

Security, Defence Policy and Strategy

Title: Possibilities and chances to establish military forces of European Union

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to find an answer, what factors and conditions effect on the establishment common military forces for the EU, and estimate needs such solution in current security context. In the publication author shows plenty of factors in international space, which has great effect on regional security. Among them, there is group of factors creating military threats. It seems to be extremely difficult to separate those factors which have purely military effect, and other ones, because their sources are very complex and they overlap one another. But in reality it is seen, that military threats directly affect the elements regional security system. It is said that they are key elements because they can hit the vital interest of each organization, including international.

At the beginning author is trying to explain the nature of military threats and military security. This theoretical studies let develop considerations in terms of regional security. In the next stage there are generate those factors, which has determinant affecting the formation of military threats for region and the EU, trying to show them in terms of global and regional aspect. To understand influence the factors on the EU, it seems to be extremely important to show what this mean "threats for EU". To explain this it is needed to show what is the essence of the European Union. Author indicates that in this case the EU must be understood as an organs and institution created, controlled by the independent member states and functioning for and in behalf of EU.

All of the shown factors affecting the formation military threats can be classified by the processes and phenomenon which take place in nowadays architectures of international security. In that case it is possible to show main subjects (state and non governments), main phenomena and finally it is possible to classify them by places and regions where has been carried out the conflicts, especially in regional environment. Those conflicts, sometimes despite a considerable distance, affecting regional security. After analysis an author is going to show which one of threats are the most dangerous.

The European Union constitutes the economic and political partnership of several dozen sovereign European countries. As an entity that carries out its own activities in the economic sphere, it is obliged to introduce the applicable to all Members the existing laws and rules of operation regarding free flow of goods, services, people and the implementation of a number of common policies. Among them the most important in area of security is Common Security

Defence Policy, which is cooperation between member states within the existing EU structures to ensure internal security of the EU and in the external environment through the development military and civilian capabilities to respond threats and to build conditions for political, military, internal and external dimension of the crisis response.

It is obvious that the security of the European Union in the military aspect is the same as the individual Member States and the security of these countries forms the security of the whole Union. In that understanding it seems to the military ability is in the scope of each particular state, but the EU from the nineties started to introduced an idea of creation the EU Battle Groups, which would be able to conducting crisis response operations, fulfilling the Petersberg missions basing on the military instruments, or the conflict parties force-separation operations. Battle Groups, in their essence, are combat units with a significant military potential (from 1500 to 2500 soldiers). The core of these forces is a subunit with the battalion potential, reinforced with operational support and security units, capable of rapid response in areas covered by crisis in the considerable distance from the borders of the EU, often in extreme environment conditions, including deserts, high mountains, tropical conditions. The European Union assumes that the capability to make decisions on crisis management military operations will be able to achieve within five days of the approval of the crisis response concept, and the land forces will be able to start operation no later than within ten days from the date of the decision on their employment by the European Council. This means that the Battle Groups should have the capability to achieve readiness and develop their military capabilities within a period of five to ten days after the decision on their use. In addition, the Battle Groups should be able to conduct independent operations in one hundred twenty days period with proper logistics security. Despite existing well prepared military units it is significant that any BG hasn't been used yet up to now. And simultaneously it is possible to indicate an examples that shows military engagement of EU in crisis military operations, where battle task were created ad hoc (Tchad, Congo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mail, and others). Both CSDP and conducted military operations on the one hand indicates, that the EU has possibilities to take military action in order to find own interests, but on the other hands crisis response operations can't be compared with typical conventional military activity.

It is an assumption that needs the answer to the question: whether the European Union in its multinational structure has the ambition to create the European "superarmy"? Taking into consideration the current threats to the Union's security, and procedures within the EU response system, such assumption would be extremely difficult to achieve, or even impossible at the current level of integration. As the recent cases of EU military involvement show, it is extremely difficult to reach a consensus among the leaders of the governments of each member states. Oftentimes, the national interest is put above the community interest, what is understandable taking into account the nature of the European national states and their development over the centuries, from the feudal system through the turbulent period of capitalism, the colonial period up to modern democracies. Hence, the creation of joint task forces should be perceived as a project strengthening the European integration, more in political than military categories yet allowing for the curent use of force in the interest of the whole community.

At the very last stage on author is trying to point out strong and weak points of the EU in order to consider if the EU needs military forces and whether it is possible to create them, and what factors have a positive and negative impact for this process.

KEY WORDS

Military threats, military security, European Union, CSDP, EU BG, military forces.