it will be invested in treasury assets or financial investment - which is, apparently, appreciated by indebted countries.

Conclusions
The international situation is marked by fluidity and unpredictability. Some changes are linear
and predictable, either stemming from the objective development of the security environment, whether being the result of strategies and programs. Others with surprising and seismic or strategic discontinuity character are accompanied by a significant degree of uncertainty regarding the nature, magnitude and duration.

The proliferation of the new risks and threats augments the insecurity of the global environment, the global order under the new dynamics of international relations favoring Euro-Atlantic community efforts aimed at building a new international equilibrium, able to ensure the expansion and strengthening of freedom and democracy.

In turn, of course, the European Union is keen to eliminate or at least mitigate the effects of risks and threats to its borders. In this context, its Eastern border does not make an exception. Therefore, it will adopt a coherent set of administrative, legal, military, diplomatic and political measures, by which it achieves its goals in terms of security and defending its borders from the effects of external risks and threats.

Today, we can say that the possibility of external military threats at Romania's security are unlikely, if not excluded, since, on European plan, premises were completely diminished and there is no indication that the situation will change in the near future.

Given the geographical position of Romania at the Black Sea, being a member of NATO and EU, I think it is necessary to do a permanent, close monitoring of the situation at the Romanian border in order to identify and early warn the changes in the regional security environment.

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