

## **Romania as a Factor for Consolidation of the European Union Project versus Russia's New Generation War in Europe**

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**Abstract:** This topic highlights the current stage of European interstate construction from the perspective of EU - Russia cooperation, but also a medium and long-term analysis of the risks generated by the regional and international security policy through a new type of war that Russia has perfected in every way. In this context, Romania becomes an important actor on the European security scene, but also a stability enhancer on the Eastern flank of the Union for the states that have membership status for pre-accession to the European Union. Called the 5th generation war or the combination of low-end and high-end warfare, it is one of the most dangerous military tactics of the time. Vladimir Putin's motivation to create the Eurasian empire is more and more visible. At present, in Europe, Russia has established the operational roots of endurance struggle by co-opting Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania and, to a certain extent, Greece. In parallel with these states, which are in a relationship of diplomatic and economic tactics with Russia, the other states such as Moldova, Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Armenia and Georgia are more reliant on economic dependence than they would have liked to be. Therefore, this military-economic configuration is part of the criteria that call Russia's new generation war.

**Keywords:** Russia; Eurasia; European Union; New Generation War; Romania

### **Introduction**

The origin of the European Union is identified by the existence of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community, made up of six states in 1958. The Treaty of Maastricht established the European Union under this name in 1993. The last amendment to the constitutional bases of the European Union was The Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force on 1st December 2009.

During the development of the European Union as an interstate entity, now consisting of 28 members, with the entry of Croatia into the Union, the vulnerabilities of such a supranational megastructure have also been revealed, which, not to be neglected, reveal the possibility of destruction as a result of well-targeted attacks and detonated right inside it. Surely, any interstate construction at global level also represents a potential threat to already established powers and on

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this principle, no power wants to give rise to another power. Even if on a political and diplomatic level, the international relations between states are under the auspices of fruitful cooperation centred on welfare and peace, in their essence, the established powers, want only the continuation of the hegemony or, moreover, the increase of the domination capacity towards their own welfare.

If for the beginning of the European Union the reactions of the other great powers were more skeptical about the solidity and viability of this project, at this point, when the European Union already looks very much like a federal state, these reactions begin to turn into concrete actions, they begin to take strategic forms and, last but not least, aggressive measures are being implemented, ones that aim to weaken and disintegrate such a construction.

All aspects of the European Union's social, economic and military aspects are carefully monitored and, where it is appropriate, they are often counterbalanced by concrete measures which are more specific to war strategies than to the natural measures of socio-economic protectionism. The realities of 2018 are more than obvious in terms of the attitude of the United States, but also Russia's reaction towards European politics.

The sensitive and very important aspect, from our point of view, is more about Russia's strategy and tactics in addressing this supranational state called the European Union, in that, compared to the United States of America, Russia is once again demonstrating its chameleonic ability of underground war and characteristic cynicism in the matter of subversiveness and subordination of nations through the same feudal attitude but obviously disguised as foreign diplomacy and policy centred on peace and well-being.

In this paper we propose a broader approach upon this hybrid action mechanism which, from our perspective, is centred only on maintaining a slow, vulnerable union and at any time destined to disintegration.

## **Content**

Even if the European Union was originally created to achieve a pacifist political objective, it was the economic aspect that successfully launched this European construction. At present, the demographic trends in the EU are not very promising, compared to other countries in the world. For this reason, the member states need to move closer to ensuring the economic growth and maintaining global competitiveness. No member state is prepared to cope with global competition in the field of trade by itself. Thus, the single market offers the European economic entities a vital platform, ensuring their competitiveness in world markets. However,

this space of market economy at European level must have as a corollary the solidarity of the European nations.

Europe's post-industrial societies are becoming more and more complex. Thus, although the standard of living of European citizens has not ceased to grow, significant differences between Europe's areas persist. In turn, the enlargement of the European Union has further accentuated these differences, as the new member states entered the European Union with a living standard below the European average. That is why the interconnection of the member states is crucial in order to reduce these discrepancies. However, all these efforts did not jeopardize and were not made to the detriment of the cultural and linguistic identity of the European states. On the contrary, the activities carried out by the European institutions have greatly contributed to the achievement of economic growth, considering the regional particularities and the cultural and traditional diversity of the member countries. After half a century of European construction, the European Union as a whole is more prominent than each member state taken separately: it exerts a far greater economic, social, technological, commercial and political influence than if they should have acted individually. The fact that the European Union carries out joint actions and speaks with one voice is an undeniable added value for Europe.

From the perspective of the union's future, in a positive analysis we could say that this supra-state structure is the optimal form of development and coexistence of its member nations, but in a more realistic approach we can see that this European project is permanently subject to various attempts of segregation, manipulation or, in more complex terms, destabilization.

President Juncker said: "After years of crisis, the time has come to take the future of Europe into our hands. The vigorous economic growth at this moment encourages us to go forward to give assurances that our economic and monetary union is more united, more efficient and democratic and works for the benefit of all our citizens. We have to strike the iron while it is hot."<sup>1</sup>

Against the background of good neighborly relations, Russia, through Vladimir Putin's voice, clearly sends messages that lead to a definite conclusion in favor of some more than solid relations between the European Union and Russia, even in some kind of dependence of Russia towards the country's monetary stability, which is not really true in reality: "It would be better to address this question to the Prime Minister Medvedev, who is the head of the party. But there is a certainty, we do not seek to divide something or someone in the EU. We are much more interested in seeing a united and prosperous European Union because it is our biggest trade and economic partner.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites>.

The more problems within the European Union, the greater the risks and uncertainties for us. The mere fact that the trade amount with the EU countries has fallen to 250 billion, half of the trade amount of 400 billion that we had, speaks for itself. What would a new regression be useful for? Why would we create problems for the European Union in order to have other losses - instead of having advantages due to cooperation?

On the contrary, we must enhance the cooperation with the European Union. We decide pragmatically whether we work at a political level more closely with each other than with others. We are trying to cooperate with those who say publicly that they want to cooperate with us. This is the only reason for which our parties, groups and movements have political contacts with certain European parties, not our desire to destabilize something in the European Union or to hinder it. We have no such intentions, we have never had them, nor will we have them. We hold 40% of the gold and currency reserves in euro. Why should we destabilize the euro? Which would be the consequences if we destabilized the whole European Union? I want Austria and other European countries to get this idea out of my head.<sup>1</sup>

But history shows something else: Russia, which still wants an Euro-Asian empire, will not accept that at its borders there are states that it does not control, it will never accept an economic-military power that can influence the dynamics and perception of the population in the face of a hybrid type of capitalism governed by Russia. Thus, under the current conditions, the Russian Federation is one of the most suited state-owned societies in the field of national security and the most capable actor at external level in terms of maintaining its influence for its own security and prosperity.

At a closer look, with the policy of small steps and in a minute exploitation of the details that reveal vulnerability, we will see how, Russia set its tactical and ever-operational external security maneuvers in Europe. Through large-scale projects, nuclear power and conventional energy, it attracted and is attracting different countries or regions in Eastern Europe and Central Europe. It is well known that Hungary has become a real partner for Russia and 20% of Bulgaria's economy is controlled by the Russian oligarchy. Countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo and now Turkey are fertile lands for underground operations practiced by the Russian Federation. According to this new type of war perfectly conducted by Russia, the weapons used are the economic, social, political, media propaganda, for awakening some national identities enclaved in some member states, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/externe>.

The differences between the European Union and Russia in terms of reaction and operability are obvious and they are highlighted precisely from the structural form of the two supra-state entities. The European Union, no matter how prepared it may be, cannot cope as reaction time with the Russian agility and rapidity of intervention. We should also appreciate and reflect upon the new European strategy called “The European Union’s Resilience Capacity for Foreign Threats”, which is precisely the counterbalance of some threats that Russia is making.

Considering the rapidly changing context, it is argued that a political approach is needed based on the coherent mobilization of political dialogue, of the Union and member state diplomatic resources, EU assistance as well as sectorial policy dialogue and bilateral initiatives. The principles and working methods which must be established in order to implement this approach are also proposed. They are based on the experience gained with the implementation of the 2012 Commission Communication on Resilience<sup>1</sup>, which continues to guide the relevant EU activities as well as on the experience gained through the EU’s promotion of resilience when approaching complex internal policy challenges.

The EU will implement the present strategy in the context of a world where the rhythm of changes is faster and faster and the pressures on states, societies, communities and individuals are increasingly disturbing. The pressures, marked by an unprecedented acceleration of the globalization rhythm, range from demographic, climatic, environmental or migration challenges that individual states are unable to cope with, to economic shocks, the erosion of social cohesion because of some weak institutions and a mediocre governance, conflicts, violent extremism and acts of foreign powers meant to destabilize the perceived opponents. There is a constant pressure on observing the human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as a large number of unmet humanitarian and development needs.

The vulnerability and chronic fragility of countries in Europe’s wider neighborhood aggravates the impact of these pressures. They prevent the development of entire regions and threaten to extend beyond their borders.<sup>2</sup>

The strategy is based on the premise that the EU is currently experiencing a series of major crises, both inside and outside. The threats to the Union have different origins, some of them come from the neighborhood, but others are global. In the vision of the High Representative Mogherini, detailed in the preamble of the Strategy, in times of challenges, a strong Union is a Union that thinks strategically, shares a common vision and acts in a unitary way. Based on these considerations,

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<sup>1</sup> The EU’s approach to resilience: learning from food security crises. COM (2012) 586 final of 3rd October 2012.

<sup>2</sup> [www.cdep.ro/afaceri\\_europene/CE/2017/JOIN\\_2017\\_21\\_RO](http://www.cdep.ro/afaceri_europene/CE/2017/JOIN_2017_21_RO).

the structure of the Global Strategy focuses on **five major priorities**: the security of the Union; resilience of states and societies from the East and South of the Union; an integrated conflict approach; regional cooperation based on co-operation; global governance for the 21st century.<sup>1</sup>

Going forward, from the perspective of revealing Russia's new generation of war tactics, we can propose a theme of thinking in that, at this moment, Russia has secured its control over the Black Sea, by annexing Crimea and the new partnership with Turkey and has assured its influence in the Persian Gulf by supporting Iran and engaging in the war in Syria and, last but not least, in the Mediterian Sea through its good relations with Greece. It should not be forgotten that the historical relations of Greece with Soviet Russia existed to the benefit of the two states and they did not cease to exist and will not cease to exist either, in the idea of a long-term collaboration.

The Russian Federation seeks only to maintain a European Union subject to political and social turmoils, and to fuel, by any means, the destabilizing actions within the state entity that it wishes to obey, not being any interpretation that there may exist an external aggressor.

The European Union's foreign security policy is beginning to be outlined in relation to these threats of the Russian Federation and thus, the new strategies and agenda for 2030 denote an acceleration of the counter-measures of aggression initiated by the union. Cleverly but slowly, the European Union is in the critical situation to rapidly respond to the major changes that occur globally and needs an increased capacity in terms of internal and external security. The fact that this year there have been disagreements with the historic ally, the United States, has been a serious signal for the Russian Federation's operations on the world stage. Certainly, the international security bodies such as NATO, do not represent a total guarantee for the Union security, which emerges from increasingly frequent approaches regarding the establishment of a similar European organization.

In November 2017, the agreement on "Permanent Structured Cooperation" regarding military issues (PESCO) was signed by 25 EU member states. This in-depth cooperation stipulates joint arms projects and closer cooperation between national armies. According to the will of the EU defense ministers, PESCO could prepare for the establishment of a European army. At the same time, at a national level, the availability for cooperation increases.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mae.ro/node/39086>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ziare.com/europa/germania/>.

The President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the NATO Secretary General signed a joint statement which says at the end: “We welcome the EU’s efforts to increase European security and defense in order to better defend the Union and its citizens and to contribute to the peace and stability in the neighborhood and beyond it. The Structured Permanent Cooperation and the European Defense Budget contribute to these objectives. [...] EU efforts will strengthen NATO and improve our common security [...] The capabilities developed through EU and NATO defense initiatives must remain coherent, complementary and interoperable. They must be available to both organizations, subject to the sovereign decisions of their own countries.”<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, all these statements are based on an already existing, analyzed and anticipated threat in terms of consequences. The European Union has lately become aware of the fact that the risks are real and already produce effects within the Union.

## Conclusions

The “European Union” project represents the advantage of some cultures and civilizations that have reunited in an evolved societal form and relies on a spiritual and social development just on the format of a complex, but fluid civilization. The current moments of socio-political turmoil worldwide are only the confirmation that this supra-state entity is the reference of a solid and peaceful society that can represent the example of balance for international coexistence. Nevertheless, the construction of this society must certainly assume and anticipate the external risks that will not cease to exist, risks which are natural in a transformation and substance restructuring of some interstate macro-corporations.

I have proposed this topic of thinking from the perspective of more and more convincing realities that indirectly and even directly exert a constant pressure. These realities are transposed into the metamorphosis of a new type of war, the new generation war waged by one of the biggest powers of the world. If the European Union's reaction level flexibly and quickly finds responses to this type of weapon, then the evolution of this vision will certainly strengthen and become the model of optimal social coexistence for world civilizations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://adevarul.ro/international/europa>.

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