

ROMANIAN DEFENCE 2019



#R02019EU

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MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Publisher: Information and Public Relations Directorate
Tel./Fax: +40 213195698; E-mail: drp@mapn.ro

Editorial board: Captain Dorin CHIRCA (Chief of Military Mass-Media Office), Gabriela CHIRCEA (Layout and Cover), Anca-Cristina MIHAIL (Editor and Translator)

Photos by: MoND photographer & PR officers

Printed at Military Technical Publishing Center

Cxx; Bxx

CSDP should remain at the core of our mandate

As of January 1st, 2019, for the first time since its accession to the EU in 2007, under the motto “*Cohesion, a European common value*”, Romania will assume the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU.

This role brings along major responsibilities for all the institutions across the governmental spectrum including for those acting in the area of security and defence. Romanian MoND is fully involved in making this endeavor a successful one.

The current security environment requires maintaining our full attention to any possible evolution of the threats and risks that may challenge the European Union, so we believe the Common Security and Defence Policy should remain at the core of our mandate.

That's why progress in the implementation of the EU Global Strategy in the area of security and defence (EUGS) is a topic of paramount importance for RO PRES. Bringing a substantial contribution to the achievement of the EU Level of Ambition – LOA (encompassed by the agreed three main strategic priorities, namely responding to external conflicts and crises, building partners' capacities, and protecting the EU and its citizens), is the main guiding principle of our efforts. This is meant to address Europe's current and future security and defence needs, to enhance the EU's capacity to act as a security provider and its strategic autonomy, and to strengthen its ability to cooperate with partners.

In line with other EU Member States actions, Romania will support the efforts of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR) in the field of CFSP/CSDP, especially with regard to the implementation of the EUGS.

In our view, 2019 will be a crucial year for taking forward the agreed decisions aimed at making CSDP an even more effective policy.

To this end, Romania will focus on supporting the implementation of the new EU defence initiatives (CARD, PESCO, EDF) with the aim at further fostering synergies and improving coordination among them, as well as to ensure their coherence. A special attention will have to be paid to the implementation of PESCO projects.

Promoting collaborative defence research to address emerging and future security threats, as well as advancing on the path towards co-financing collaborative capability development projects complementing national contributions will be other areas where Romania shall strive to support the European Commission in taking positive steps, including by enhancing opportunities for cross-border cooperation among SMEs and Mid-Caps, within the wider effort for developing an inclusive EDTIB.



Concurrently, Romania will support the HR in taking forward the implementation of the main tenets of the EU's integrated approach to external conflicts and crises. The Romanian contribution will focus on making the EU react in a faster, more effective and more seamless manner as a security provider, in accordance with the principle of avoiding unnecessary duplication with NATO. Ensuring a balanced and coherent development of the civilian and military dimension of CSDP, with a view to effectively manage conventional and emerging security challenges, will be a top priority.

All these endeavors should be geared to enhance EU's ability to effectively manage conventional and emerging security challenges, including those related to strengthening the resilience of states and societies and along the internal-external security nexus.

Strengthening partnerships will continue to be an important line of effort for Romania, with NATO and Transatlantic relations at a premium, especially in areas such as cyber security and defence, hybrid threats, and countering terrorism. Particular emphasis will be placed on taking forward work on military mobility. These actions will be reinforced by supporting the overall efforts led by the HR in taking a more ambitious and strategic approach towards partner countries able and willing to engage in CSDP activities.

Gabriel-Beniamin LEȘ
Minister of National Defence

Cohesion, a common European value

On January 1st 2019, Romania will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, for the first time. This mandate represents one of Romania's most important projects, 12 years after joining the European Union, and a unique opportunity for our country to reinforce the European project.

Throughout the mandate, we shall act as an honest and neutral broker, responsible for submitting the negotiations on European legislation to the Council, ensuring continuity of the common agenda and good cooperation between the member states and the European institutions.

We chair this presidency in a complex European and international environment and we take into account the elaborate processes that will shape the European Union: the debate on Europe's future, Great Britain's withdrawal from the EU, the transition towards a new legislative framework following the European elections and, consequently, the end of the current European Commission and Parliament mandate, respectively, the negotiations on the strategic dossiers, as well as the future Multiannual Financial Framework. At the same time, the challenges posed by the international environment are more and more significant, therefore compelling the Union to assume a greater role in global affairs.

In this context, preserving cohesion within the European Union represents the main goal of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In view of the symbolic significance of the Great Union Centennial – a defining moment in the history of our nation – we have the responsibility to remain loyal to the European values and to call upon unity, respect and reciprocal trust, as well as upon ensuring equal opportunities are available to all 500 million European citizens.

The European Union must leave no member state behind – but attend to the needs of all its citizens, irrespective of where they live. Accordingly, our Presidency of the Council of the European Union will be delivered under the motto “Cohesion, a common European value”.

Our goal, also found in the very Treaties of the European Union, is to present the political, economic, social cohesion as a defining value of our common European project.

The agenda of our Presidency has been built around the idea that any vision about the future should revert to the



fundamental principles which guided the evolution of the European Union across time.

Our priorities are organized around four pillars: a Europe of convergence, a safer Europe, a Europe as a stronger global actor and a Europe of common values. Therefore, during Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union we aim to provide consistency to the above-mentioned goals.

A key moment of Romania's mandate will be the meeting of the Heads of States and Governments in Sibiu, on 9 May 2019 – the first European Summit our country will organize. On this occasion, the European leaders will decide upon the EU strategic priorities and lines of action for the following years.

The future of the European Union depends on our ability to find creative, ambitious, yet realistic solutions that can set solid conditions for the development of the European project. Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union is just a first step in this direction. At the same time, it is our responsibility to ensure that our mandate contributes to the reinforcement of Romania's profile in the European Union.

George CIAMBA
Minister Delegate for European Affairs

Romania – fully committed to EU's efforts in ensuring security

Romania has dedicated a great deal of efforts to contribute to both, NATO's and EU's cohesion and robustness alongside with striving to build good relations with its neighbouring countries and strategic partners. Concurrently, Romania stepped up the process of consolidating its armed forces' modernization process and improved its forces' readiness, preparedness and interoperability levels. The positive effect of this was that Romania enjoys strong security guarantees offered by its status as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) and of the European Union (EU).

Within this context, Romania's priority is to meet its commitments by developing its own defence capabilities in accordance with the European and Euro-Atlantic standards and with its geo-strategic profile. In this framework, concerning the security and defence, we pay special attention to the consolidation of the Common Security and Defence Policy and to the increase the EU foreign action efficiency in order to strengthen the EU position as global actor.

From this perspective, I would like to share with you the most relevant aspects for the Romanian Armed Forces, as seen from the Defence Staff, during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council.

To achieve the already mentioned considerations, we will make efforts to enhance the initiatives related to the EU defence capabilities development (ex. Coordinated Annual Review on Defence – CARD, European Defence Fund, Permanent Structured Cooperation – PESCO). In the EU framework, we are strongly involved in the EU military capabilities development process and participate in several multinational projects / programs, such as Pooling & Sharing. Furthermore, Romania adhered to PESCO initiative and, in accordance with the EU Military Rapid Response Concept, Romania continues to be part of the EUBG roster together with our HELBROC partners.

Another important focus for us will be to actively promote the NATO-EU practical dimension, especially by optimizing the cooperation framework between the two organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts within both organizations. In this respect, we have to attach importance to the cooperation opportunities generated by the development of CSDP, within the transatlantic dialogue context. We consider that EU-NATO partnership has the potential to provide solutions to counter the main security threats; hence, the challenges we commonly have to manage call for the enhancement of the cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the two organizations.

The privileged EU-NATO relationship is better reflected in the updated EU Global Strategy, in-theatre cooperation, crisis management complementarities, joint capabilities development.



Another important aim of Romania is to support the endeavors for optimizing the generation process of civilian crisis response capacities that the European Union could engage with the purpose of strengthening EU capacities in order to act efficiently and as a credible actor, taking into consideration the international security stage.

As a steadfast European member, Romania is fully committed to the EU's efforts to bring stabilization and security around the world and inherently enhancing the EU's role and credibility as a regional and global security and defence actor, including by improving decision-making and implementation practices as one of our main endeavours. It is worth highlighting the missions' achievements up to nowadays, and I would like to express my appreciation to all contributors playing a role from a more broad perspective of EU's engagement in the crisis areas. Related to this subject, I would also like to commend the mission's personnel for their accomplishments and commitment despite the challenging conditions on the field.

Fully aware of the complexity of current security environment, we consider that our priorities are aligned with the EU approach to security challenges. Moreover, Romania has gained significant experience by being an active member within the multinational cooperation spectrum.

I would like to end my statement by expressing thanks to all of you, who accomplish your duties with dedication and proficiency, and for promoting the role of European Union at the highest standards.

General Nicolae-Ionel CIUCĂ
Chief of Defence

EU Defence Policy Directors Meeting, Bucharest

The EU Defence Policy Directors Meeting took place in Bucharest, over 17-18 January, 2019, where aspects regarding EU-NATO cooperation, exercises, the European defence perspectives, as well as the status and following stages of the PESCO projects were discussed and analyzed. The reunion was organized under the auspices of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of EU (PRES RO) with the participation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU member states' representatives.

As part of the reunion, the State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International relations, Nicolae Nasta had a meeting with the Deputy Secretary General of EEAS, Pedro Serrano. At the same time, the Director of the Defence Policy Directorate, Simona Cojocaru, had a meeting with her French counterpart, Alice Guitton.

The following conclusions were drawn after the reunion:

EU-NATO Cooperation

The Policy Directors emphasized the importance of the relation between EU and NATO in the context of the increased efforts made to consolidate the European profile in the field of security and defence. NATO's role as European security guarantor was pointed out but also the need to increase European efforts in order to avoid parallelisms in the context of using a single set of forces. The EU-NATO cooperation takes place based on a common set of measures, politically assumed by the leaders of the two organizations during the common Declarations from Warsaw, in 2016 and Brussels, in 2018. During the reunion, the NATO representative, Sarah Tarry, specified that Exercise EU HEX-ML 18 (PACE), which was conducted over 5-23 November, 2019, was a concrete example of EU-NATO cooperation which offered the opportunity to conduct simultaneous training sessions at the level of the two organizations.

The talks on the lessons learned after planning and conducting EU HEX-ML 18 (PACE) started with a presentation made by the EEAS representative, who indicated that it was the first time when EU conducted such a large scale management and crisis response exercise. The exercise stages were also presented: The Preparation Phase until 5 November, 2018, Lead-in Phase, 5-18 November, 2018, insertion/publishing injections on the exercise platform, the Conduct Phase 5-23 November, 2018 for the planning in CSDP context and 19-23 November, 2018 for "event-driven". The exercise involved the participation of experts from the European Commission, European External Action

Service, General Secretariat of the Council, as well as the EU member states and agencies, such as European Border and Coast Guard Agency and EUROPOL. Norway participated in the exercise as a third state and Switzerland as observer. The representative of the European Commission emphasized the fact that EU HEX-ML 18 (PACE) is the most complex and largest scale exercise conducted by EU so far and thanked all participants, including those who participated in Brussels reunions. The European official indicated that the Crises Response Mechanism (CRM) was activated during the exercise at different levels: energy, cybernetic security and exchange of information. Also, the Representative mentioned the fact that the EU HEX-ML 18 Final Report will be presented in the Political-Military Group, the Political and Security Committee and COREPER.

The member states appreciated the planning, conduct and scenario of the exercise, by suggesting that this concept of activities, simultaneously planned, coordinated and conducted with NATO, must be continued and improved in accordance with the proposals made during the reunion and the Final Report containing the Lessons Learned. Latvia pleaded for the increase of the number of these simultaneously coordinated exercises with NATO and for an enhanced implication of the civilian and military personnel. The Czech Republic and Romania consider that there were too many injections loaded on the platform, thus, creating difficulties in monitoring the information flow by the players. Greece, Romania, France, Finland, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia suggested that military mobility be an integrative part of the scenario and be tested during the future exercises. Germany considers that this exercise brings a value added to the EU-NATO cooperation, suggesting that the procedures which govern the exchange of information during these exercises be comprised in certain playbooks. On the other hand, Belgium noticed the importance of strategic communication during the conduct of the simultaneous and coordinated exercises, this being a key element of the EU-NATO cooperation.

At the end of reunion, the NATO representative appreciated that this type of exercises tests the crises response mechanisms of the two organizations, being an added value to certain coordinated real response situations. The representative of the European Commission specified that it is necessary to improve the planning process in order to avoid certain overlapping of the dates when the conferences of two organizations are held, to have a diversified scenario

adjusted at a smaller scale and focused on fewer events, to include and test military mobility in a future scenario that will consider the real training stage of this component and improve communication within the platform and of other means of communication.

Pedro Serrano concluded the fact that the final report of the exercise would be very useful in the planning process of the future exercises. Also, he specified that all proposals regarding the planning and conduct of EU HEX ML 18 made by the participants in the reunion will be integrated in lessons learned and that the simultaneous conduct of the exercises with NATO must be continued throughout 2019 and 2020.

The Romanian policy director emphasized the relevance of EU-NATO cooperation and the progresses made so far in developing this partnership. He pointed out that this line of action represents, together with the consolidation of the defence initiatives (PESCO, CARD, EDF) and the optimization of operational commitments, a priority of Romania's Presidency of the Council of EU. Significant progress has been noticed in the cybernetic, hybrid, strategic communication and military mobility fields.

Perspectives of European Defence

During the second working session, the policy directors had a significant talk on the future stages of the effort made to consolidate security and defence at EU level. The debates focused on two main lines of action: 1) development of defence capabilities by collaborative efforts; 2) consolidation of EU's operational capacity. The increase of EU's strategic autonomy was frequently invoked throughout the debates.

According to EEAS, we are at an inflection point with respect to the implementation of EUGS, when the member states must evaluate their progresses and support the transition towards a new stage and make efforts to coordinate the various initiatives, increase coherence and obtain visible results.

Although initiatives such as PESCO, CARD and EDF were launched in an uncoordinated manner, they are part of an overall picture which needs to be consolidated, and the High Representative's report in this respect will have a significant contribution. In EEAS's vision, PESCO has a different significance when its projects are developed from the priorities agreed through CDP. The biggest short-term challenge is finding a way to integrate these instruments within the national planning processes.

With regard to the operational dimension, the EEAS representative emphasized the importance of supporting operations which bring added value to the European security. In this respect, he indicated EU's actions from SAHEL, where we need to allocate additional resources in order to accomplish the previously assumed commitments, such as Operation Atalanta, which has a very important role in countering piracy, but also in ensuring maritime security in the region. Also, EEAS representative indicated that the member states must prove consistency in their decisions and more determination with respect to the commitments made in the field of crises management.

The interventions made by the member states pointed out the fact that the common perception on security challenges is reflected in EUGS, this already contributing to the development of the common strategic culture at European level. The officials also noticed that we have already obtained good results, some of the examples being the involvement in Africa, Western Balkans, EUTM, G5 Sahel or the Eastern flank together with NATO. But, the EU member states must take more steps in order to develop a solid common strategy.

On the other hand, some of the member states need an autonomous capacity to act in order to conduct crises management operations. With respect to EDF, the competition among the member states must be avoided. EU



➤ Group photo of the participants in the EU Defence Policy Directors Meeting



must preserve its intergovernmental character in the field of defence.

According to France, the EU member states (MS) must make additional efforts to become responsible for ensuring their own security. Thus, the MS need to prove a bigger determination in order to reach this goal. The strategic autonomy represents a set of elements: acquiring the necessary capabilities, the possibility to independently act without the support of other international actors, providing financial resources in the field of defence and a solid technological and industrial base. The technological autonomy means laying the foundation for a political and operational autonomy. The strategic autonomy stands for the support offered to the efforts made within NATO. This will lead to a better burden sharing and render a credible role to the Europeans within the trans-Atlantic Alliance.

Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

The talks among the policy directors on the PESCO took place based on the reflection paper developed by the PESCO Secretariat and included a series of specific questions on the ways of identifying, evaluating and selecting the projects and their implementation.

In the opening of the working session, according to the mandate issued following the Conclusions of the Council of November 2018, the Executive Director of EDA announced the PESCO Secretariat that he would develop an information note with the lessons learned from the two sets of PESCO projects launched up to present. Also, he presented the Activity Calendar scheduled for 2019: organizing a workshop at expert level to discuss the lessons learned, on 8 March; publishing the report with the lessons learned by the end of March; requesting for proposals of new projects to be developed in PESCO context; organizing another workshop in June in order to support the MS that wish to come up with new project proposals; submitting the initial evaluation report with respect to new proposals, at the beginning of September; organizing, in September, a working session in

order to clarify any emerging issues; finalizing and submitting to the Council the recommendations of the High Representative with respect to the identification and evaluation of the third set of projects, at the end of September.

The interventions of the MS representatives focused on the questions proposed by the PESCO Secretariat. The most important aspects that came up during the talks were: a greater focus of PESCO projects on the priorities agreed at EU level in developing MS defence capabilities, reaching the EU's ambition level, with special focus on defending EU territory (Greece),

the need to establish a balance between the operational projects and the ones dedicated to capability-building (Greece, Belgium, Finland) and a greater coordination of efforts both at national level and among the MS (Greece, Finland).

PESCO is an intergovernmental cooperation instrument. And in consequence, the MS are responsible for the success of this initiative (Portugal). The officials also highlighted the importance of the participation of a bigger number of MS within a PESCO project (Portugal, Finland) and the need to correlate these projects with the CDP priorities (Portugal, Croatia). The success of the PESCO initiative resides not in the number of projects launched but in the successful results obtained while running these projects.

In his allocution, the Romanian representative pointed out the developments registered so far within the initiative and recommended that the future projects must reflect the priorities committed at EU level. He also emphasized the importance of a strategic communication and the fact the results obtained so far within PESCO must be presented in order to have a greater support. Similar to other MS, he supported the idea that 2020 could represent a break in the launching of new projects for a better correlation among PESCO, CDP, CARD and EDF.

The bilateral meeting between the State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International relations with the Deputy Secretary General of EEAS

The talks allowed for a consistent exchange of opinions between State Secretary Nicolae Nasta and the Deputy Secretary General Pedro Serrano. The meeting emphasized the general context in which the actions and events will be organized by Romania under the auspices the Presidency of the Council of EU as well as the main landmarks, expectations and goals that can be achieved in the CSDP field, throughout its six-month mandate.

Main conclusions that have been drawn following the discussions:

The EU Official:

- emphasized the complicated context of the PRESRO mandate with focus on the new challenges (BREXIT) and threats (migration, terrorism, increase of populist movements). He added the permanent challenge posed by Russia and also the increased relevance generated by China's more preoccupied attitude.
- a common strategic awareness must be created at European level, as well as a tighter integration of efforts and support of collaborative approaches are needed.
- during the PRESRO mandate, there is enough space for getting significant results in the CSDP field, despite the rotational character of the presidency, marked by the European Parliamentary elections. He indicated two on-going processes whose closure throughout PRESRO would guarantee the success of the mandate: finalization of negotiations on EDF Regulation and of the talks on the participation of their states in PESCO projects.
- The main goal of the European efforts must reside in ensuring relevant capabilities that can be used in any format (UN, NATO, EU) and prove interoperable, efficient and sustainable.
- Also, he pointed out that the maritime field is a priority in the crises management area and that the EU needs a coordinated maritime presence in the areas of interest. The difficulties emerged while proving capabilities for Operations Atalanta and Sophia ask for a better correlation between the political ambitions and the available resources.

The Romanian part:

- Emphasized the commitment for ensuring a successful Presidency of the Council of the EU and indicated our interest in promoting the CSDP as a priority on EU's agenda
- Enumerated MoND priorities throughout PRESRO, with focus on consolidating CSDP functional profile, implementing the defence initiatives (PESCO, CARD, EDF), optimizing EU's operational commitments and consolidating the CSDP partnerships with regard to NATO-EU cooperation and trans-Atlantic relation.
- Expressed his support in developing EU's profile as global actor by recognizing NATO's central role in ensuring security and deference at European level. He offered his political support in the implementation efforts of these initiatives until the irreversible consolidation of the on-going processes.
- Expressed his firm commitment to the continuation of PESCO implementation and recognized that there is a need to finalize the criteria on the participation of the third states within the PESCO projects, as soon as possible.

- Expressed his support for the continuation of CARD process based on the methodology reviewed after running the pilot project and emphasized his commitment with regard to the further development of this instrument and maximum use of the opportunities offered when identifying collaborative solutions with a view of developing the defence capabilities.
- pointed out the need to finalize the complex negotiations associated with the EDF.

The bilateral meeting between the Romanian policy director and his French counterpart

A bilateral Romanian-French meeting took place as part of the Policy Directors Meeting, on January 17, 2019. The French delegation was headed by Mrs Alice Guitton, General Director of DGRIS, while the Romanian one was headed by Mrs Simona Cojocaru, the Director of the Defence Policy Directorate. The Main aspects discussed during the meeting:

The Romanian part:

- Emphasized the importance of continuing bilateral relations between Romania and France.
- Thanked for the presence of the French Advisor transferred to the Romanian MoND starting with February 2019 to offer support in running the activities throughout the PRESRO.
- Specified that the Homeland Defence Supreme Council approved the deployment of a multitask helicopter detachment in Gao region, Mali, starting October 2019. Also, he added that the helicopters are undergoing a modernization process and are to be evaluated by a team of a Department for Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO) in the first semester of 2019.
- talked about the security developments in the Black Sea region, with focus on recent incidents from the Strait of Kerch.

The French part:

- Expressed his support for Romania's priorities during PRESRO
- Supports the conclusions of negotiations on the European Defence Fund; suggests that the new EDF regulation must be based on the successful model offered by the European Defence Industrial Development Program (EDIDP). France supports the Decision proposal made by the High Representative on the European Peace Facility with regard to the creation of this extra- budgetary instrument.
- Expressed his appreciation for Romania's commitment with helicopters in Operation MINUSHMA
Referring to Russia's aggressions in the Black Sea, he specified that, by reacting at this very moment, France does not wish to give the Russian Federation the chance to become aggressive towards the Alliance or the European Union.

Informal Meeting of the EU Defence Ministers, Bucharest

The Ministry of National Defence organized the Informal Meeting of the EU Defence Ministers, over 30-31 January, 2019, in Bucharest, under the auspices of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The activity was chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, with the goal of continuing the dialogue at high level on current topics, such as European defence. The schedule of the activity was organized on two main segments, with a working dinner where the participants focused on the cooperation among EU-NATO-UNO with regard to the gender issue and ways of consolidating the Agenda on women, peace and security followed the second day dedicated to continuing the measures taken to consolidate EU's role in the field of security and defence. As part of the reunion, we had a series of bilateral talks with the representatives of France, Italy, Greece, executive director of the EDA and the UN Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations.

The EU-NATO-UNO cooperation with respect to consolidating the Agenda on Women, Peace and Security

The discussions of the ministers from the working dinner were organized in an extended format, with the participation of NATO's Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, UN Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix as well as NATO's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Claire Hutchinson. . The EU-NATO-UNO cooperation remains one of the essential lines of action in order to enable an overarching approach of the current risks and challenges posed to the European security and worldwide.

The gender issue is one of the working fields assumed as priority in the cooperation relation among the three entities. The new typology of the conflicts outlines a new type of combatant (eg. in Afghanistan, Syria) for whom gender violence is part of the arsenal with which he usually operates and for which we must identify effective deterrence and combating mechanisms.

The WPS Agenda needs to be substantiated by including this field in the operational routine at the level of the three organizations, by recognizing and supporting women's role in preventing and solving the conflicts, in the peace negotiations and in the peace-keeping operations, humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction. The member states are required to enhance women's participation and incorporate the gender issue in all UN efforts in the field of peace and security. At the same time, it is necessary that all parties involved in the conflict management take special measures for women's and girls' protection against gender violence, especially rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in case of armed conflicts.

EU's strategic approach on WPS offers a solid ground to ensure equality between men and women-a fundamental value of EU-by committing, making responsible, protecting and supporting women and girls to achieve peace and security. There is a great support at EU's level for the efficient implementation and promotion of the Strategic Approach,



➤ Defence Ministers from Romania and Greece, Gabriel Leş and Evangelos Apostolakis



based on an Action Plan which is to be developed in the first quarter of 2019.

At NATO level, United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the gender perspective translates into elements inserted into the doctrinaire effort at the Alliance level, the Action Plan developed in this respect aiming at integrating the gender perspective both internally, at the level of NATO forces and externally, within the allied missions and operations. The field was included as an intensification of cooperation between EU and NATO based on the Joint Declaration signed at the 2018 NATO Summit from Brussels. At the same time, the WPS issue is one of the 8 priorities of the EU-UNO Strategic Partnership for the peace-keeping operations and crises management for 2019-2021 timeframe.

In order to mark 20 years since the initiation of the efforts in this area of responsibility, by adopting the UNSCR 1325, both at EU, NATO and UNO level and at the level of the member states, there is an expectation with respect to making visible progress and results in the implementation of WPS Agenda, which remains an initiative that does not have visibility. Increasing the number of women at the command levels of the operations and management of the activities conducted in the field of defence and security, making concrete steps in achieving a

balance between the number of military personnel of both genders, the women's assuming more leadership positions at political, military and civilian levels are priorities for the three organizations where the progresses can be quantified and encouraged.

NATO's Secretary General capitalized on the opportunity of the discussions in order to present the Alliance's efforts in a larger context, including the steps made with respect to the dialogue with Russia, the INF perspectives, the consolidation of the defence and deterrence posture and optimization of the defence expenditures. The official also emphasized the fact that the allies must prepare for a world without INF, the Alliance being prepared to allocate a particular attention to the implications of the US withdrawal from this Treaty.

In his intervention, the defence minister expressed Romania's support for the continuation of the efforts at the level of the three organizations on consolidating the WPS Agenda. Romania, as a UN, EU and NATO member, intends to integrate all gender considerations in all aspects related to security and the increase of women's representation at all decision-making levels at national, regional and international institution levels. At the same level, the Romanian defence minister indicated the fact that the

military personnel who participates in missions abroad is going through a training period to improve their training and knowledge levels in the field of gender issue before deploying into the theaters of operations. We can notice an increase of the number of Romanian military women engaged in various theaters of operations as well as their role in peace-keeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction ones. During the talks, defence minister Gabriel Leş specified the fact that there are military and civilian women working both at execution and command positions, at all hierarchical levels. Thus, women can man any military or civilian position, both execution and command ones, in all branches, MOSs, without any legislative restrictions. The MoND offers the female personnel the opportunity to candidate and man positions at all hierarchical levels, whether they are COs, WOs, NCOs, enlisted or civilian personnel.

II. The EU Agenda in the field of security and defence

During the working session of January 31, 2019, the defence ministers had consultations with respect to the EU measures taken in the field of security and defence. The talks agenda focused on three main elements: 1. Evaluate the status of the implementation of the EU Global Strategy; 2. Ways of ensuring coherence of various on-going processes and initiatives; 3. Impact of new technologies on European defence. An additional topic on the agenda was the perspective of EU military operation conducted in the Mediterranean Sea, EUNAVFORMED Sophia, the discussions aiming at raising the state members' awareness on the risk of interrupting the operation in the impossibility of identifying a solution with respect to managing migrants at sea.

At the beginning of the talks, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Federica Mogherini, indicated the fact

that this reunion has a special role in defining the future lines of action in consolidating EU's profile in the field of security and defence. Over the last two years, when the EUGS was launched, the European states have made considerable progresses, the initiatives such as the Coordinated Annual review of Defence (CARD), the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund (EDF), permanently marking the European approach in the field of defence. In 2019, these initiatives will be further developed with the help of the first evaluation of the PESCO National Implementation Plans, finalization of CARD methodology and the potential finalization of EDF regulation. The central element of the efforts in the near future will be the correlation of all separate initiatives and measures and using the results obtained so far as basis for the future stages of EU's role consolidation in the field of defence. The integration of the technological factor in this process is essential, the rapid developments in this field generating both risks and opportunities that the EU must be able to manage.

The talks of the defence ministers emphasized the fact that, at this moment, we are facing a progressive transition towards a new stage with respect to the development of EU's profile in the field of security and defence. The coherence of initiatives must be ensured at institutional level (with respect to the package of priorities, processes and projects), but also within the relations between EU and NATO and also with the member states. The attention of the member states will have to be focused on the assimilation of these processes at the level of the national defence planning systems, changing the courses of action and developing a common strategic culture. The report on coherence that the High Representative must present by the end of the first semester will be essential in the orientation of the future efforts. The approach must be an ambitious and pragmatic one, oriented on the two already consecrated landings: optimizing the

defence capabilities concomitantly with the development of an industrial technological base, respectively the consolidation of EU's operational efforts in managing the crises that impact the European security.

The positioning of the member states emphasized slight differences with respect to the continuation of efforts to consolidate European defence. If the need to effectively cooperate among the member states in order to ensure the coherence of the processes and reach EU's level of ambition was unanimously highlighted, EU's role and position as global actor are differently interpreted, some member states (mainly France and the EU member states that are not NATO members) sustaining the fact that EU must be able to autonomously conduct the entire spectrum of CDSP missions and operations and independently, when necessary. In this context, the EU must be more "vocal" especially with respect to the development of the defence capabilities and national defence industries.

The technological and industrial dimensions are integrative parts in developing a coherent security and defence policy, taking into consideration the fact that innovation will take place at a more alert pace and that research & development must be a priority in the defence field. It is necessary to increase EU efforts for a more rapid assimilation of the technological trends in the field of defence if it is desirable that the EU maintain its relevant role as global actor.

The implementation and consolidation of the main initiatives launched in the field of defence (CARD, PESCO, EDF) are priorities in the context of the efforts made by the member states in obtaining visible results and substantiate consolidation of the European defence. This effort must benefit from corresponding media coverage. In this respect, the EU structures will develop in the near future a set of messages on topics of interest, including on the controversial ones that will allow for the generation of a common base of messages and

elements which come in support of EU's cohesion.

The Board's efforts in support of the defence sector are an essential change of paradigm which requires to be supported by the member states. Significant results in the implementation of the programs launched under the aegis of the Multiannual Financial Workframe (PADR, EDIDP) were made but it is necessary to support the efforts made for the finalization of the EDF Regulation throughout the PRESRO mandate, before the European parliamentary elections.

EUNAVFORMED Sophia Operation is still under the sign of uncertainty. In the near future, the EU structures will try to identify the areas of potential consensus on solving the issue of the relocation of immigrants recovered from the ships operating under Sophia mandate.

In his allocution, defence minister Gabriel Leş expressed Romania's support in the continuation of the European efforts in consolidating EU's role in the field of security and defence and mentioned the importance of correlating these efforts in order to ensure coherence and complementarity with NATO. At the same time, the minister emphasized the opportunity to enhance EU's efforts in this area and expressed Romania's support while holding the rotational Presidency of the Council of the EU of the High Representative's actions in promoting the EU's projects in the field of defence. After the initial launching of the numerous initiatives over the last two years, the progresses made open the way towards new consolidation stage focused on an efficient implementation, correlation and interconnection of initiatives. He also outlined the contribution of PESCO, EDF, and CARD initiatives to the consolidation of EU's profile as a relevant actor in the field of defence and security and emphasized the importance of coherence among initiatives, which have an essential role in balancing European contribution in the field of defence and in a better burden sharing in the trans-Atlantic relation.

When mentioning the responsibilities that come along with holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, the defence minister highlighted the need to finalize the complex negotiations with respect to the EDF regulation and invited the representatives of the other member states to deeply engage in this process by providing the necessary guidelines and flexibility. In this context, minister Leş emphasized Romania's interest in defining a flexible and overall implementation framework for this initiative, which will offer equal participation opportunities for industries from all member states.

As part of the Informal Meeting of the EU Defence Ministers, the defence minister had a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from France, Italy, Greece and Executive Director of EDA, Jorge Domecq and UN Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

The talks focussed on Romania's priorities while holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU with a view of consolidating the on-going initiatives, the status and perspectives of cooperation within NATO and EU, including the procurement of equipment at bilateral level and involvement the local defence industry.

In the meeting with the Hellenic counterpart, minister Evangelos Apostolakis emphasized the excellent bilateral cooperation (reminding Exercise "Salamis Storm" conducted by the Special Operations Forces) and suggested the establishment of a strategic dialogue group (at political director level) in order to consolidate dialog within NATO, EU and at bilateral level. The Hellenic minister mentioned the offer to sell F-16 aircraft and restated Greece availability in selling Leopard 2 tanks, which can be procured and modernized by Romania in the context of the participation of the two states in EDA OMBT-2 program.

The Italian defence minister, Elisabetta Trenta, suggested consolidating the bilateral relation by signing a Memorandum which will facilitate cooperation in the fields of government-to-government equipment



➤ Defence Minister, Gabriel Leş and the UN Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix

procurement (G2G), research and military technology, training, industrial cooperation. Also, the Italian official requested the Romanian part to enhance its contribution in military operations conducted on African territory (EUTM Somalia) and presented Italy's position with regard to the continuation of Operation Sophia with a view of extending the current mandate to identify sustainable solutions for the repatriation of the immigrants saved by the ships sailing within the operation.

The meeting with the French defence minister, Florence Parly, mainly focused on bilateral cooperation in the field of armaments in the context of the involvement of the French companies in the on-going acquisition contracts. On this occasion, the French defence minister expressed the hope that the bilateral strategic partnership would materialize at industrial level, taking into account the fact that companies such as Airbus or MBDA invested in Romania with a view of involving in the Romanian Armed Forces' equipping process.

The bilateral reunion with the EDA Executive Director was an opportunity to exchange opinions with regard to the perspectives of the European integration project in the field of security and defence. The EU official emphasized the activity

of the European Commission and its trend in capitalizing most of the defence efforts in the detriment of other EU institutions. Also, the Executive Director highlighted the intergovernmental character of the CDSP and the importance of maintaining the essential role of the member states in this field through EDA. In this context, The Executive Director requested Romania's support in order to preserve CDSP intergovernmental character and the agency's role in accordance with the EU Treaty. He also pointed out the role of the ROPRESS in the process of developing the Council's decisions on the coherence of initiatives. J Domecq thanked Romania for the support offered in organizing certain relevant events for the defence perspectives in collaboration with EDA and addressed the Romanian defence minister the invitation of making a speech during the 25 June Conference dedicated to the celebration of 15 years since the establishment of the Agency. Also, J. Domecq enumerated Romania's advantages in case of continuing involving in this process: the project is relevant in the PESCO context, since the procured equipment is to benefit from VAT exemption, a full package offered by the industry and the possibility to identify an excess of Leopard-2 tank chassis by Spain.

Informal Reunion of Athena Special Board

The Ministry of National Defence organized the Informal Reunion of Athena Special Board-Away Days, in Bucharest, over 7-8 March, in accordance with the activity calendar of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of EU. The talks focused on a reflection paper developed by the Secretariat of Athena Special Board on the amendment of the public acquisition procedures within the NATO operations and missions. The officials emphasized the lessons learned in the process of funding operations and missions with military implications as well as the recommendations made by the Audit Committee, which identified the need to review certain provisions of the current financial rules of Athena Mechanism.

Experts from the capital cities of the member states detached at Brussels, members of the Athena Special Board as well as experts from the MoND who handle the issue of funding EU-led missions and operations participated in the activity. The MoND experts participating in the reunion are assigned within the DPAPRI structures, the Defence Staff and the Land Forces Staff.

At the opening of the Reunion, the Administrator of Athena Mechanism specified that there isn't an overall practice with respect to the acquisition procedures of the goods and services needed for the conduct of the missions and operations with military implications, which generated numerous difficulties and, implicitly, derogations from the previously agreed norms. The current endeavor launched by the reflection paper aims at identifying solutions to the observed issues. According to the EU's official vision, the review of the acquisition procedures can be done by amending the general financial rules of Athena Mechanism, even if the review of the Council's Decision on the functioning of Athena Mechanism is not finalized. The proposals included in the reflection paper mainly aim at readjusting the ceiling of the different types of expenditures and the decision-making and commitment authorities, the end-state being the elimination of multiple derogations which have been made over time. Due to the fact that the current rules were adopted by the Special Board Athena since 2016, the Administrator of Athena Mechanism pleaded for the updating of the Financial Norms (second part of Financial rules) based on the experience gained during the CDSP missions/operations,



and, taking into consideration the recent recommendations of the Audit College on the public acquisitions, especially the abatement of the number of the derogations from the acquisition procedures (even if these are justified, it is recommendable that their percentage does not exceed 20%) as well as elimination of the requirement that all contracts contain performance warranty clauses (the invoices for the services provision contracts can be paid according to the quality of services).

The following aspects were highlighted during the interventions of the member states:

The need to review the financial rules of Athena Mechanism. Austria, supported by most of the member countries, including Romania, pleaded for the initiation of the talks on technical issues but also for the updating of the procurement rules, no matter if the review process of Athena Mechanism ended or not. This effort can be justified under the current circumstances, especially in the context of the challenges generated by the exit of the Great Britain from the EU, which generates uncertainty on the review calendar of Decision 2015/528.

Changing the acquisition threshold. The member states did not have an overall approach, pleading whether for the presentation by the Athena Special Board of additional elements explaining the proposals formulated in the reflection paper or for the respecting of the current principles which regulate the acquisition of the goods and services-transparency (Great Britain, Sweden), flexibility (Belgium), equality of opportunities among the competitors (Estonia), ensuring the competition (Great Britain, Netherlands, Malta), respecting the EU's directives (Poland) and efficient use of



resources (Estonia, Romania, Belgium). Some member states indicated the difficulty of harmonizing current acquisition procedures, Finland and Austria indicating different approaches of the procedures for the missions conducted in Europe/EUFOR Altheas, respectively for those executed in Africa/training missions) and

Improve expertise in the field of budgeting and resources (France) and involving the MPCC in the implementation of the acquisition procedures (Belgium). At the end of the talks, France pleaded for including/enclosing some new categories of expenditures which require the review of the Financial Rules. The state representatives expressed their position according to which they wish to include the travelling associated costs chapter and suggested the debate on the subject within a future reunion of the board.

Following the proposal made by France and based on the support of the member states with regard to the continuation of the initiative launched at informal level, the Chairman of Athena Special Board, Mrs. Letiția Postoli, suggested to resume the discussions in an official framework, on the occasion of the ordinary reunion of

Athena Special Board of May, this year. In order to prepare the talks and formalize the agreement of the member states to review the financial rules of the Athena Mechanism, the Board Secretariat from the SG CONS will develop a Concept Paper which will emphasize the previously mentioned aspects, especially from the perspective of the experience previously gained while participating in military operations and missions, in the field of public acquisitions. At the same time, the Paper will have to identify common and diverging views of the member states, respectively ways of continuing the reflection process in the subject matter.



EUMC Away Days Reunion



EUMC Away Days Reunion was held on April 11, at the Palace of Parliament, as part of the activities organized under the auspices of Romania's Presidency of the Council of the EU. The activity organized by the EU Military Committee and the Romanian Defence Staff brought together military representatives from the European Union member states. The Chairman of the EUMC, General Claudio Grazziano, Defence Minister Gabriel Leș and the chief of the Defence Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă were present at the opening of the activity.

In his allocation, the minister of national defence emphasized the fact that the "holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union is a great responsibility for Romania", restating „our country's interest in the coherent development of EU's role in the field of defence, in complementarity and reciprocal support with NATO, at the same time preserving a strong trans-Atlantic relation, which is essential for the European security”.

At the opening of the working session, the officials presented the

Romanian Armed Forces' priorities for the XXIst century, followed by a series of sessions which approached the EU-led missions and operations as well as the Euro-Atlantic relations' challenges and perspectives.

In his press statement held at the end of the activity, General Nicolae Ciucă emphasized the importance of the implementation of the EU Global Strategy as well as of its subsequent instruments: “We are fully aware that EU's international profile fundamentally depends on the implementation pace of the EUGS as well as on the efficiency of its subsequent instruments during the last few years, we witnessed a significant evolution of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). I consider that strengthening the CSDP is one of the most relevant vectors for the successful implementation of the Strategy especially from the point of view of the increase of EU's role in ensuring everyday's security of the international environment. Romania has constantly supported the CSDP initiatives and processes and get directly involved in their implementation by providing

certain military or civilian capabilities or proposing new projects”.

“In the same context, taking into consideration the fact that 22 countries out of the 29 are both NATO and EU members, Romania supports the NATO-EU partnership by enhancing the dialogue and cooperation between them. Together, the two organizations can mobilize a large area of instruments in order to face all kinds of security threats from the international environment, by efficiently using its resources. We believe in a strong trans-Atlantic link and a close EU-NATO cooperation. We support the coherence of EU and NATO planning instruments and processes in order to avoid duplications and strengthen the relations between the two organizations. Also, the chief of the Defence Staff added that the Romanian Armed Forces pay a special attention to the cyber security and defence, hybrid threats, countering terrorism and military mobility.

The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Claudio Grazziano, thanked the

Romanian part for its contribution to the EU-led missions and operations and emphasized the fact that the “priorities established by the PRESSRO in the CSDP field as well as the way they are monitored at different levels are, for me, the proof of the excellent leadership and clear vision.

The probability to discuss together here, in Bucharest, about how to continue our progresses with respect to the our achievements so far and decide on the measures we must take in order to contribute to opening the road to the establishment the future of the EU security and defence will definitely contribute to our unity and will be in full agreement with the PRESSRO motto: „Cohesion, a common European value. [...] While we discuss political and strategic topics, we must not forget the excellent work done by the men and women who wear the military uniform during our missions and operations. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank Romania, one the member states

which contributes to all EU-led military missions and operations, for its valuable and professional contributions”.

Also, the Romanian defence minister said in his speech that “at the core of the Romanian Presidency there will be the European Citizen - his or her aspirations and concerns. Among these, high on the priority list, stay their own and their families’ safety, as well as the overall security of the European Union.

The Romanian Presidency comes in a transition period, and we believe that 2019 is a very unique year. It is special in terms of the developments regarding the implementation of the new EU policies and decisions made over the last couple of years, particularly since the EU Global Strategy was presented by the High Representative, and in terms of the way ahead envisioned for the *European Project*.

Furthermore, taking into account the current European context, the significant evolution of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and the ongoing EU initiatives, we

see the CSDP as an essential point on the European agenda. From this perspective, we will continue to support the High Representative in promoting and implementing the EU Global Strategy, focusing on the Security and Defence domains. Determined to be both pragmatic and realistic, there are three priorities that we will focus on during the 1st semester of 2019: (1) Consolidating the functional profile of CSDP; (2) Optimizing the EU’s operational engagement; and (3) Enhancing the CSDP partnership and cooperation agenda, including the trans-Atlantic bond”. Defence minister also added that “EU Military Committee (EUMC), as the primary source of military expertise on behalf of the Members States was, also, very closely involved in these processes. With the valuable support from the EUMS, Military Recommendations were presented to the political masters, keeping the EUMC in the loop for all these initiatives. We will continue to promote this approach”.



Military Planning and Conduct Capability – MPCC

As part of the implementation of the EU's Global Strategy in the field of security and defence, in accordance with Conclusions of the Council of the European Union as of 14 November 2016, which established the level of ambition in the form of certain main goals that EU and its member states are to accomplish in the field of security and defence and the conclusions of December 15 2016, which restated the need to enhance EU's capacity to react more rapidly and effectively, the officials decided upon the establishment of a permanent military planning and conduct capability (MPCC) which will lead EU's missions with a non-combating mandate.

"The establishment of the MPCC is an operational decision of utmost importance for the consolidation of European defence. This will contribute to the enhancement of the effectiveness of the European non-executive missions and to the increase of the training level of the partner states' servicemen as well as to the guarantee of the peace and security. This is important not only for the partner states but also for the security of the European Union", declared the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Federica Mogherini.

Following the conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 6 March 2017, a Concept Note was approved on the planning and conducting capabilities of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations and missions. Also, the EU leaders took the decision to establish the new structure within the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) – as a short-term objective –, which is part of the European Union Foreign Action Service (EFAS). At the same time, the officials approved the document with the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Director of the MPCC position, the functions and responsibilities of this position being exerted, with a dual-hatted subordination, by the General Director of the EUMS (GDEUMS).

According to the decision of the Council, the functions of this structure consist in the strategic planning and operational management of the EU's non-executive missions. On 9 June 2017, the MPCC assumed the command of EU's three military training missions: European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia, EUTM in the Central African Republic and EUTM in Mali. Since that moment, the MPCC have daily interacted with the military training missions by providing support at strategic level. This will allow the commanders and the forces of the missions deployed in the field to focus on the accomplishment of the activities specific to their assigned mission, with increased support offered from Brussels.

The MPCC will work in parallel and in a coordinated manner and will collaborate with his current civilian counterpart, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) by means of a Joint Support Coordination Cell (JSCC). This cell will be able to make an exchange of expertise, knowledge and good practices on relevant aspects for both the military missions and the civilian ones as well as on the exchange of capabilities during the conduct of civilian and military missions simultaneously in the same field, including medical support or protection measures.

MPCC improves EU's crisis management structures. This will operate under the political control and strategic guidance of the Political and Security Committee of the European Union, which is made up of the Ambassadors of the EU state members and has its headquarters in Brussels.

The need to establish and gradually render operational a command and control structure at EU's strategic level for the planning and conduct of the operations and missions under the aegis of CSDP was fully validated by political decision of the member states, the military recommendations of the European Union Military Committee as well as by MPCC's assuming the command of the EU's non-executive military missions.

On 19 November 2018, the Council of the European Union adopted Conclusions on security and defence in the context of the EU's Global Strategy. The Council emphasized the fact that, by approaching the current and future security needs of Europe, EU will consolidate its capability to act as a security provider and its strategic autonomy and, at the same time, enhance cooperation with its partners.

In its Conclusions, the Council was formally informed of the progresses made on the consolidation of cooperation in the field of security and defence. The Council saluted MPCC's positive impact by means of the command and control exerted over the EU's military training missions. Also, the Council agreed to continue consolidate MPCC role with the aim of reaching full operational capability by 2020 and assuming the responsibility of operational planning and conduct of an executive CSDP military mission, limited to the size of the EU's tactical battle-groups.

The progresses made with respect to the implementation of EU Global Strategy in the field of security and defence is an objective of utmost importance for Romania throughout the preparation and holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Romania fully supports EU's level of ambition with regard to its three strategic priorities: the response to the foreign conflicts and crises, consolidation of the partner states' capabilities and protection of European Union and its citizens.

EU's Common Security and Defence Policy

Over the past years, the European Union has faced a series of significant challenges, generated by the complex and unpredictable evolutions of the international security environment. The nature of threats, conjugated with the alert development pace of the security challenges, reiterated the conviction that the European actors must take a more integrated approach in order to give a more coherent and effective response to these challenges. The approach should preponderantly include their own concerns, while the response actions must be the result of a common effort which involves decisions made at the level of the capital cities and EU institutions.

The debates with regard to ESDP consolidation became more complex and consistent once with the presentation of the EU Global Strategy (EU GS) by the High Representative of the European Union Federica Mogherini as well as in the context of the French-German document which aimed at an enhanced integration in the field of security and defence, after Great Britain's decision of leaving the EU. In order to make the EU GS operational in the security and defence dimension, the defence and foreign affairs ministers adopted conclusions during the Reunion of the Foreign Affairs Council of 14 November 2016, which established EU's level of ambition on the global security arena

and outlined the priorities in this sector.

Thus, the new level of ambition is built around three important pillars: (1) the response capacity to crises situations and conflicts, (2) consolidation of resilience capacity of its partners and, as a novelty, (3) providing for the protection of the European Union and its citizens. At the same time, the officials established the entire spectrum of potential civilian and military missions which the Union can plan and execute. Also, a decision was made to explore the potential of a modular approach, of certain deep cooperation projects and initiatives within the Permanent Structures Cooperation (PESCO)



➤ Operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA;
EU NAVFOR Helicopters
(Source: eunavfor.eu)

and the leaders decided upon the adaptation of the crises management structures functioning at the level of the European Union Foreign Action Service in order to allow for the optimization of the civilian-military planning process. Finally, the officials aimed at establishing a coordinated annual review process on defence (CARD), with the view of creating a more structured method of building military capabilities.

In the context of these developments, the President of the European Council, Jean-Claude Juncker, presented the *White Paper on the Future of Europe. Reflections and scenarios until 2025* in the session of the European Parliament of March 1st 2017. The document consists of five possible scenarios on the future of Europe, with the consequences evaluated until year 2025. On 7th June 2017, the European Commission developed a package of three documents in the security and defence sector which represent the initiatives promoted by the institution in the field of defence, with the goal of increasing the European capacity up to 2025. Besides the European Defence Fund (EDF) and the Industrial Development Program in the defence sector, the reflection paper on the European defence future is the most ambitious and overall such document, which includes strategic orientation and operational elements, by offering alternatives which facilitate the decision-making processes at the level of the member states, which are the main decisive actors in the field of security and defence. In fact, the main goal of the Commission's initiative is to build a "Union of Defence and Security", the reaching of this desideratum involving: the increase of cooperation among the EU member states in the security and defence sector; having an overall understanding of the current security challenges and their response to them; assuming a greater responsibility by the EU member states in ensuring their own security in the context of the trans-Atlantic relation dynamics; increasing efficiency and having a clear view on the defence

expenditures; building a unique defence market.

Starting from the above indicated objectives, the paper comes up with three possible evolutionary scenarios, structured on six main topics: 1.missions, 2.forces, 3. development of capabilities, 4.critical technologies, 5. intelligence, 6. procurement of capabilities. These cover a range of possibilities which vary from the simple cooperation on security and defence to a burden-sharing security and defence scenario (involving the possibility of conducting high intensity crises management operations, including counterterrorist-type operations) and, eventually, the most ambitious scenario, having a common or integrated security and defence. All scenarios have the end-state of ensuring defence and security within the European Union. The difference consists in the pace of the steps taken in this direction, the path chosen to accomplish this desideratum being the responsibility of each member state.

At the same time, throughout 2017, steps were taken in order to substantiate and implement the initiatives meant to consolidate European defence and security such as as the permanent structured cooperation, coordinated annual review process on defence, the European Defence Fund and military mobility. Also, the EU efforts aimed at consolidating EU-NATO cooperation.

The permanent structured cooperation is an intensified form of cooperation focused on the meeting of certain ambitious commitments in the operational and defence capability development fields, with the goal of increasing interoperability of the member states' forces, respectively, the capacity to assume missions with a high level of ambition, thus, contributing to the consolidation of EU's profile as relevant actor in the international arena. The Initiative was launched by Decision of Council no.2315 of 11th December 2017, subsequently endorsed at political level within the session of the Council of the European Union of 14 December 2017. On March 6th 2018, in the Reunion of the Foreign Affairs

Council (FAC) in the defence ministers' format, the officials endorsed the launching of 17 PESCO projects, while the second set of 17 PESCO projects was approved in the FAC reunion of 19th-20th November 2018. Based on the *Council's recommendations on the establishment of the implementation roadmap of the binding commitments assumed within PESCO and specification of clearly defined objectives*, the member states will update the National Implementation Plans developed as part of PESCO's implementation process, whose first assessment will be presented by the High Representative of the European Union in the spring of 2019.

Military mobility represents one of the fields of great interest promoted at the European Union level. Once with the PESCO launching, the intensification of efforts in military mobility became one of the 20 commitments assumed by the PESCO participants. At the same time, a specific project dedicated to military mobility was launched, which is coordinated by Netherlands.

As a major contribution to the EU GS implementation, the European Commission launched the European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) with the goal of creating the general framework to optimize defence industry and research institutes. A major component of EDAP is the European Defence Fund (EDF) who promotes the investments of the member states in the defence research, development of prototypes and procurement of military equipment and technologies. The EDF's implementation process consists in two stages: the first stage includes the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) 2017-2019 and the European Defence Industrial Development Program (EDIDP) 209-2020, whose regulation was adopted in June 2018, by co-decision of the European Parliament. The second stage consists in the development of an EDF dedicated program after 2020, whose regulation is still being negotiated.

Also, the pilot version of the CARD was run throughout 2017-

2018, with the view of testing the proposed concept and methodology. By the Conclusions of the Council of 11th November 2018, the European Defence Agency was empowered to run the first CARD cycle, as permanent activity, starting from the autumn of 2019.

Besides the steps taken in the field of capability development, the European Union continued conducting military missions and operations under PSAC aegis in the areas affected by crises and conflicts. Thus, Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, the first EU's maritime operation off the coast of Somalia and the European Union Training Missions in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) are being conducted in the Horn of Africa; the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) is being conducted in Sahel, as part of the EU's efforts in developing the Malian capability of managing its national security; eventually, there is the European Union Training Mission conducted in the Central Republic of Africa (EUTM-RCA). Based on Berlin Plus Agreements, Operation EUFOR ALTHEA is being conducted in the Western Balkans-Bosnia and Herzegovina, while EUNAVFOR Med/ Sophia has been conducted in the Southern Central Mediterranean Sea, as a comprehensive response to the illegal migration issue, with the goal of discouraging the human smuggling or trafficking inside the coastal states territory. To all these add a series a series of civilian missions conducted on three continents: Europe, Africa and Asia.

Romania's perspective on the developments in the defence sector at European level

Participation in the development of the European Union security and defence continued to represent one of the priorities of Romania's defence policy, our country actively supporting EU's efforts in acting as a credible actor on the international security arena. Developing EU's role in the security and

defence sector is of utmost importance due to its potential contribution to the consolidation of the European security. The results obtained so far indicate the fact that, at EU level, there is potential to build an integrated, efficient and more capable Europe, which can do more for its own security and defence. Initiatives such as PESCO, EDF, CARD can make the difference with respect to EU's role in the field of defence, this package of initiatives marking the transition of the European defence to a higher level.

Romania constantly supported the consolidation of EU's role as global actor on the international security arena, with a more efficient involvement in the management of the crises emerging in its close neighborhood (Eastern and Southern) concomitantly ensuring NATO's complementarity and avoiding useless duplications as well as developing credible and robust defence capabilities that can support the major role assumed by EU. In this respect, UE GS is a solid pillar in asserting EU as a credible and ambitious actor in the international arena, while the recent developments made by EU in implementing its Strategy in the defence and security sector is an important step in consolidating EDSP. In Romania's vision, an enhanced European defence requires more efficient defence capabilities and an increased ability in facing the security challenges and threats.

Thus, Romania was a supporter of the permanent structured cooperation since its initiation and continues its efforts in order to make PESCO operational in a pragmatic and oriented manner, with a view of obtaining visible results.

The European Defence Fund is one of the basic pillars of the current steps taken to consolidate EU's role in the field of security and defence. Together with other initiatives such as PESCO or CARD, EDF has the potential to significantly change the way the European Union provides for the security of its own citizens. Moreover, EDF represents an instrument which

will generate a realignment of the European approaches with respect to the development of the defence capabilities.

Encouraging the defence research and the capability development on collaborative basis will lead to a more effective use of resources and to the development of the technologic and industrial basis in the defence sector.

The CARD process will significantly facilitate the defence plans coordination process of the member states. Romania remains fully committed to the further development of the mechanism and will make maximum use of its opportunities in identifying collaborative solutions for the development of the defence capabilities.

Last, but not the least, the enhanced cooperation with NATO must remain a central objective of the European Union, this having the potential of providing solutions that counter the main threats the EU and its partners have to face: hybrid war, cybernetic attacks, challenges posed by the maritime spaces, including the Black Sea region.

The EDSP national support and involvement is done not only through the implementation of the initiatives deriving from the EU GS in the security and defence sector but also by participating with troops and equipment in EU's military and civilian operations and missions, according to Romania's strategic interests and its commitments made at international level.

Romania intends to continue the implementation of the current processes run at the EU level in the security and defence sector and to bring its significant contribution to their consolidation, while holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Thus, the lines of action throughout the Romanian Presidency will have a practical nature and will aim at consolidating the EDSP functional profile, optimizing EU's operational commitment and enriching the partnership and cooperation agenda, including the trans-Atlantic relation.

The Coordinated Annual Review of Defence – CARD

Similar to other recently launched European initiatives in the field of security and defence, the Coordinated Annual Review of Defence process (CARD) originates in the recent evolutions of the international security environment and the impact these evolutions had on the way the EU state members understood to protect their citizens against the latest threats. In a complex environment, characterized by a diversity of challenges and a considerable increase of the costs associated with defence efforts, the European states recognized the need to enhance the common actions taken in order to approach the new challenges, including by transitioning to a structured approach of military cooperation based on the optimum use of available resources, synchronization of national defence plans and collaborative development of necessary capabilities. EU's Global Strategy, launched in 2016, translates this goal of the members states in a coherent conceptual framework by appealing to the necessity of gradual synchronization and reciprocal adaptation of the defence planning national cycles as well as of the military capability development practices. Part of the wide capability package launched in 2016, the CARD process intends to offer the current image of the EU's available capabilities, make an inventory of the member states' development intentions and detect potential common fields of action where the interested states can invest their available resources in a coherent and coordinated manner. It is desirable that this common approach contribute to the decrease of fragmentation of the European defence market, increase of EU interoperability and to the judicious use of defence resources allocated in different state members. The CARD process will continue to be a volunteer effort, counting on the EU members' commitment in making available the national defence plans' data and information, starting from a higher interest: contributing to the enhancement of EU integration in the defence sector.

Unlike the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP), the CARD mechanism does not aim at identifying and assigning certain goals of target capabilities to EU's members, it does not involve the monitoring of the assumed commitments and does not wish to stand for the basis of the force generation processes for the EU's operations and missions. Although it has certain similarities with regard to the collected data, CARD and NDPP are two distinct processes which exclude the risk of a duplication of efforts at NATO and EU levels. The CARD process must be phased out in three successive stages: EDA's collection of an essential data package by means of several quizzes and their preliminary analysis, having bilateral talks with each member state in order to clarify the



data provided (with the participation of EDA and EUMS representatives) and making an analysis of the data provided for the generation of the overall image of the EU's available capabilities, running projects and plans and identifying the cooperation opportunities.

Considering the above mentioned aspects, the question that can be asked is: what is the novelty brought by this process in comparison with the previous steps taken at European level in order to stimulate cooperation among the member states with respect to capability development? Why would the member states be interested in committing to this process? The answer to this question resides in the fact that the CARD mechanism is part of a wider package of instruments which inter-relate and support each other. This package includes the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF) in which the EU member states show a special interest. The CARD mechanism stands for the instrument that detects the potential interest of the other member states willing to come up with projects to be developed under the aegis of PESCO and benefitting from EDF funding. At the same time, the structured approach of the assessment of the national defence plans, based on certain pre-established criteria, allows the identification and measuring of all progresses made each year, which are also of special interest for the member states which want to have an overall evaluation of their own efforts in the field of capability development. The combination of static instruments such as Collaborative Data Base (CODABA) with EDA's active approach (which translates into a bilateral dialogue with each state and indication of potential collaborative areas) increases the degree of attractiveness to this process for the member states which are willing to make the transition from the national approach to the multinational one in the field of capability development.

The testing cycle of CARD mechanism during 2018 (Trial Run) demonstrated the validity of this instrument



and restated the interest of the member states in continuing their participation in this process on a regular basis. The recent defence ministers' presentation of the report with the conclusions that came up during the Trial Run marked the transition from the testing stage to the implementation one, the first full iteration of the mechanism being scheduled to be launched in 2019. The states members will have to finalize CARD's running methodology by 2019, Romania being chosen to host a seminar dedicated to this effort (over 18-20 March 2019) while holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The lessons learned up to present while running the CARD mechanism are complex and led to the drawing of certain preliminary important conclusions which bring into view a series of significant trends of the European effort with regard to the consolidation of EU's profile in the field of security and defence. First of all, the lessons confirmed the positive trend with respect to the increase of defence allocated resources within EU for the 2015-2019 timeframe. The expenditures in investments and, especially, the acquisition of capabilities, are on an ascending trend also, although the evolutions differ very much among the member states. Only 12 European states ensure 81% from total of European investments in defence capabilities, which was evaluated to 47 billion euro, at the level of year 2017. A factor of interest is represented by the decrease of investments at EU level in research & development activities, which raises question marks over maintaining a technological innovation capacity on long-term, at the level of EU. Currently, only eight states ensure 95% of the European expenditures in the field of R&T. It became clear that the priorities established at European level with respect to the capability development national plans are not fully assimilated at the level of the capital-cities, only a quarter of the member states allocating over 50% from the investments budgets for capability

development are considered a matter of priority in the Capability Development Plan. On the other hand, the data collected indicate an increase of the level of commitment of the European states in capability collaborative projects, this being an essential indicator of the progresses made over the last years in the field of security and defence at EU level. The cooperation opportunities presented by EDA and EUMS experts during the CARD bilateral talks attracted the interest of the member states, the main areas with collaborative interest being identified in the field of the development of the Short Range Air Defence (SHORAD) systems, the armoured vehicles, helicopters, medical support, cyber defence, satellite communications, tactical UAV systems, mine warfare countermeasures and maritime security systems.

The perspectives of CARD process look promising, the launching of the consolidated version of the mechanism in 2019, based on the new set of priorities agreed upon at the U level, having the potential to fundamentally reconfigure the European processes run in the field of defence. The advanced assimilation of this mechanism at the level of the capital cities can lead to a better alignment of the national plans and priorities in terms of capabilities, thus, generating cooperation opportunities, scale economies and contributing to a better integration of the defence at European level. This mechanism has represented for Romania an opportunity for a tighter connection to the European initiatives and concrete steps with respect to the consolidation of its national profile within EU. The results of the CARD Trial Run were considered positive and contributed to the consolidation of the national planning processes, the identified cooperation opportunities being included into the national analysis and decision-making mechanisms. It remains to be seen if the national structures will continue to use this instrument and ensure the coherence of its use with the other instruments developed at EU level, respectively PESCO and EDF.

The EU Capability Development Capabilities

1. Cyber responsive operations

- Cyber cooperation and synergies
- Cyber Research & Technology
- Systems engineering framework for cyber operations
- Cyber education and training
- Specific cyber defence challenges in the air, space, maritime and land domain.

2. Space-based information and communication services

- Earth observation
- Positioning, navigation and timing
- Space situational awareness
- Satellite communication

3. Information superiority

- Radio spectrum management
- Tactical CIS
- Information management
- Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities

4. Ground combat capabilities

- Upgrade, modernize and develop land platforms (manned, unmanned vehicles, precision strike)
- Enhance protection of forces (CRBN, CIED, individual soldier equipment)

5. Enhanced logistic and medical support capabilities

- Military mobility
- Enhanced logistics
- Medical support

6. Naval maneuverability

- Maritime situational awareness
- Surface superiority
- Power projection

7. Underwater control contributing to resilience at sea

- Mine warfare
- Anti-submarine warfare
- Harbour protection

8. Air superiority

- Air combat capability
- Air Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance platforms
- Anti-Access Area Denial capability
- Air-to-air refueling
- Ballistic Missile Defence

9. Air mobility

- Strategic air transport
- Tactical air transport including air medical evacuation

10. Integration of military air capabilities in a changing aviation sector

- Military access to airspace
- Ability to protect confidentiality of mission critical information
- Coordination with civilian aviation authorities
- Adaptation of military air/space C2 capabilities

11. Cross-domain capabilities contributing to achieve EU's level of ambition

- Innovative technologies for enhanced future military capabilities
- Autonomous EU capacity to test and to qualify EU developed capabilities
- Enabling capabilities to operate autonomously within EU's LoA.

Permanent Structured Cooperation – PESCO

"We are definitely turning to a historic moment in European defence", said Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission and Head of the European Defence Agency (EDA), when PESCO's notification was signed on 13 November 2017. Less than a month later, the Permanent Structured Cooperation was established, greeted with high expectations.

Background

In June 2016, the European Council welcomed the EU Global Strategy (EU GS) for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and by November 2016, the Implementation Plan for Security and Defence, thus, setting up a new level of ambition for the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). In a continuously changing security environment, the EU GS has started a process of closer cooperation in the field of security and defence. The EU Member States agreed to continue the European Union's work in this area and admitted that enhanced coordination, increased investment in defence and cooperation in developing defence capabilities are key requirements to achieve it.

Following the publication of the EU Global Strategy and its subsequent Implementation Plan, attention was concentrated on strengthening security and defence, one of the five key areas of the strategy.

One year later, in June 2017, The European Council agreed "on the need to launch an inclusive and ambitious Permanent Structured Cooperation", an opportunity provided for in the Lisbon Treaty but never used. According to Article 42 (6) of the Treaty on European Union "those Member States whose military capabilities fulfil criteria, and which have made more binding commitments to one another in this area with a view to the most demanding

missions, shall establish permanent structured cooperation within the Union framework". A common list of criteria and commitments was to be drawn up by Member States within three months, including a precise timetable and list of specific projects, in order for Member States to indicate their intention to participate.

On 13 November 2017, the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence signed a common notification on the PESCO. The notification set out a list of 20 more binding common commitments in the areas of defence investment, capability development and operational readiness. It also contained proposals on the governance of PESCO and its principles.

Based on this notification, on 11 December 2017, the Council adopted the decision establishing PESCO and its list of participants. Twenty three Member States initially signed the Joint Notification, with the exception of Denmark, Malta, Ireland, Portugal and the UK. Ireland and Portugal subsequently notified the Council of their decision to join PESCO on 7 December 2017, bringing the number of participating states to 25.

"We have activated a Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defence – ambitious and inclusive. 25 Member States have committed to join forces on a regular basis, to do things together, spend together, invest together, buy together, act together. The possibilities of the Permanent Structured Cooperation are

immense.", declared Federica Mogherini in December 2017.

Developing Defence Cooperation

PESCO is a Treaty-based framework to increase defence cooperation among EU Member states which are capable and willing to do so. The aim of PESCO is to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations. This will enhance the EU's capacity as an international security actor, contribute to the protection of EU citizens and maximize the effectiveness of defence spending.

The difference between PESCO and other cooperation formats is the legally binding nature of the commitments undertaken by the participating Member States. The decision to participate is voluntarily, and decision-making is to remain in the hands of the participating Member State in the Council.

PESCO is a permanent framework for closer cooperation between the Member States and a structured process to gradually deepen defence cooperation within the Union framework. PESCO is intended to contribute to making European defence more efficient and to provide enhanced coordination and collaboration in the areas of investment, capability development and operational readiness. Its results will contribute to decreasing the number of different weapons'

Articles 42.6 and 46 from the Treaty on the European Union (TEU)

Article 42.6

Those Member States whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria and which have made more binding commitments to one another in this area with a view to the most demanding missions shall establish permanent structured cooperation within the Union framework. Such cooperation shall be governed by Article 46. It shall not affect the provisions of Article 43.

Article 46

1. *Those Member States which wish to participate in the permanent structured cooperation referred to in Article 42 (6), which fulfill the criteria and have made the commitments on military capabilities set out in the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation, shall notify their intention to the Council and to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.*

2. *Within three months following the notification referred to in paragraph 1, the Council shall adopt a decision establishing permanent structured cooperation and determining the list of participating Member States. The Council shall act by a qualified majority after consulting the High Representative.*

3. *Any Member State which, at a later stage, wishes to participate in the permanent structured cooperation, shall notify its intention to the Council and to the High Representative.*

The Council shall adopt a decision confirming the participation of the Member State concerned, which fulfils the criteria and makes the commitments referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on permanent structured

cooperation. The Council shall act by a qualified majority after consulting the High Representative. Only members of the Council representing the participating Member States shall take part in the vote.

A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 238 (3) (a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

4. *If a participating Member State no longer fulfils the criteria or is no longer able to meet the commitments referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation, the Council may adopt a decision suspending the participation of the Member State concerned.*

The Council shall act by a qualified majority. Only members of the Council representing the participating Member States, with the exception of the Member State in question, shall take part in the vote. A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 238 (3) (a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

5. *Any participating Member State which wishes to withdraw from permanent structured cooperation shall notify its intention to the Council, which shall take note that the Member State in question has ceased to participate.*

6. *The decisions and recommendations of the Council within the framework of permanent structured cooperation, other than those provided for in paragraphs 2 to 5, shall be adopted by unanimity. For the purposes of this paragraph, unanimity shall be constituted by the votes of the representatives of the participating Member States only.*

systems used in Europe, strengthening operational cooperation among Member States, connecting their forces through increased interoperability and enhancing industrial competitiveness.

PESCO Implementation

PESCO has a **two-layer structure**: the **Council Level**: responsible for the overall policy direction and decision-making, the assessment mechanism to determine if participating Member States are fulfilling their commitments, establishment of criteria to invite the third states. Only PESCO members are voting, decision are taken by unanimity (except decisions regarding the suspension of membership and entry of new members which are

taken by qualified majority). The **Projects Level**: PESCO's effectiveness will be measured by the projects it will develop. Each project will be managed by those Member States that take part in it, under the oversight of the Council. To structure the work, a decision on general governance rules for the projects has been adopted by the Council.

In support of the Member States, there was a **PESCO Secretariat** established. The European Defence Agency (EDA) and the European External Action Service (EEAS), including the EU Military Staff (EUMS), jointly provide secretariat functions for all PESCO matters, with a single point of contact for the participating Member States. The

most important tasks, as defined in the Council decision of December 2017, lie with the EUMS (assessment of operational project proposals and compliance) and the EDA (assessment of capability development project proposals and compliance). The EEAS has an overall coordinating role and will act as the editor of the Annual Report on PESCO, which the High Representative will present to the Council.

On 6 March 2018, the Council adopted a Recommendation which sets out a roadmap for the further implementation of PESCO. Its objective is to provide strategic direction and guidance for the implementation of PESCO – fulfilling the more binding commitments and developing projects:

- **Sequencing of the fulfilment of the more binding commitments and specification of more precise objectives**

In the December 2017 Council Decision, two consecutive initial phases for the fulfilment of the PESCO commitments were defined: 2018-2020 and 2021-2025. At the beginning of each phase, more precise objectives have to be defined – but this would be decided upon in the future. The Council’s Recommendation on the matter came out in October 2018 after being postponed twice.

The commitments are broken into five categories: defence expenditure; harmonizing military needs; operational capabilities for EU-led operations; prioritizing the European shortfalls in capability development and giving preference to collaborative approaches instead of exclusively national solutions; participating member states should at least participate in one PESCO project, according to the text; participation in the development of major joint or European equipment programmes in the framework of EDA; OCCAR should be considered as the preferred organization for the management of collaborative procurement programmes.

Each participating Member State is required to communicate every year a National Implementation Plan (NIP), informing the other participating Member States on how it is contributing to the fulfillment of the binding commitments it has undertaken. Participating Member States will submit their National Implementation Plans every year in January, in line with Recommendation on the Roadmap adopted by the Council, on 6 March 2018.

The National Implementation Plans form the basis of the assessment process, as described in the Council Decision establishing PESCO. In the spring of each year, the High Representative will present an annual report on PESCO to the Council, based on the assessment made by PESCO Secretariat. On this basis, the Council will – also annually – review whether



the participating Member States continue to fulfil the more binding commitments.

- **Projects to be developed under PESCO**

PESCO projects must have a clear European added value in addressing the Union’s capability and operational needs, in line with the EU Capability Development Priorities adopted in the summer of 2018. The projects will contribute to fulfilling the more binding commitments and achieving the EU Level of Ambition established in the EU GS.

On 6 March 2018, the Council formally adopted the first set of 17 different projects and the project members for each of them. A second set of another 17 projects was adopted by the Council on 20 November 2018. The 34 projects aim at capability development and increasing the forces’ readiness level.

Currently, most of the projects launched in the first wave are in different phases of implementation.

- **Common set of governance rules for projects**

On 25 June 2018, the Council adopted a Decision establishing the common set of governance rules for the PESCO projects which describes the roles of the project members, project coordinators, and observers. Also, the

Decision includes an obligation to report on progress to the Council once a year, based on the roadmap with objectives and milestones agreed within each project.

Each year, by November, the process to generate new projects will be launched by the Council with a view of updating the list of projects and their participants.

- **Third States participation in PESCO projects**

The membership of the Permanent Structured Cooperation is only for those Member States who have undertaken the more binding commitments. It is up to members of individual projects to consider inviting a third State that meets the general conditions. The Council will decide whether a third State meets these requirements. Following a positive decision, the project may then enter into administrative arrangement with the concerned third State, in line with procedures and decision-making autonomy of the Union.

This topic is still under consideration at EU level.

- **High Representative Annual Report to the Council and the assessment mechanism**

In accordance with Article 6 (3) of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315, the High

Principles of PESCO (Notification to the Council)

[...] 'Permanent Structured Cooperation' is provided for in Articles 42 and 46 of the Treaty on European Union and Protocol No 10 to the Treaty. It can only be activated once and is established by a Council decision to be adopted by qualified majority, in order to bring together all willing Member States in the area of defence, 'whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria' and which have made 'more binding commitments' with a view to the most demanding missions and operations.

PESCO is an ambitious, binding and inclusive European legal framework for investments in the security and defence of the EU's territory and its citizens. PESCO also provides a crucial political framework for all Member States to improve their respective military assets and defence capabilities through well-coordinated initiatives and concrete projects based on more binding commitments. Enhanced defence capabilities of EU Member States will also benefit NATO. They will strengthen the European pillar within the Alliance and respond to repeated demands for stronger transatlantic burden sharing.

PESCO is a crucial step towards strengthening the common defence policy. It could be an element of a possible development towards a common defence should the Council by unanimous vote decide so (as provided for in article 42.2 TEU). A long term vision of PESCO could be to arrive at a coherent full spectrum force package - in complementarity with NATO, which will continue to be the cornerstone of collective defence for its members.

We consider an inclusive PESCO as the most important instrument to foster common security and defence in an area where more coherence, continuity, coordination and collaboration are needed. European efforts to this end must be united, coordinated, and meaningful and must be based on commonly agreed political guidelines.

PESCO offers a reliable and binding legal framework within the EU institutional framework. Participating Member States will meet their binding commitments, confirming that the establishment and implementation of Permanent Structured Cooperation will be undertaken in full compliance with the provisions of the TEU and the protocols attached thereto and respecting constitutional provisions of the Member States.

The binding nature of PESCO commitments will be ensured by an annual regular assessment conducted by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and supported, in particular, by the European Defence Agency (EDA), for the capability development aspects (notably described in Article 3 of Protocol 10), and EEAS, including EUMS and other CSDP structures, for the operational aspects of PESCO. Through PESCO, the Union could work towards a coherent full spectrum force package as PESCO would add top-down coordination and guidance to existing or future bottom-up structures and lines of efforts.

PESCO would provide opportunities for Member States to improve defence capabilities through participation in well-coordinated initiatives and concrete common projects, potentially capitalising on existing regional clusters. Participation in PESCO is voluntary and leaves national sovereignty untouched.

An inclusive PESCO is as a strong political signal towards our citizens and the outside world: governments of EU Member States are taking common security and defence seriously and pushing it forward. For EU citizens it means more security and a clear sign of willingness of all Member States to foster common security and defence to achieve the goals set by EU Global Strategy.

PESCO will be output oriented and should enable tangible progress on the level of investment expenditure on defence equipment, collaborative capability development goals and the availability of deployable defence capabilities for combined missions and operations acknowledging the single set of forces principle. The main driver of PESCO capability development will be the fulfilments of the capability shortfalls related to the EU Level of Ambition and Common Security and Defence Policy objectives and priorities.

The 'inclusive' and 'modular' nature of the PESCO, as described by the European Council in December 2016, must not lead to cooperation being levelled down. The objective of an 'ambitious' PESCO underlines the need for all PESCO participating Member States to comply with a common list of objectives and commitments. As recalled by the June 2017 European Council, PESCO is 'inclusive and ambitious'. [...]

Representative presents an annual report to the Council, describing the status of PESCO implementation, and including the fulfilment, by each participating Member State, of its commitments, in accordance with its national implementation plan. The report will focus on the concrete

actions and provisions undertaken by the participating Member States to fulfil their commitments, including through PESCO projects.

The first report will be presented in April 2019 by the High Representative so as to take into consideration updated national implementation plans

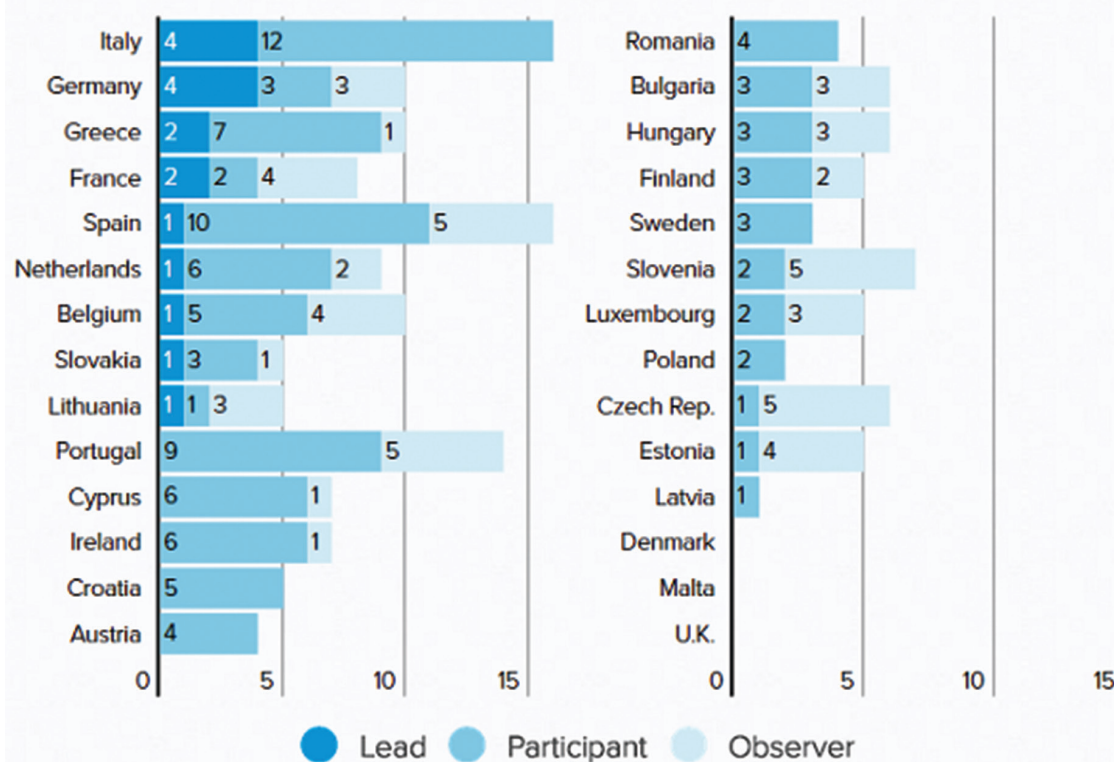
presented by the participating Member States by 10 January 2019.

Romania's participation in PESCO

On 17 October 2017, the Homeland Defence Supreme Council (HDSC) approved Romania's participation in

EU DEFENSE COOPERATION

Role of countries taking part in projects under the European Union's new PESCO pact.



➤ Role of countries participating in PESCO initiative
(Source: cursdeguvernare.ro)

the Permanent Structured Cooperation and the signing by the Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers of the Common Notification which was submitted to the High Representative of the European Union and the Council. Also, the HDCS approved Romania's preliminary intention to participate in the initial set of 10 projects, the ones advanced to date by the Member States and the initiation of the development of the National Implementation Plan.

On 13 November 2017, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, together with the Minister of National Defence, participated in the ceremony of signing the *Notification* on Participation to Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), together with their counterparts from the Member States of the European Union.

Romania took the decision to participate in eight PESCO projects: European Union Training Mission Competence Centre (EU TMCC);

Helicopter Hot and High Training (H3 Training); Maritime (semi) Autonomous Systems for Mine Countermeasures (MAS MCM); Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cyber Security; European Medical Command; Military Mobility; Geo-meteorological and Oceanographic (GeoMETOC) Support Coordination Element (GMSCE); Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Surveillance as a Service (CBRN SaaS) – as observer.

Since the launch of the initiative, Romania has been a constant supporter of the permanent structured cooperation and of the efforts to make PESCO operational, in a pragmatic and results-oriented manner. Our country considers PESCO an initiative which can bring a major contribution to the consolidation of EU's role in the security and defence sector. Also, PESCO can contribute to an equitable

burden sharing in ensuring security along the European continent.

The establishment of the criteria on the participation of the third states in the PESCO projects will represent a distinct stage run upon the agreement of the common set of rules on projects governance and identification of more specific objectives within the commitments assumed by the Member States.

We appreciate that a flexible approach must be taken with regard to the establishment of criteria which will facilitate the participation of the third states in the PESCO projects. In this context, Romania considers that the added value that the third states can bring by participating in the PESCO capability development projects is more important than the strict accomplishment of the most binding commitments or the existence of an Administrative Agreement signed with the European Defence Agency.

The European Defence Fund – Opportunities for Romania

General framework

In a changing security environment, where threats are more and more versatile and instability and conflicts are located in Europe's neighborhood, the European Union is forced to rethink its security and defence priorities, on short, medium and long term, and to act in order to enhance its strategic autonomy across the nowadays international security architecture.

In this new security context, the threats from the East and the South, migration crisis, terrorist attacks, hybrid warfare, Brexit and Trump's administration isolationist tendencies led to a more advanced integration process in the security and defence sector, based on the priorities identified by EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy. In this new regional security context, the Union should response to these major challenges in order to define the major defence priorities on EU agenda. As the President of the European Commission, Jean Claude – Juncker stated in his speech on the State of the Union, addressing to the European Parliament: *"The time for European sovereignty has come. It is time Europe took its destiny into its own hands. It is time Europe developed the capacity to play a role, as a Union, in shaping global affairs. Europe has to become a more sovereign actor in international relations"*.

As we know, the European Union cannot substitute Member States' efforts in defence, but it can encourage their collaboration in developing and procuring the technology and equipment needed to face common security and defence challenges. Moreover, the European Union is stepping up its contribution to Europe's collective security and defence, working closely with its partners, in particular with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

EDF's Political and legal context. EDF's objectives

The European Defence Action Plan and the EU Global Strategy highlight the importance for the EU defence industry to achieve strategic autonomy so that EU become an important and credible player in the defence sector.

Actually, the European defence is one of the key priorities for the EU as stipulated in the European Defence Action Plan adopted by the Commission in 2016. For this reason, the Commission has proposed the creation of a special fund for defence: European Defence Fund (EDF).

Jean-Claude Juncker mentioned *the European Defence Fund* for the first time in September 2016. Nine months

later and after two Communications of the Commission (European Defence Action Plan of October 2016, and European Defence Fund of June 2017), things have become clearer: the Defence Fund will consist of **two windows: the research window and the capability window (development and acquisition)**. The research window has already begun to finance collaborative defence research at the EU level through the Preparatory Action (PA), which is currently being run with a total expected budget of €90 million. The PA prepares the ground for a fully-fledged defence research programme under the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) which is to be run throughout 2021-2027, with an estimated budget of €500 million per year. The Commission has presented a proposal for this programme in 2018 in order to become operational starting with 1 January 2021.

The European Defence Fund Objectives

The European Defence Fund will ensure Europe's strategic autonomy with a view of protecting and defending its citizens. It will coordinate, supplement and amplify national investments in the defence sector. All these efforts made by EU member states are meant to promote cooperation among member states with the end-state of manufacturing interoperable defence technology and equipment.

The European Defence Fund will act as a catalyst for an innovative and competitive industrial and scientific base which is able to meet Europe's defence needs, by providing fully interoperable technology and equipment. By pooling resources, the Member States can bring added value to their investments. In order to meet the above mentioned objectives, the European Commission proposed a budget of €13 billion for the 2021 – 2027 timeframe, entirely dedicated to the European Defence Fund. The EDF suggests the allocation of €13 billion, €4,1 billion being planned to be spent on competitive and collaborative research projects, in particular through grants, the rest of the €8,9 billion being scheduled to be allocated after completing the research window, and it will add to the investments made by the member states by co-funding the capability development costs, including the prototypization.

Opportunities and challenges for Romania

The creation of the EDF is both an opportunity and a challenge for Romania. It will offer Romania the opportunity to access the EDF in order to initiate collaborative defence programmes. The challenge will consist in the fact that the

EDF will test the administration capability in accessing the resources made available through this fund. Romanian official position is to support the launch of EDF, considering it a benefic initiative for the development of defence capabilities, in full complementary with NATO and for a better and fair burden sharing within the trans-Atlantic context.

We consider that the implementation of the European Defence Fund starting with 1 January 2021 will represent one of the most complex initiatives of the European Commission, up to present, in order to support the defence sector, taking into account the fact that it is for the first time when the defence research and development will be funded from a common budget without imposing condition of manufacturing only dual-use technologies.

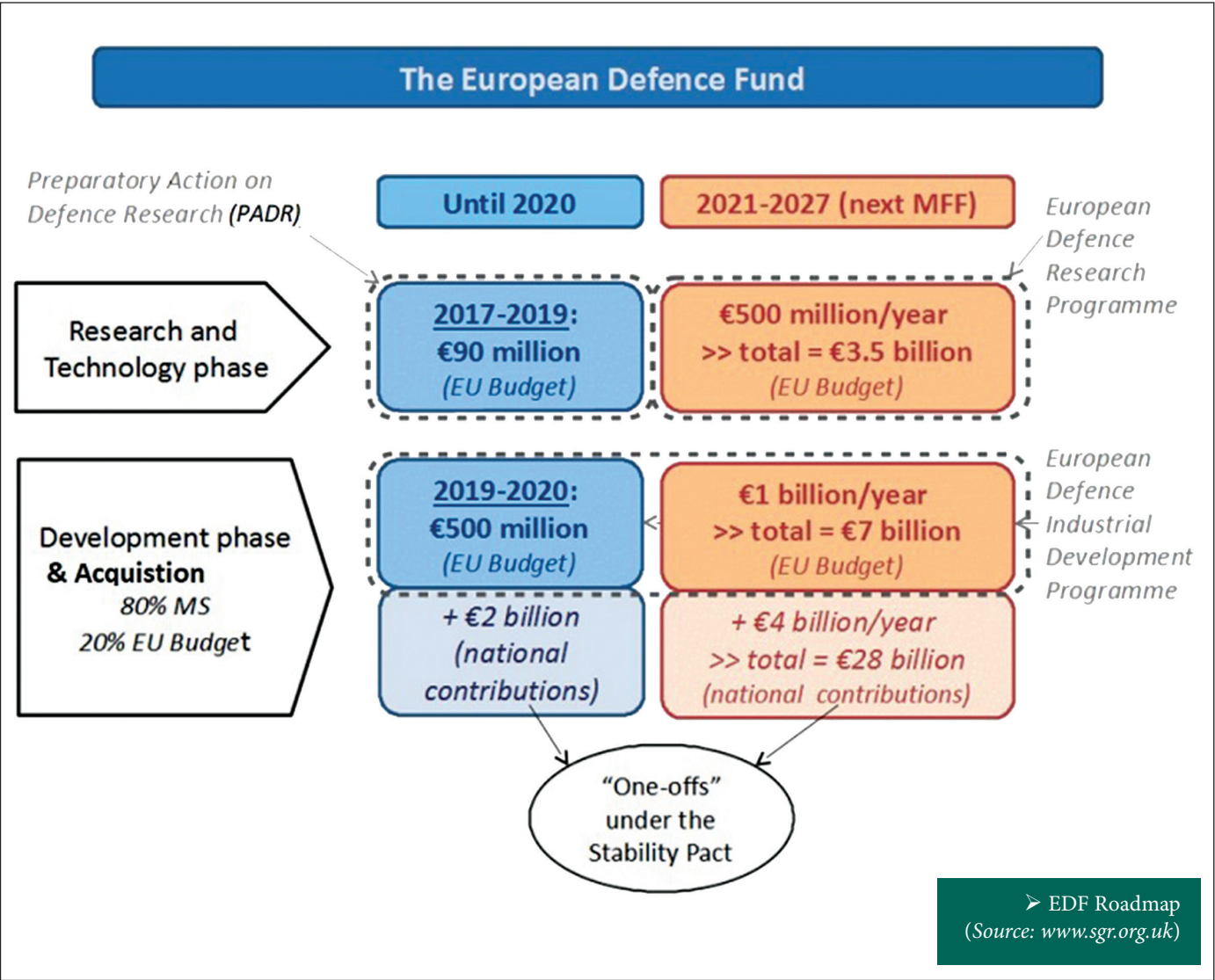
We emphasize the fact that the European defence fund will act as a catalyzer for the consolidation of an innovative and competitive industrial basis, considering the fact that the Small and Middle Enterprises (SMEs) and middle capitalization ones are strongly stimulated by increasing the funding rates and supporting the projects of the consortiums which incorporate SMEs.

The decision of allocating 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures represents, for Romania, a proper framework for the development of collaborative projects on capability

building. All these national efforts made in this area will lead to the increase of Romania’s role in the future common security architecture, our country becoming a relevant regional actor and a security provider in the Black Sea region and Western Balkans.

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first semester of 2019 gives Romania the opportunity to assume a central role in negotiating the EDF Regulation and creation of its implementation tools. Among the temporary objectives assumed during PRES RO, the Commission indicated the need that this legislative package be finalized by the end of mandate of the current European Parliament and Commission, by co-decision of the European Parliament-Council (on April, 2019); this requires that the PRES RO assume trialogue at political and technical levels, which should be finalized at the beginning of March, 2019.

In conclusion, the Commission is pleading for an enhanced European cooperation in the security and defence sector for the past two decades, despite the reluctance of the member states in this intergovernmental domain. The first important step has been taken in this respect, the EDAP definitively marking a qualitative leap with respect to the launching of the European Defence Fund.



Cooperation between EU and NATO

Cooperation between EU and NATO was established 15 years ago. This led to the development of an entire range of instruments which increased the security of the European citizens. The first EU-NATO agreements on institutional cooperation went into force in 1996, when the Council of the European Union from Nice defined the planning mechanisms for the military operations which later led to the signing of Berlin Plus Agreements.

NATO and EU developed the strategic partnership based on the political principles stipulated in the NATO-EU Statement of December 1st, 2002 on the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP): reciprocal consultations, respecting the principles of equality, decisional autonomy and the interests of the member states, and a coherent and transparent development, in the spirit of the reciprocal support of the military capabilities. These principles became operational following the approval of Berlin Plus package from 2003, which set up the cooperation framework between the two organizations on crises management: in case NATO decides not to involve into a certain operation, the European Union can do this thing by appealing to the Alliance resources and capabilities, which commits to make them available to EU and support EU's actions by means of arrangements regarding the command and control and by offering assistance in the field of operational planning. Along time, acting under the aegis of the ESDP, EU developed its own crises management capability. Based on ESDP, EU conducts numerous civilian missions and military operations. In some of these (The Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo), NATO and EU participate together in the theater of operations but at different levels. It is to be noticed that EU has launched over 30 missions within ESDP, since 2003. Currently, 10 civilian missions and 6 military operations are being conducted in Europe, Africa and Middle East.

NATO's New Strategic Concept, adopted at the 2010 Lisbon Summit, recognized EU as essential partner of the Alliance in its efforts of ensuring the Euro-Atlantic security. On the other hand, NATO is a prominent figure in EU Global Strategy adopted in June 2016, the EU recognizing its role as privileged partner and emphasizing its determination in increasing its relations with the Alliance.

Enhancing and consolidation of cooperation between the European Union and North-Atlantic Alliance as "main security actors in the European and Euro-Atlantic space becomes an extremely necessary and natural fact."

- Information sharing
- Coordinated planning
- Concrete cooperation



Hybrid Threats



Operational cooperation



Defence capabilities



Industry research

The change of the power ratios in international relations, the fluidity of the current security environment, the open conflicts from Eastern Ukraine, Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, the increasing economic and military actions of different international actors, migration, the aging of the European population, climatic changes, the amplitude of the extremist phenomenon, etc, are several challenges which require a tighter and more effective Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

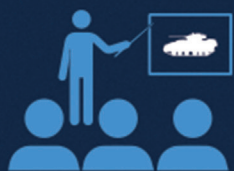
Starting from these realities, in July 2016, as part of Warsaw NATO Summit, the two institutions adopted a common declaration meant to push forward the strategic partnership by focusing on obtaining results in 7 priority fields: countering the hybrid threats, including in the maritime field and with respect of migration, cyber security and defence, defence industry and research in this sector, exercises and consolidation of the capabilities in third states, especially in the Eastern and Southern neighborhood.

In December 2016, the two organizations adopted 42 measures pertaining to the 7 priority fields, previously identified. The common measures include the increase of resilience to the hybrid threats, cooperation at operational level between NATO Operation Sea Guardian and EU Operation Sophia from the Mediterranean; exchange of information on cyber threats; ensure coherence and complementarity among the defence planning processes;

in the areas of:

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Cyber Security



Capacity building



y and
h



Exercises

➤ EU-NATO cooperation fields
(Source: eeas.europa.eu)

conducting exercises in parallel and in a coordinated manner (PACE); making efforts in support of the partner states' capabilities in the field of security and defence.

In December 2017, the two organizations agreed upon a second set of 32 measures, including in new three areas of interest: military mobility in order to make sure that the military personnel and equipment can circulate fast in Europe in case of necessity; countering terrorism; promoting the role of women in ensuring international peace and security. NATO's Secretary General and High Representative of the European Union constantly reports on the progresses made on the implementation of the 74 measures, so far three such reports having been submitted.

On July 10 2018, during the Brussels Summit, the European Union and the North-Atlantic Alliance gave a new impetus to bilateral cooperation by starting from the necessity of ensuring a more efficient protection to the member states' citizens, focusing its attention on the increase of military interoperability, countering terrorism and conventional and non-conventional threats.

The new Joint Declaration signed on this occasion restates the commitment to develop the partnership between the two organizations, by highlighting 4 areas where efforts will be intensified "military mobility; counter-terrorism; strengthening resilience to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear-related risks; promoting the women peace and

security agenda. The Declaration encourages the ample participation of all members of the two organizations in the various initiatives they develop." From NATO's perspective, it is important that the EU initiatives in the security and defence field (PESCO, CARD, EDF)" meant to develop and consolidate the Union capabilities be complementary and coherent with the Alliance's ones. This aspect is of significant importance all the more so as the states are assigned a single set of forces at their disposal."

NATO and EU cooperate not only at political level but also at the operational one. On February 2016, a technical agreement on cooperation in the cybernetic field among NATO specialized structures (NATO Computer Incident Response Capability – NCIRC), respectively EU ones (Computer Emergency Response Team of the European Union – CERT EU), while in March 2016, arrangements at operational and tactical levels were signed between NATO (Maritime Command/MARCOM) and FRONTEX. The latter are useful especially in the context of NATO's activities conducted in the Aegean Sea. Following the signing of these agreements, on February 11 2016, the allied defence ministers decided to send ships in the Aegean Sea in order to offer support to Greece and Turkey as well as to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) in order to ensure a response to the challenges posed by the people trafficking and uncontrolled migration. In October 2016, the defence ministers decided that NATO Operation Sea Guardian would support the EU mission – Sophia – conducted in the Mediterranean Sea with regard to raising awareness on the situation from the region and on the logistic level, also. NATO and EU also conduct operations in the Western Balkans. Thus, Operation KFOR (NATO) and Mission EULEX are conducted in Kosovo. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU is involved in Operation EUFOR Althea (the only operation conducted based on the Berlin Plus Agreements), which enables the access to the planning component as well as to NATO capabilities, while NATO has its own headquarters (NATO HQ Sarajevo) by means of which it offers counseling to the local authorities in the reform of the security structures. NATO and EU cooperated along time in Afghanistan and off the Somali Coast to counter piracy.

Romania has constantly supported the development of a strong partnership between NATO and EU with a view of increasing the effects of their policies and actions. The support offered to the EU's initiatives is based on the need to consolidate the European contribution to the security and defence of its own citizens, these efforts being regarded as a contribution to a more equitable burden sharing in the trans-Atlantic relation. A series of characteristic principles such as "complementarity, avoidance of duplication, transparency, decisional autonomy" are essential in our approach between the two organizations. The enhanced and multidimensional cooperation between the two organizations is essential in a permanently changing complex security environment so that it enables them to face the XXI century challenges, as well as the expectations of the citizens with respect to security and prosperity.

Romania's current participation in the European Union Missions and Operations

EU Operations

EUNAVFOR MED SOPHIA Operation from the Mediterranean Sea

- starting June 22nd 2015, according to the European Council's Decision 2015/972 of May 18th 2015, EU initiated Operation EUNAVFOR MED in order to contribute to the undermining of the business pattern of the illegal border crossing and migration networks from the Mediterranean Sea and to the prevention of the loss of human lives at sea.
- starting July 2015 and up to present, the Romanian Armed Forces have contributed with 5 soldiers (staff personnel) within the mission headquarters.
- *current participation level:* 1 staff officer.

Operation ATALANTA from the Somali Basin and Gulf of Aden

- on December 2008, EU launched ATALANTA Maritime Operation (in support of the implementation of UNSCR 1816 and 1846) which was conducted under the aegis of the European Defence and Security Policy (EDSP). The main mission of the operation was to protect the ships operating within the World Food Programme (WFP), the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) or other vulnerable ships which transit the Area of Operations, discouraging and eliminating piracy (in order to contribute to the increase of regional maritime security) as well

as monitoring the naval activities on the Somali coastline.

- EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has had a remarkable success in reaching its pre-established goals throughout its mandate, succeeding in playing an essential role in EU's overall efforts in the Horn of Africa. Following EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, the piracy phenomenon in the Horn of Africa was reduced but still not eradicated.
- the Operation is still going on by providing for the protection of the vulnerable ships, discouraging, preventing and reducing piracy and armed robbery and monitoring the fishing activities.
- the Romanian Military participated in EUNAVFOR ATALANTA with a frigate, over October 1st -November 29th 2012. The frigate, which was equipped with a PUMA Naval Helicopter and a special operations task force, and 236 soldiers (crew-220 servicemen, helicopter-9 servicemen, special operations forces-7 soldiers) conducted patrolling and surveillance missions, escorted ships transporting humanitarian aids and executing inspections onboard of suspect vessels and detained sea piracy suspects and destroyed their adjacent equipment. The MoND contribution with the T22R-type frigate (King Ferdinand) was not only an operational success but also a proof of Romania's involvement in the EU's common action under the aegis of EDSP.
- also, from December 2009 up to present, 18 soldiers manned staff

personnel positions (on a 6-month rotation basis) within EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Operational Headquarters from Northwood, Great Britain and the Force Command/FHQ.

- *current participation level:* 1 staff officer.

Operation EUFOR ALTHEA conducted in the Theater of Operations from the Balkans-Bosnia and Herzegovina

- initiated in December 2004 (by taking over the SFOR/NATO Mission tasks), the operation has been conducted according to "Berlin Plus" Agreement. As part of the operation, the soldiers execute Capacity Building & Training activities, in support of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), at the same time supporting the Safe and Secure Environment measures. The extension of the operation executive mandate is discussed on an annual basis. The executive mandate of Operation Althea was renewed for the following 12 months (until November 11, 2018) according to Resolution of the UN's Security Council no. 2384 of November 8th 2017.
- the Romanian Military's contribution to ALTHEA began in 2004 and has continued up to present, with a total of 1769 soldiers assigned to the engineer detachment (90 soldiers/2004-March 2005), military police platoon (385 soldiers/2004-2012), military transportation detachment

(Netherlands Detachment) (266 soldiers/2004-May 2007), the helicopter detachment (168 soldiers/January 2005-January 5th 2006), the intelligence national cell-RONIC (154 soldiers/2004-up to present), the staff personnel in the EUFOR Headquarters (287 soldiers/2004-up to present), the military intelligence teams (356 soldiers/2008-up to present), the air force training mobile teams in the MEDEVAC field (37 soldiers/2010-2016), APR-40 instructors team (11 soldiers/February-July 2015), our force advisors team (9 servicemen/2017 up to present) and the national support element (6 soldiers/2-15-up to present).

- starting from the second semester of 2013 up to present, the Romanian Military has contributed to the Intermediate Reserve of the Operation with an infantry company, supported by a military police platoon, which is located in the country, in stand-by position.
- *current participation level:* 38 soldiers.

EU Training and Counseling Missions

EU Training Mission from Mali

- the European Union expressed its preoccupation for the Sahel region since 2010, and in June 2011, the Council adopted EU's Strategy for the Security and Development of Sahel Region. The Strategy stipulates the importance of the consolidation of strategic and operational capabilities of the states in the region.
- the security situation deteriorated dramatically in 2012, the Malian Government losing control of two thirds of the national territory, the area favoring the establishment of the terrorist groups, organized crime and the armament and drugs trafficking. In response to these threats, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution no. 2071 with regard to the situation from Mali, which laid the foundation for the planning process of the Mali Training Mission. Afterwards, in December 2012, the UN Security

Council adopted Resolution no.2085 which authorized the deployment of an international force in Mali.

- starting July 2012, at EU level, the officials recognized the fact that the dramatic changes from Mali require a review of the measures the EU should take in order to reestablish the democratic governance and the state of law all over the state territory.
- on September 18th 2012, following the deterioration of the regional security environment, the President and Prime-Minister of the Republic of Mali requested assistance from EU.
- based on Resolution no. 2071 on the situation from Mali, following the Decision of the Foreign Affairs Council of December 15th 2012, the UN European Council initiated the planning of a EU Training and Counseling Mission in Mali.
- in accordance with the obligations Romania has as an EU member state, our country expressed its support of the EU's steps with regard to the planning and conducting

➤ "King Ferdinand" Frigate during Operation ATALANTA





a training mission in Mali under the auspices of the EDSP as well as the opening towards a potential contribution with personnel in the fields of training and counseling for this mission.

- the full operational capability of the mission was declared on July 31st 2013.
- the international community efforts (Serval French Operation, Mission MINUSMA and EUTM Mali) in support of the stabilization of the security situation in Mali continue, since the insurgent elements still conduct isolated asymmetric actions against Malian or international civilian and military objectives. The battalions trained so far within EUTM Mali play an important role in this stabilization process, by executing counterterrorist combat missions and other missions to protect the security of the national territory and the border with Algeria and Niger.
- starting February 8th 2013, a Romanian officer was assigned in the Pre-Advanced Party established at Bamako with a view of preparing the mission. So far, the Romanian Armed Forces have participated with 17 servicemen within the HUMINT team (September 2013-April 2014) and staff personnel in the mission headquarters.
- *current participation level:* 1 soldier.

The European Union Training Mission Somalia-EUTM Somalia

- the mission was initiated on April 7th 2010 in order to contribute to the projection and development of the security sector from Somalia by providing basic/initial military training to the security forces.
- the following mandates focused on: the counseling/training of the Somali instructors at Mogadishu, assigning advisors within the Somali Defence Ministry for the building of the Somali National Security Forces and offering support in the development of the structures, centers, training policies and programmes.
- Somalia is an important state in the security equation in the Horn of Africa and that is why the EU and the international community have been paying an increased attention to this aspect. Although Somalia has made remarkable progresses in the political and reconstruction fields, it keeps facing complex security challenges, having to ensure that the central administration expands its control over the entire territory.
- starting February 27th 2014, the Romanian Military has contributed with 5 staff officers to the mission headquarters.
- *current participation level:* 1 soldier.

EU Training Mission from the Central African Republic-EUTM RCA

- following the requests made by the Central African authorities, the European Union Council approved the initiation of a military training mission (as of April 19th 2016) that will contribute to the reform of the defence sector in this country. The mission was initiated on July 16th 2016.
- the Romanian Armed Forces have participated in this mission with 14 servicemen, from 2017 up to present.
- *current participation level:* 14 soldiers.

EU Monitoring Mission from Georgia-EUMM Georgia

- following Resolution no. 12989/1/08 of the EU Council from September 15th 2008, the EUMM, functioning under the aegis of OSCE until 2008, is transferred under EU authority.
- starting with September 2008 up to present, the Romanian Military has participated with 82 military observers within the specific patrolling, observance and monitoring activities.
- *current participation level:* 2 soldiers.
TOTAL current participation level in EU missions and operations: 58 soldiers.

European Union Battle Groups/EUBG

EUBG HELBROC

- in 2008, Romania committed to participate in the European Tactical Battle Group with Greece as framework nation, in partnership with Bulgaria and Cyprus. The battle group was named HELBROC.
- starting with 2009 up to present, the Romanian Military has participated in the European Union Battle Group HELBROC, with assigned forces on the national territory, totalizing 68 servicemen.

Allied Forward Presence in the Black Sea Region, an Important Pillar of NATO Deterrence and Defence Component

The Black Sea region (BSR) is of crucial significance for European security, as it is a major crossroads of East-West and South-North corridors, including for the transit of energy resources, bearing unavoidable political implications. Many experts believe that whoever controls the BSR can easily project power to the European continent, mainly in the Balkans and Central Europe, but also to the other adjacent regions – Mediterranean Sea, South Caucasus or Middle East.

This was especially proven by the Crimean annexation and the complex Russian hybrid aggression on the eastern side of Ukraine, the BSR becoming the operational center of gravity of Russian activities, as well as one of the main bases for projecting its power and presence into the Eastern Mediterranean.

Over the past few years, Russia has constantly upgraded its military posture in pursuit of its strategic objectives as a great power status. Land and sea-based surface-to-air, surface-to-surface and anti-ship missiles are among capabilities Russia has already deployed or planned to be deployed for building up anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) in the region.

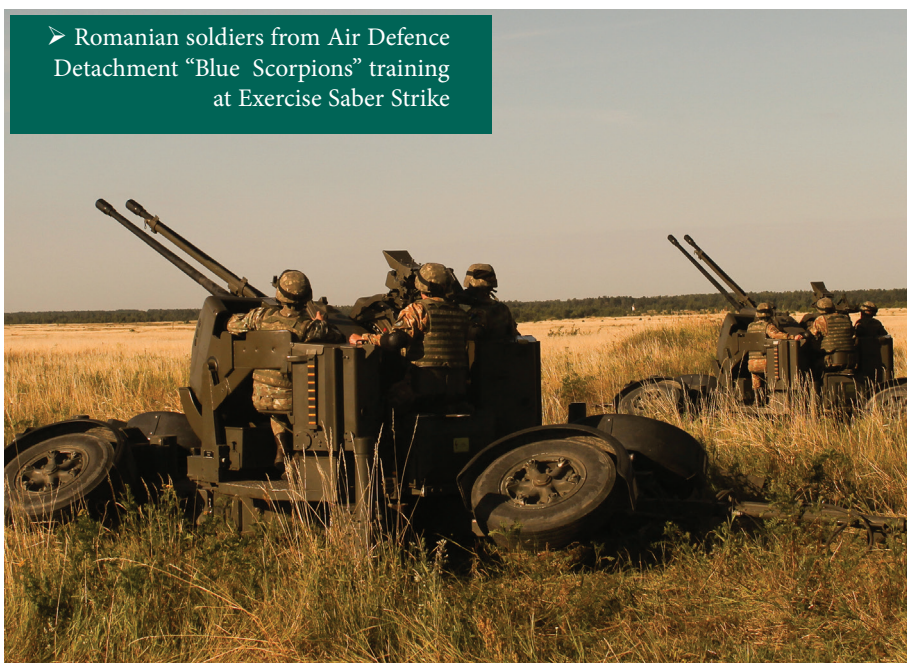
The challenges to security in the BSR are all interconnected in the wider context of Euro-Atlantic security. As the region is home to three NATO members (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) and several NATO partner countries, any instability in the area directly impacts the Alliance and the security of the entire Europe. The multi-layered A2/AD center that Russia built in Crimea over the past few years has the potential to forbid the allied *access in the region and the freedom of movement*, to challenge the whole measures of reassuring and defending the Eastern allies, and to serve as a platform for power projection into the Mediterranean and Middle East. Insufficiently addressed, this unbalanced security situation risks transforming the Black Sea Region (BSR) into the “soft belly” of NATO.

NATO Deterrence and Defence Strategy in the Black Sea Region

Within this context, NATO awareness about the potential impact of the Russian military build-up in the BSR has increased and the Alliance has remained highly concerned about what can be called a “Kaliningrad of the South”. Therefore, NATO developed a strategic response to strengthen its presence in this region, in parallel with the implementation of a rapid reinforcement strategy to ensure that its current presence can be gradually reinforced by a coordinated and timely deployment of very high readiness joint task forces, the broader NATO Response Force, Allies’ additional high readiness forces and NATO’s heavier follow-on forces.

As part of NATO’s strengthened deterrence and defence (D&D) posture, at the 2016 Warsaw Summit, the Allied Heads of States and Governments decided a set of measures designed to ensure a predictable and credible

➤ Romanian soldiers from Air Defence Detachment “Blue Scorpions” training at Exercise Saber Strike





presence on the territory of its Eastern allies, including through establishing an enhanced forward presence (eFP) for the Northern part of the Eastern Flank and a tailored forward presence (tFP) for its the South-Eastern part.

In the Baltic Sea region, the enhanced forward presence included four robust, multinational, combat-ready multinational battalion-size battle-groups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These battle-groups, led by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and the United States, fully deployed in June 2017, are operational nowadays and demonstrate the strength of the transatlantic bond and make clear that an attack on one Ally would be considered an attack on the whole Alliance. They comprise multinational forces provided on a voluntary and rotational basis by framework nations and the majority of Allies, fully sustainable that operate in concert with national home defence forces and are present at all times in the host countries.

As for the South-Eastern part, NATO developed a forward presence tailored framework to the BSR through a series of measures that will be further addressed in this article. Important to note is that NATO's all forward presence-related measures are purely defensive in nature, proportionate, and in line with international agreements. They represent a peacetime demonstration of NATO's resolve to ensure effective deterrence against any potential threats involving a significant commitment of Allies and are a tangible reminder that an attack on one is an attack on all.

Romania's National Interest

Romania has been and remains a steady contributor and beneficiary of the Allied Deterrence and Defence (D&D) measures adopted in 2014, aimed at boosting the security of the nation and BSR, and implicitly, of the entire Alliance. Promoting the strategic implications of the Black Sea for European and transatlantic security has been a key goal for Romania, which has put all its diplomatic efforts into

increasing the awareness of allies and getting NATO to focus more on the South-Eastern flank of the alliance. During the last years, Romania has always promoted its national interest so that the Alliance can adopt a more balanced, holistic, and integrated approach to the security of the Eastern flank by promoting a unified concept for the NATO forward presence. This implies recognizing that the threat to European security is indivisible across the eastern flank and places the BSR on an equal footing with the Baltic Sea.

The big take away from the series of events that paved the way to the 2018 NATO Summit in Brussels was the consistent and persistent message articulated by Romania for strengthening the allied D&D posture in the BSR. This narrative has been a major foreign policy element promoted through various channels, at presidential, governmental and military high levels. Romania's President Klaus Iohannis and other officials have repeatedly called for an integrated and comprehensive approach to the security of NATO's eastern member states: "...[We have to consolidate the Eastern Flank of NATO, and this has to happen in a coherent and integrated manner]"; "...We need a better defended Eastern Flank, including through a unitary forward presence based on an integrated approach from the North to the South, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea".

In this respect, the NATO Summit in Brussels this year provided an opportunity for the Alliance to focus on the BSR's increased geopolitical importance.

Allied Forward Presence in the Black Sea Region

Bearing in mind that all actions of both the Alliance and its individual member states are defensive and deterrent in nature, the Forward Presence in the BSR aimed at increasing the defence and deterrence potential of NATO in the Southern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance. The tailored forward presence measures in the BSR contribute to the Alliance's strengthened D&D posture, to an enhanced situational



➤ Romanian soldiers from Air Defence Detachment "Blue Scorpions" training in Poland

awareness, interoperability and responsiveness. These are several important measures developed under this umbrella:

- the ground component- the establishment of a multinational brigade in Craiova (Multinational Brigade South East – MNBDE SE), for which Romania is a framework nation. Ten Allies – Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal – have committed to it, contributing to the brigade headquarters and coordinating enhanced training. Currently, talks with other potential contributing Nations are ongoing, thus, expressing the important role this Headquarters plays in the NATO South-Eastern flank. The MNBDE SE reached the initial capability in April 2017 and will achieve the full operational capability by the end of 2018. The core of this multinational formation is the Romanian 2nd "Rovine" Infantry Brigade, a brigade of up to 4,000 soldiers, which is to be augmented by affiliated forces of contributing nations. Based on Brussels Summit decisions, actions are currently ongoing to further develop the operational capability of the brigade in order to contribute to the Alliance's strengthened deterrence and defence posture;
- the air component, NATO's enhanced Air Policing (eAP) and air combined training initiative are progressing well, with rotational Allied forces patrolling the Romanian and Bulgarian airspace. While the Romanian Air Force is fully capable of protecting its airspace, enhanced Air Policing (eAP) is part of the Alliance's Assurance Measures for Eastern Allies introduced in 2014. Under NATO Allied Air Command control, tactically delivered by their Combined Air Operations Centre Torrejon, Spain, this deployment is a clear demonstration of the ability to fully exploit and integrate Allied Air Power. During 2017-2018, Canada, Portugal and United Kingdom have contributed to the eAP related activities deploying CF-188 Hornets, and respectively F-16, and RAF Typhoons at the Mihail

Kogălniceanu Air Base in Romania. During the mission, besides securing the skies over Romania, allied air forces also participated in joint training exercises with their Romanian counterparts, demonstrating their readiness in terms of and policing, command and control, medical support, flight safety, aircraft maintenance, and sending a solid signal of NATO's resolve, commitment and solidarity.

In the maritime field, there is now an increased allied presence in the Black Sea. This involves integrated training and more exercises with the participation of the NATO Standing Naval Forces (SNMGs) in the Black Sea. An example in this respect are annual maritime exercises Sea Shield and Sea Breeze, and other routine SNMGs and other maritime assets from both Allied and partner states visits in Romanian BS ports. Within the limitations of the 1936 Montreux convention, warships belonging to non-riparian NATO countries enter the Black Sea intermittently for patrolling, exercising with riparian countries' navies, and flag-showing port visits. Such warships have increased their presence in the Black Sea, from an aggregate 80 days in 2017 to 120 days planned for 2018. NATO will also ensure the coordination of the maritime activities in the Black Sea, which will allow for a better surveillance and reconnaissance of the situation in the region, as well as for a coherent and unitary approach between NATO activities in the Black Sea region and all the other maritime activities of the Alliance. A Regional Maritime Coordination Function (RMCF) was established in Allied Maritime Command, in this respect, supporting coordination among current contributing Naval Forces HQs. The RMCF was designed to strengthen the cooperation for training, the interoperability and the maritime situational awareness to better face any threat manifested at sea. Work with NATO is underway to establish a Black Sea Maritime Patrol mission modeled on the Baltic Air Policing mission.

At joint level, there is a combined enhanced training (CJET) initiative being developed. The CJET is currently



➤ Romanian soldiers from Air Defence Detachment "Blue Scorpions" training at Exercise Saber Strike



➤ Romanian soldiers from Air Defence Detachment "Blue Scorpions" training at Exercise Saber Strike

operational and provides a regional training platform through which Allies can affiliate and send troops in Romania for a coherent and integrated training, in order to increase their interoperability and combat capacity and readiness. The combined integrated training is based on a joint training activity synchronization matrix in the BSR for the following three years and is already part of the NATO training program.

Beside the components mentioned above, other two multinational command and control entities are already operational on the Romanian territory: the Headquarters of Multinational Division South-East (**HQ MND-SE**) and a NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU).

The Alliance is permanently adapting to a challenging and dynamic security environment with a more ambitious Russia. The implementation of NATO forward presence on the Eastern flank and the steps envisioned to increase the forces' readiness to be deployed quickly, if needed, are strong messages that NATO is prepared to deter and defend its member states against any potential hybrid or conventional threat. At the same time, the doors are kept open for engaging Russia in a political dialogue to reduce tensions, because Russia is the most important NATO neighbor and we want to strengthen the dialog and political consultation with our Eastern neighbor, Russia.

The Black Sea region will remain a complex area, with an unstable and volatile security environment and multiple security challenges, which increase the risks and threats not only for the littoral countries, Romania included, but also for the entire NATO Eastern flank. It is essential for NATO security that the Black Sea region receive special attention. A permanent and sufficient allied presence on Romanian territory is required in this respect with a view of maintaining a persistent and credible deterrence effect against any potential aggressor.

Saber Guardian 19 strengthens multinational force to create a Strong Europe

Saber Guardian is an annual, U.S. Army Europe-led, multinational exercise, which takes place during the month of June in numerous locations across Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, and is co-hosted by the Land Force components in these countries. Saber Guardian is the largest in size and scope since its initiation in 2013, when it was first conducted in Romania. Starting 2017, it became biannual. Two objectives have stayed consistent at each edition of the exercise: increasing interoperability and strengthening regional security cooperation.

It enhances joint and combined interoperability across a variety of mission sets between Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, the United States, NATO allies, and Partnership for Peace nations. The Romanian Land Forces Staff and U.S. Army Europe co-lead SABER GUARDIAN 2019 (SG19), which takes place over June 3-24. Vehicle road marches, a medical exercise, multiple river crossings and an air assault will be included among the many different training events at SG19. SG19 is designed to improve the integration of multinational combat forces.

The objectives of this exercise are: building and maintaining unit readiness; improving interoperability between the land forces; maximizing Host Nation Support capabilities; and enhancing USAREUR's capabilities as a Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC).

SABER GUARDIAN 2019 is a USEUCOM-directed exercise, executed by USAREUR, with over 20 participating allies and partners. Exercises like this are a great venue to train with other nations, build readiness, practice interoperability, and enhance enduring relationships. Learning how to communicate and work effectively with an individual from another country would be a daunting task for many. Ramp that up to thousands of people from over 20 different nations working and communicating together in a high intensity situation to complete a common task on a massive scale, and you have Saber Guardian 19. This opportunity to work with regional allies and partners allows for synchronized

and prepared responses to regional security threats and worldwide contingency operations.

The allied and partner nations participating are co-hosts Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia and Romania, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

The 11th Air Defence Artillery Brigade and 173d Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) will get together from across the European theater to exercise locations in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. The 2nd Cavalry Regiment from Vilseck, Germany will road march to numerous exercise locations throughout the joint operations area.

Personnel from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and the US will participate in a series of events including sling load resupply, a base defence LFX and a convoy LFX, culminating in a wet gap crossing (WGX) in Borduşani, Romania, on 22nd of June. The formations which participate in Saber Guardian 19 are: 81st Mechanized Brigade, Multinational Division – Southeast, 10th Engineer Brigade, 15th Mechanized Brigade, 2nd Mountain Troop Brigade and Special Forces Operations.





Joint Training Exercises conducted by Land Forces

Platinum Eagle 19.1

On March 13, the opening ceremony of “Platinum Eagle 19.1” training module, part of the “Black Sea Rotational Force 19” Exercise was organized at the Secondary Combat Training Center, Babadag, Tulcea County.

Thus, almost 100 Romanian servicemen and 200 Bulgarian, Georgian, Moldovan, US and Ukrainian troops conducted joint training activities until March 20, in order to increase the interoperability level.

The Romanian Armed Forces were represented at the “Platinum Eagle 19.1” Exercise by military personnel of

341 Infantry Battalion/9 Mechanized Brigade, Romanian Land Forces, servicemen of 307 Marine Infantry Regiment, Naval Forces and military personnel of 95 Air Base, Air Force.

“Black Sea Rotational Force” (BSRF) is an annual drill led by US Marine Forces Command deployed in Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF), conducted in the Black Sea and in the Balkans and the Caucasus region. It is meant to increase the level of interoperability by training soldiers jointly for the participation in peacekeeping and counter-insurgency operations.

➤ Multinational Exercise
Platinum Eagle–19.1





Multinational Exercise Resolute Castle 2019

The opening ceremony of Exercise Resolute Castle 2019 took place on April 24, at “Getica” Joint National Training Center from din Cincu, Braşov County.

Resolute Castle 2019 is a multiannual training session which brings together engineer units from the Romanian Land Forces and US South Carolina National Guard.

For the fifth consecutive year, the 10 Engineer Brigade ”Dunărea de jos”, supported by engineer structures from the 2nd and 4th Infantry Divisions, conducted, together with US soldiers, infrastructure works for the arrangement of the training platforms functioning in the Cincu Joint National Training Center.

The arrangement works done within the annual Exercise Resolute Castle were part of a European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) project executed by the American partner, in cooperation with engineer structures from the Romanian Land Forces.

The goal of Resolute Castle 2019 was to increase the interoperability level by means of continuous training and by bringing innovative solutions to common engineer issues. The exercise allows for a rapid mobilization of forces and demonstrates the deterrence capability in a complex security environment.



➤ Works in the field at Exercise Resolute Castle

In-flight refueling missions of the F-16 Fighting Falcon Aircraft

The pilots of the 53 Fighter Bomber Squadron from the Romanian Air Force conducted air-refueling missions of the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft over 12-13 March.

The refueling operations were performed by a KC-135 Stratotanker, belonging to the 100th Air Refueling Wing of USAFE (United States Air Forces in Europe), an aircraft designated for in-flight refueling of the jet planes. The flights were conducted at an altitude varying from 7,000 to 10,000 meters.

The F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft have a three-hour flight autonomy and, after the in-flight refueling, which lasts a few minutes, the flight duration increases with two hours.

The Romanian pilots were trained to accomplish these procedures during the F-16 Fighting Falcon Pilot Training Course, which was held in Portugal.

Joint Training Activities with the US Partners

On April 2, a US B-52-type strategic bomber conducted joint training activities in the Romanian air space, in the area of “Getica” Joint National Training Center, from Cincu, Braşov County. The training session was coordinated by the Air Force Staff’s Air Operational Component, together with FAC elements (Forward Air Control) and JTAC (Joint Terminal Attack Controller) of the Romanian Air and Land Forces.

The goal of the flight activity of a US B-52-type strategic bomber aircraft operated by the US Air Force is to demonstrate the Allied power in the South-Eastern Europe and contributes to the increase of Romania’s trust with regard to the involvement of the United States of America in ensuring regional security by providing for the reassurance measures in the South-Eastern area of the Alliance.



➤ Refueling of Romanian fighter jet F-16

“SEA SHIELD 19”



One Romanian Naval Forces organized the largest multinational naval exercise – SEA SHIELD 19 – over 5-13 April 2019, in the territorial waters of Romania and international waters of the Black Sea.

14 Romanian military ships and six military ships from Bulgaria, Canada, Greece, Netherlands and Turkey, with the participation of approximately 2,200 troops, exercise joint combat procedures against underwater, surface and air defence threats, adapted to the types of threats emerging in the Black Sea Region.

The scenario of the exercise was fictitious and aimed at planning and conducting a Crisis Response Operation (CRO), under the mandate of a Resolution of the United Nations' Security Council (UNSC), in the context of a security environment characterized by symmetric and asymmetric threats.

The Romanian Naval Forces, as host, deployed an impressive force structure within Exercise “Sea Shield 19”. Two corvettes, two frigates, two minesweepers, two missile-carrier boats, two maritime ships for combat divers, three maritime tugboats, an EOD detachment (specialized in the fight against underwater threats), two mobile missile launching detachments and other support vessels as well as distinct specialized structures (243 Radar and Surveillance Brigade, 11

Communications and Information Technology Center, the Maritime Hydrographic Directorate, the Center for the Information Technology and Cybernetic Defence) that provided ground-based support participated in this exercise under the command and coordination of the Fleet Command.

The Romanian Air Forces ensured the combat sequences against the air defence threats with the help of the MIG 21 LanceR and F-16 aircraft, while the American and Turkish naval forces operated two maritime patrol boats.

The Romanian Land Forces participated in the exercise with a detachment of the 9 “Mărășești” Brigade, for the protection of the ground communication ways and of Constanța Harbor.

NATO's Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM) designated the Standing Naval Maritime Group (SNMG-2), which operates in the Black Sea starting March 28, 2018, to participate in Exercise “Sea Shield 19”. The SNMG-2 is made up of Bulgarian, Canadian, Dutch, Romanian and Turkish ships. Also, Greece and Bulgaria were represented in the exercise by a combat ship.

The foreign military ships entered Constanța Harbor on Saturday, April 6, 2019 (the date scheduled for the official opening ceremony of Exercise “Sea Shield 19”) at the Passenger Terminal, in the presence of the Chief

of the Naval Forces Staff, Rear Admiral Alexandru Mirșu.

Official visits and working sessions to discuss the organizational details of the sea sequences planned to be conducted took place during the two day-stopover in the harbor.

All participant ships started sailing on Monday, April 8, for a week, when they synchronized their efforts with a view of accomplishing the goals of Multinational Exercise “Sea Shield 19”.

“Sea Shield 19” overlapped two important anniversaries of the Euro-Atlantic community scheduled to take place in April. The first anniversary marked the celebration of 70 years since the establishment of NATO, in April 1949, when 12 states from Western Europe and North America set up the political-military alliance by signing, at Washington, the North-Atlantic Treaty, in order to maintain peace and defence of its own independence, though political solidarity and an adequate defensive military force, able to deter and, when necessary, respond to all potential forms of aggression against it or the member states, based on Article 5 of the Treaty with respect collective defence, based on the principle “an attack against one Ally is considered an attack against all Allies”.

The second anniversary moment was marked by the celebration of 15 years since Romania became a full-fledged NATO member.

Vigorous Warrior 19 NATO Exercise, in Romania

Tigorous Warrior 19 – VW19, the largest medical exercise in the history of the North-Atlantic Alliance, was conducted over 1-15 April in several units of the Romanian Armed Forces, at the level of three components – ground (activities that mainly took place at “Getica” Joint National Training Center from), air (in 71 Air Base “General Emanoil Ionescu) and naval (in Constanța and at the Black Sea).

The practical component of the exercise (LIVEX) was conducted from 7 to 12 April, at the Cincu Training Center,

the last day being dedicated to the Distinguished Visitors’ Day, event which was also opened to the mass-media representatives.

The LIVEX of VW19 was conducted in several areas of Bucharest over 11-12 April. The goal of the exercise was that the military and civilian entities, both national and multinational, act in a coherent and combined manner. The exercise was conducted in cooperation with the Department for Emergency Situations, with the support of “Dr. Carol Davila” Central Military Emergency Hospital.



➤ Vigorous Warrior 19
Exercise – at Piața Romană
Metro Station

➤ Vigorous Warrior 19
Exercise – Arrival of the first
patients at ROL 3 Hospital



The goal of VW19 was the joint training in order to provide multinational medical support within the NATO-led operations. Thus, the participants practiced procedures to provide continuous medical care, strategic medical evacuation, increased level of training and response to any chemical, biological, radiological incident or improvised device incident. Also, organizers aimed at developing concepts, experimenting and incorporating the advanced technology-training systems in this field.

Representatives from 38 nations (most of the NATO members states) took part in the joint multidimensional and multinational NATO medical exercise organized by the Romanian Defence Staff in collaboration with the Medical Directorate of the Ministry of National Defence and the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine. VW19 also had a civilian component consisting of 10 distinct organizations.



➤ Vigorous Warrior 19 Exercise

The participation of the Joint Logistic Command subordinated structures in missions abroad

Lieutenant Colonel Constantin Oprica, the Commander of the National Support Element, is at his third mission in the theater of operations from Afghanistan, the first one being executed within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), over 2010-2011, while the last two within Resolute Support, in 2016 and at present.

Col Oprica did not identify major changes with respect to the security environment but he had a bigger number of soldiers in his subordination

as part of the National Support Element mission, deployed in various areas of the Afghan territory, in comparison with year 2016.

Practically, the NSE responsibilities increased proportionally with the number of the soldiers deployed in the theater of operations, although the main tasks were assigned to the force protection battalion. The biggest challenge is preserving the operational level of all equipment used when executing a mission.

“I want to mention the fact the equipment used is manufactured in the USA, and its maintenance at optimum parameters represents a challenge for the National Support Element.”

“The doctors of the APCs” performed almost 50 maintenance works as well as almost 80 technical inspections/verifications on a monthly basis.

The 8th rotation of the NSE had a permanent operational coefficient of its assigned equipment of over 95%, throughout its 6 month-mission. Most

➤ Romanian National Support Element Detachment, Kandahar, Afghanistan



of the interventions/repair works were finalized at the NSE and not at the specialized company of the US partner.

As the main center of communications from the theater of operations in Afghanistan, the NSE ensured permanent data and information flow with the country and the coalition partners. Also, the NSE ensured the information transfer from the national networks to the coalition partners' ones and vice versa, by respecting the security conditions stipulated by regulations.

“We left for this mission with a very well trained detachment, whose more than a half of soldiers were on their first deployment into a theater of operations.”

The NSE accomplished all its assigned tasks, most of the times even exceeding the mission requirements, and this was due to a high level of cohesion, the team spirit, their professionalism and to a coherent, efficient and continuous act of command which had been exerted since the preparation for mission. ”



➤ Romanian NSE soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan

Currently, there are more than 650 Romanian soldiers the NSE provides for; their number could significantly increase during the force rotations. The NSE executes the entire range of logistic support activities in all functional fields of logistics. It executes

these activities very well and continues a well-known tradition from a rotation to another, thus, demonstrating that it is an elite structure of the Joint Logistic Command, which successfully operates under the command of the Joint Forces' Command.



➤ Romanian soldiers of the NSE



➤ Lieutenant Colonel Constantin Oprica, Commander of NSE together with Romanian officers

Bucharest 9 Defence Ministers' Meeting

MoND organized the B9 Meeting in defence ministers' format, taking place in Bucharest from the 12th to the 14th of March, co-chaired by the Romanian and Polish defence ministers. The reunion was attended by the defence ministers and high officials of the member states of the initiative-Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary as well as US and NATO representatives.

MoND organized the B9 Meeting in defence ministers' format, taking place in Bucharest from the 12th to 14th of March, co-chaired by the Romanian and Polish defence ministers. The reunion was attended by the defence ministers and high officials of the member states of the initiative-Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary as well as US and NATO representatives.

The activity abounded in an exchange of opinions on allied defence and deterrence posture and represented an opportunity to harmonize national positions of the B9 member states on the current topics listed on the upcoming NATO Summit's agenda, thus, facilitating the taking of a common decision with respect to the process of continuous consolidation of NATO's deterrence and defence posture, with focus on its Eastern Flank.

Thus, aspects related to the security situation on the Alliance Eastern flank, including the hybrid and cybernetic threats, Russia's foreign and defence policy and the status of the implementation of the Warsaw Summit decisions as well as objectives and expectations from the 2018 NATO Summit were tackled during the reunion. Also, the participants exchanged views on the increase of interoperability among B9 states' armed forces and the US forces stationed in Europe, as well as other emerging topics, such as consolidation of NATO-EU cooperation, with focus on the mobility of forces on the Eastern flank.

During the official talks, Romania pointed out several aspects of regional security, in a constantly unpredictable security environment among which the most important was consolidating the Black Sea regional profile at allied level in the context of Russia's efforts to consolidate its military posture in the region. Likewise, Romania highlighted the need to continue the allied efforts with regard to its forward presence, at the same time emphasizing the fact that it will maintain a constant tempo in rendering operational the tFP initiatives/structures.

The reunion confirmed once again the allied solidarity and unity as prerequisites for the successfulness, credibility

and effectiveness of the unique, integrated and coherent deterrence and defence posture. The main decisions taken in the field of defence at this year's Summit affirmed once again the need to maintain efforts to consolidate the defence and deterrence posture at all levels in line with the operational requirements in the field.

The common approach of the security environment led to the need to increase dialogue at military and political levels and to coordinate matters at practical level within B9 Initiative.





Romania's defence policy in the context of a constantly evolving security environment

The current security environment is very complex, consisting of interconnected and interdependent elements in a continuous dynamics—the rise of ISIL and increase of instability in the Middle East and North Africa, the negative impact of the Russian Federation activities in the Black Sea Region and increased threats posed by the cybernetic attacks, terrorist and extremist actions against the European citizens. In these circumstances, the world stability cannot be conceived without cooperation on multiple plans at the level of the international community. Also, it is vital to have an overall vision on national security, at national level. The National Defence Strategy 2015-2019 places the defence dimension together with other disciplines of the society, such as public order, education, health, energy, in an overarching inter-institutional approach.

Due to its geostrategic position, as a member state located at NATO's Eastern border, Romania has the task to secure it and face all threats and security risks but also to promote the democratic and Euro-Atlantic values in the region.

All these aspects directly impact and are reflected in the defence policy and its objectives. Thus, the armed forces are currently undergoing a deep transformation process that is meant to turn them into robust defence capabilities with a view of providing an adequate response to the present and future challenges posed to the security environment, including in the hybrid, nonconventional spectrum.

In order to enhance strategic credibility among NATO and EU, our country aims at consolidating a distinct profile within the two organizations by firmly engaging into the common decision-making and implementation process. A special attention is paid to the preparations made with a view of taking over the EU Council Chairmanship for the first semester of 2019.

Other significant coordinates of the defence policy are the consolidation of strategic partnerships, especially the

one with the USA as well as the development of international cooperation at bilateral and regional levels. These are considered increase vectors of Romania's strategic profile, as a relevant actor in the international and regional security arena, supporting the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the Eastern neighboring states.

Not least, supporting the public authorities in the management of the emergency situations represents an essential dimension of the defence policy and, implicitly, a distinct mission of the armed forces, which are trained to act in this respect.

The intrinsic value of the defence policy objectives is increased by ensuring the resources which will allow for their constant implementation. A good-quality human resource and an adequate funding are fundamental in this respect. It is worth mentioning that this is the second year when Romania allocates 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures which is mainly reflected in the acquisition of major equipment.

Today, we can state that Romania's defence policy is adapted to the security environment and to its evolving character, with clearly set objectives and is based on an adequate funding, in accordance with its international commitments.

Thus, the defence policy becomes an essential tool in promoting Romania's security interests and implicitly substantiating our national contribution to the Euro-Atlantic and regional security and stability.

The Reunions of the Foreign Affairs Council and their contribution to the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

PESCO represents an intensified form of cooperation on the Common Defence and Security Policy dimension aiming at building European defence capabilities on solid grounds by eliminating parallelisms and by involving jointly use of resource and generating the necessary forces for the execution of the EU missions and operations.

The Initiative was officially launched on November 13th, 2017, during the Foreign Affairs Council Reunion, when the interested member states signed the Notification on Permanent Structured Cooperation to the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The participating member states pledged to assume 20 constraining commitments previously negotiated and agreed upon as compulsory membership criteria to PESCO. During the Foreign Affairs Council Reunion of December 11th, 2017, PESCO Launching Decision was adopted with reinforced qualified majority and signed by 25 EU member states (with the exception of Great Britain, Denmark and Malta). PESCO Launching Decision was endorsed at political level during the European Council's Reunion of 14 December. Previously to the decision-making, the participant states submitted to PESCO Secretariat the National Implementation Plans of the 20 countries.

Also, following the proposal of the member states, over 50 common projects to be developed under PESCO aegis were identified. These projects were listed in hierarchical order following an analysis made by the European External Action Service, resulting a set of 17 priority ones. This initial set of projects was approved by Foreign Affairs Council Decision as of March 6th 2018. Romania committed to participate in 5 of these priority projects: *European Medical Command*, *Military Mobility*, *EU Training Mission Competence Centre (EU TMCC)*, *Maritime (semi-) Autonomous Systems for Mine Countermeasures (MASMCM)*, *Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Space Security*.

During the Foreign Affairs Council meeting of March 6th 2018, the State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations restated Romania's commitment in promoting PESCO, as an initiative which makes a major

contribution to the consolidation of EU profile as a global actor. Also, the Romanian official emphasized the fact that PESCO will increase its European contribution within NATO and will foster an equitable sharing of burden. In the same reunion, the EU member states adopted a set of recommendations of the Council with respect to the next development stages of PESCO initiative. These translate into specific measures that will facilitate the implementation of PESCO, with the aim of structuring and optimizing the associated processes. The recommendations refer to the staging of the implementation plans of the 20 projects, clarifications with respect to the submission, evaluation and approval of new PESCO projects, establishment of the framework for the endorsement of the common set of rules for the project management, reporting to third states and not least, the reporting and evaluation mechanism. An additional step was taken on June 25th, when the Decision was taken on the establishment of a common set of governance rules for PESCO projects.

The results obtained following PESCO projects' implementation up to present are outstanding. The political framework is favorable and the position adopted by the member states reflects a firm commitment with respect to CSDP consolidation. This topic will be definitely listed also on the agenda of the future Foreign Affairs Council reunions, when important decisions and recommendations will be made on the participation of the third states to PESCO projects, the launching of the next packages of projects, and the respecting of the commitments pledged by the PESCO participant states.

For Romania, the PESCO initiative translates into major opportunities that help consolidate its own profile within EU on the security and defence dimension, in accordance with the defence policy assumed at national level.



Major Procurement Programs – Top Priority of the Romanian Ministry of National Defence

Placed in a complex geo-political position, Romania acknowledges the importance of an enhanced forward presence in the Baltic States and Poland, thus, focusing on the consolidation of the Eastern flank of the Alliance.

Consequently, consolidation of our country's profile as regional provider of security and stability within NATO and EU stands for the main objective of the Ministry of National Defence.

The Romanian Armed Forces participate in joint exercises and training programs with the allied states and partners, increasing resources and troops allocated in support of NATO and EU operations and missions.

At the same time, Romania continues and intensifies its efforts and measures to consolidate defence and security alongside the allies and partners by honoring its undertaken commitments. One of these commitments refers to the allocation of 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures on a 10-year period, until 2026.

The Romanian Armed Forces' Procurement Program for 2017-2026 timeframe consists of eight major elements and was developed in accordance with the allocated funds, the document being approved by Decision of Homeland Defence Supreme Council (HDSC). Each major procurement program exceeds 100 million euros and was approved by the Romanian Parliament.

The total costs of the procurement programs will be established after a final decision made on the technical and operational requirements of the Romanian military and the course of

Eight major procurement programs are to be initiated:

- The multi-purpose corvettes that translates into the acquisition of four corvettes and adjacent equipment;
- Mobile anti-ship missile launchers;
- The modernization of the MLI-84M infantry fighting vehicles that includes 48 fighting vehicles;
- 8x8 and 4x4 armoured personnel carrier; during the first stage, 94 vehicles out of the 657 would be acquired;
- C4I system (command, control, communications, computers and information technology) with ISTAR integration capabilities;
- Advanced surface-to-air missile (ASAM) systems – four for the Land Forces and three for the Air Force;
- SHORAD-VSHORAD integrated weapon systems;
- Long range multiple launch rocket systems.

action to be followed while running the acquisition strategy.

Romania consolidates its naval defence capabilities

In order to accomplish their specific missions in this difficult political-military international context, the Romanian Naval Forces must have a modern, credible and balanced force structure, similar to the other states bordering the Black Sea Region.

The most efficient surface warfare ships in the littoral region are the

“corvette-type” ones, with medium speed engines and able to accomplish the entire range of missions in and outside the Black Sea Region, at the same time being autonomous and having nautical qualities that can enable them to conduct actions in difficult hydro-weather conditions.

The procurement of new corvettes, due to their estimated life-cycle which go up to 30 years and that can be further extended by successive modernization works, offers the Romanian Naval Forces the necessary operational confidence in order to accomplish their specific medium and long-term assigned missions.

At present, the modernization of T-22 R frigates is taken into account, as part of the acquisition process of the multi-purpose corvettes by making the most of the offset of this major procurement program.

“Multi-purpose corvettes” convey operational confidence

- Conduct military operations, independently or as part of international task forces in order to ensure the integrity of the maritime space;
- Participate in national and international law enforcement operations in the territorial waters, contiguous area and economic exclusive zone;
- Conduct maritime security operations and search & rescue activities at sea;
- Ensure permanent reconnaissance of the littoral and of the Black Sea Region;
- Support the other Romanian Armed Forces' Services;



➤ PIRAHNA Armoured Wheeled Vehicle

- Participate in international operations and missions according to the approved plans.

Corvettes will operate as a warfare multitask unit within a maritime taskforce or alone. The corvettes and the two T 22 frigates will make up, on rotational basis, a group of vessels that will be at NATO's disposal with a view of meeting the commitments undertaken by Romania.

According to HDSC's Decisions, the "Multi-purpose corvettes" Program is an essential procurement program meant to provide for Romania's security interests. On February 15th, the Government of Romania approved the decision on the circumstances and the specific procedures for the "Multifunctional corvette" Procurement Program.

US Congress Approved the Acquisition of HIMARS System to Equip the Romanian Armed Forces

The acquisition of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) is one of the main eight procurement programs established in the 2017–2026 Romanian Defence Procurement Plan for which the Parliament agreed, in May this year, to initiate the procedures to assign the relevant contracts.

The US Congress approved, in agreement with the American standard procedures, Romania's request to purchase 54 HIMARS launchers and auxiliary equipment for three combat battalions.

The choice to equip the Romanian Armed Forces with the HIMARS system derives from the need to have modern artillery equipment, able to contribute to strengthening the national defence capability and to increase interoperability with the allied forces, by having in place a reliable deterrence capability.

HIMARS is one of the most precise combat support systems tested and used in real missions by the US Army and Marine Corps. The HIMARS reliability rate and interoperability degree between the US and Allied forces reduce the final operational and maintenance costs.

The draft law for the implementation of "Indirect fire support capability" adjacent to the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) was adopted by the Government of Romania on February 15th. The paper stipulates the granting of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance – type state contracts specific to the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program with a view of procuring 54 HIMARS launchers and their auxiliary equipment: ammunition, C2 elements, sensors, logistic support, maintenance, cryptographic equipment, and personnel's training.

The acquisition of HIMARS augments the essential ground defence capabilities meant to significantly contribute to NATO collective defence:

- increase reaction time;
- increase the depth of the hit;
- successfully tested in combat in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria;

- high-mobility and C130 transportable;
- top of the line in NATO reactive/self-propelled artillery, the MLRS' successor.

Besides the advantage of their superior precision, HIMARS are also equipped with an integrated researchable system which is time saving, enabling the increase of the firing speed.

Acquisition of Patriot missile system to equip the Romanian Armed Forces, approved by the US Congress

For the Patriot surface-to-air missile procurement program, the Ministry of National Defence will submit to the Romanian Parliament's approval a special draft law on the procurement of this system, while the acquisition process will take place following negotiations and the signing of an agreement between the Romanian and USA governments.

Minister of Defence Mihai Fifor stated that the first Patriot missile system will have been procured by the end of 2017. The Romanian part is waiting for the US letter of acceptance, so that it can initiate the contracting procedures and procure the first such system. The Romanian delegation has officially requested the Dependable Undertaking clause arrangements for the procurement programs, during the talks with Secretary of Defence Mattis.

The MoND intends to pay in November the first installment for the acquisition of seven Patriot missile systems in its most updated configuration namely PAC-3 Plus, which incorporate the latest technologies developed for this type of defensive armament.

Thus, delivery of the first missile system to Romania will take place next year, our country joining five other NATO member states which hold Patriot batteries (Germany, Greece, Spain, Netherlands and United States of America). Also, Poland is another country which made a request for the procurement of these systems.

Following negotiations and procurement of this system, the MoND intends that its producer collaborates with the Romanian defence industry in order to identify the most adequate local suppliers and support national companies in developing their own manufacturing technology of the Patriot components.

The Ministry of National Defence received on November 1st the Letter of Acceptance from the U.S. government regarding the acquisition of the mobile long-range surface-to-air PATRIOT missile system.

The system that will equip the Air Defence Staff and the Land Forces Staff is one of seven planned to be bought for a total of \$3.9 billion USD before VAT.

The Letter of Acceptance was received for an acquisition estimated at \$764.8 million before VAT by the end of 2017, after the Parliament approved the draft law regarding this capability. The 3+ configuration acquired by Romania is the most modern type on the market in terms of the hardware and software configuration of the ground equipment of the missiles.

The ceremony for the signing of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance in order to initiate the acquisition of the PATRIOT High Surface-to-Air Missiles systems took place on November 29th, at the MoND headquarters, in the presence of Defence Minister Mihai Fifor and of the US Ambassador in Romania, Hans Klemm.

American defence group Raytheon announced that it signed a 396 million \$ contract with US Army for the production of Patriot surface-to-air missile (SAM) system for Romania. Announced by the Department of Defence on May 24, the contract calls for Raytheon to build Romania's first brand-new Patriot fire unit.

The PATRIOT systems will enter the service of the Romanian Land and Air Forces the second part of year 2019, the first system being scheduled to achieve full operational capability at the middle of 2020.

MoND made the payment for the first lot of PAC-2 GEM-T missiles designated to be integrated into the

(HSAM) – PATRIOT systems, with a total amount of 85,160.996 \$. The payment was made after having signed the 3rd Amendment of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance – LOA, in February 2019.

Shorad-Vshorad Integrated Weapon Systems Procurement Program

The latest evolutions of the regional security environment and the changes of the geopolitical context Romania is part of, asked for the implementation of certain measures at the MoND level with a view of increasing the Romanian Armed Forces' readiness and the procurement of modern equipment. The wide range of threats caused that the importance of the surface-to-air missile systems significantly increased over the last period, taking into consideration their main missions: protecting the troops, facilities and population against offensive air attacks and countering terrorist elements which target military technologies.

The goal of the procurement program is to equip the air defence structures with SHORAD-VSHORAD integrated weapon systems that can provide for:

- Mission accomplishment at peace, war and during contingency and participation in air operations against the enemy's air forces for immediate air defence;
- Countering of the current threats and enabling participation in countering potential threats with the available weapon systems.

Projects Intended to Involve the National Defence Industry

The Romanian Government defined the first economic and military large scale cooperation with the German company Rheinmetall as a strategic project. It is a complex project, of interest for both countries. The project is conducted by Uzina Mecanică Moreni and Rheinmetall Company. On November 29th, 2017, the Government of Romania adopted the decision approving the circumstances and the procedure specific to the first phase of "8x8 Armoured Fighting Vehicle" Procurement Program, with a view of setting a framework agreement for the delivery of 227 Infantry armoured Fighting Vehicles (IFV) Piranha V. The signing ceremony for the acquisition contract of 227 Infantry armoured Fighting Vehicles (IFV) Piranha V and its initial logistic support took place on January 12th, at the defence ministry HQ, in the attendance of defence minister Mihai Fifor and vice-prime minister Marcel Ciolacu. Starting with 2018, the infantry armoured fighting vehicle will gradually be manufactured and enter into the service of the Romanian Armed Forces. The MoND will be able to offer maintenance throughout the entire life-cycle of the equipment. The Infantry armored Fighting Vehicle PIRANHA V is the most advanced platform for troops' transportation, equipped with the latest ballistic



➤ PATRIOT missile system

protection and fire-power systems existing in NATO.

The MoND representatives had official meetings with another APC manufacturer, General Dynamics European Land Systems company, subsidiary of General Dynamics Corporation. The meeting agenda included topics such as identifying ways to achieve partnerships at the national defence industry level, developing a joint venture to secure the transfer of the state-of-art technology. The MoND intends to procure the first 10 Piranha armored personnel carriers, as part of this program by the end of the year.

Discussions have taken place on the renewal of the helicopter fleet, a letter being already signed by the defence minister, in the presence of the Romanian Prime-Minister and representatives of Bell Helicopters, and sent in order to ask for details on the availability and price of the attack helicopters.

Also, the representatives of the defence industry from Braşov signed cooperation projects with Airbus Helicopters company.

Steps Made Towards the Procurement of the Second F-16 Squadron...

The building of the air defence capability as part of the “Romanian Air Force multirole aircraft” Program, adopted by HDSC Decision no S – 70/2012, refers to the phased equipping of the Romanian Air Force with 48 aircraft. After analysis made by specialists in the field, the acquisition of a first lot of F-16 aircraft from Portugal was decided upon, this type

of aircraft making the transition to fifth generation fighters easier.

So far, twelve F-16 aircraft have entered the service of the Romanian Air Force, the last three being delivered at the end of September 2017.

In order to procure the aircraft that will be part of the second squadron, a letter was sent to the US Government on the price and availability of 36 F-16 aircraft.

As the acquisition value exceeds 100 million euros, the initiation of the procedures require a prior approval from the Romanian Parliament, the procurement program being one of the eight major programs that have already been approved.

Steps taken by the Romanian Government in order to build a Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System on Romanian territory

The Government issued a Government Ordinance with respect to the specific procedure on the “Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System” procurement program. According to the Acquisition Strategy and the Concept Study on the cost information, the estimated value for the procurement for a mobile surface-to-ship missile launching system amounts at least 137 million euro (without VAT). The fundamental requirement stipulated by the Romanian Armed Forces is that the economic agent that will be awarded the multiannual contract builds an industrial capability on our national territory. The procurement program was approved in the

reunion of Romania’s Government of August 23rd.

The Ministry of National Defence received the Parliament’s preliminary approval to initiate two more procurement programs

On June 6th, the Parliament approved the initiation by the MoND of the procedures for the awarding of the procurement contract of the Multifunctional Wheeled Transportation Platforms as well as the contract for the upgrading of the IAR-99 Şoim aircraft to the IAR-99 Super Şoim configuration.

In 2017, the Romanian Armed Forces’ Transformation, Development and Acquisition Program until 2026 and beyond nominated the “Multifunctional Wheeled Transportation Platforms” procurement program as a top-priority one due to the fact that it directly contributes to the increase of the readiness level of the Romanian military. The MoND needs 13,963 full transportation platforms which will be procured in several installments. In the first stage, between 2018 and 2027, the MoND will procure 3,385 transportation platforms, the value of the framework agreements being estimated at around 737 million euro (without VAT).

The exact value of the contract is to be set following the acquisition process. This procurement program aims at involving the Romanian companies in the manufacturing process of these multifunctional transportation platforms.

The need to initiate the upgrading program of the IAR-99 Şoim aircraft derives from the equipping of the multirole F-16 aircraft, which asks for an advanced training platform by reconfiguring the avionics and flight control systems. The new configuration of the IAR-99 Super Şoim platform aims at increasing the reliability of the board installations and systems, and of the aircraft lifecycle. This acquisition program is intended to involve the national industry capabilities.



The Romanian Armed Forces Participation in the Theaters of Operations

Resolute Support remains the main mission of the Romanian Armed Forces' effort in participating in missions outside Romanian territory, almost 800 soldiers being deployed all over the Afghan territory.

The main tasks are accomplished by the force protection battalion, which counts almost half of the troops participating in mission. But let's not forget the other consistent half, with structures and commissioned officers

consisting in Land Forces' advisors and instructors, medical teams, staff officers, the national support element, special operations forces and intelligence structures as well as maintenance advisors and the Air Force protection detachment.

The Joint Forces Command (JFC) is subordinated to the Defence Staff and responsible for the missions conducted outside the Romanian territory by all three Services, with the exception

of the special missions executed by intelligence structures and special operations forces.

JFC establishes the selection standards for the structures that are to be deployed, monitors the training, identifies and disseminates the lessons learned from the theaters of operations to all structures which undergo training; it also gets involved and is directly responsible for the evaluation, deployment, redeployment,



➤ Romanin soldiers
awarded in Afghanistan



the execution of the mission in the theater of operations but also for the after action review issues.

As we all know it, we have been deployed in the theater of operations from Afghanistan since 2002, with over 30,000 troops. New challenges are still emerging and we can quantify them on a weekly basis, and sometimes even daily.

The biggest challenge is posed by the complex range of missions, because there are soldiers from all MOSs, specialized on different missions conducted in the theaters of operations and we have to manage this issue not only from the point of view of the plans' accomplishment but also from the training level perspective and conduct of the actions during mission execution in the theater of operations by each detachment.

The security environment is still in an ascending trend. One of the main discussion topics on NATO's agenda is the security situation from Afghanistan



➤ Major General Dorin Ioniță, Commander of Joint Forces Command



and the peace-keeping efforts. We are in the middle of discussions and negotiations with a view of signing a peace agreement between the Afghan government and the Taliban movement. Until the closing of the agreement, the security situation goes through its well-known cycle, on two combat seasons. After the current winter period which had a relatively low operational tempo, it is likely that that the summer can bring about new complex and even more dangerous developments with regard to the methods used by the Taliban, with direct implications on our soldiers' safety.

I had several meetings both with the current commander of the TAAC-South) and with the future commander who will take over the command of the mission. We have always been highly appreciated, and that is why we are requested, each time, to increase our troops' participation. And this is an element we must emphasize, since in 2019 we increased our contribution

with 75 soldiers. Throughout this time, we worked very well with the US partner for the development of the mission conception, a new mission outside the area of responsibility of the battalion. Each time, during all discussions, the commitment and tenacity of the Romanian servicemen made all their colleagues and strategic partner to speak very highly of them.

I didn't need to wait for the ceremony of authority transfer to say that both battalions are very well trained. 812 Infantry Battalion "Șoimii Carpaților", shaped/molded the mission accomplishment process, which is a proof that the discipline imposed by the battalion leadership made that all soldiers return home safely. There were several incidents but we did not go through tough moments due to the good training process and by respecting the protection SOPs.

300 Infantry Battalion has been deployed to the theater of operations before. The unit command has a wide experience in what Afghanistan means and a better understanding of the theater of operations. We are convinced that this battalion will accomplish its assigned missions as well as the previous ones. It is well equipped and trained.

Starting with 2019, Romania's contribution was appreciated and it was offered a Brigadier General position within the RSM headquarters. The first to man the the RSM Chief of Staff's Deputy Chief of Operations position was Brigadier General Toma Dorin, a highly experienced officer who also acts as Senior National, according to the national standards and regulations.

Interview with Major General Dorin Ioniță, Commander of Joint Forces Command



➤ Dorin and Viorel Alupoie brothers in Kandahar Military Base

Communications and Information System NATO Exercise “STEADFAST COBALT 2019”

Steadfast Cobalt 2019, the largest communications and information system NATO exercise, took place over 19 May-2 June, at the 48 Strategic Communications and Information Technology Center from Otopeni.

Over 1,200 Romanian and foreign soldiers from 35 NATO Communications and Information Technology Structures participate in the exercise, whose goal is to test, check and validate the interoperability of the C4ISR system (Command, Control,

Communications and Information Technology, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance).

Steadfast Cobalt 2019 was planned by the Supreme Allied Command Europe and was led by the Commander of NATO CIS Group (NCISG), Major General Wolfgang Renner.

The goal of the exercise is to jointly train in order to offer multinational support during NATO operations and to practice standard operating procedures required to reach



➤ Romanian soldiers at
Exercise Steadfast Cobalt 19



interoperability in the field of human resources and technical field.

Communications and Information System NATO Exercise STEADFAST COBALT 2019 is conducted annually. This year our country hosts the exercise for the second time. The Exercise was organized for the first time in 2016, at the headquarters of 48 Strategic Communications and Information Technology Center.

“STCO 2019 is an important opportunity for Romania to participate together with its allies in the evaluation and testing of interoperability and compatibility of CIS used to ensure command and control of NATO structures.”

Colonel Gheorghe Spoială, chief of Staff of the Communications and Information Technology Command

➤ Military communications
and information
technology equipment



The Romanian Armed Forces Response Capability to Cybernetic Security Incidents

The current geopolitical context and the emerging security challenges posed by the regional crises, ideological and inter-ethnic conflicts, the competition for resources or the micro-economic changes taking place at global level can easily turn into security threats, with an evolving cybernetic dimension. The actors involved, either of terrorist faction, from the organized crime sphere, or the state entities, became aware of the opportunities and advantages conferred by the latest technological developments and the increased popularity of the cybernetic space, these resulting into a migration of the aggressive actions towards the “cyber” area.

The traditional perceptions with regard to the security threats are obsolete, the cyber space providing new dimensions of their manifestation forms. The current threat is mainly asymmetric, transfrontalier, complex, personalized and adaptable, while the identification of the attackers becomes very difficult in this context.

At military level, the cyber space tends to become a new environment for the conduct of the military actions. This is noticed during the regional crises where, once with the increase of tensions, there is an intensification of the actions conducted in the cyber space. From national defence perspective, the most important vectors of the threat in the cybernetic field are the state entities.

In this context, the cyber defence military capabilities established at national level must be developed in order to ensure the action capability against the threats, while the residual risk should be maintained at an adequate level, similar to the classic threats’ one. We need to have operational capabilities able to manage the cybernetic security risks, in accordance with the security strategic concepts, and evaluations. Romania will have to develop its own action means and the necessary resources in formulating public policies which reflect both the national defence interests and objectives and the NATO and EU ones. The end state is to develop efficient means and mechanisms which will help us counter the transfrontalier cybernetic threats and aggressions.

Historical Background

In 2007, a three-level response capability to cybernetic incidents was created at the MoND level, similar to the NATO one:

- level 1 – coordination;
 - level 2 – technical: which ensures the centralized management of the cybernetic events and incidents in MoND;
 - level 3 – operational.
- The capability’s main missions are:
- preventing the cybernetic attacks on the IT and Communication Systems;
 - detection vulnerabilities and intrusions in the IT and Communication Systems;
 - timely reaction to the IT security incidents;
 - ensuring technical support to the system/network administrators for the implementation of the best security practice.

In the context of the evolution of the cybernetic threat, at military level, in 2013, the MoND adopted a conception on cybernetic defence on its responsibilities and missions in the national defence and security field, adapted to the new environments in which the military actions are conducted.

The conception implementation plan stipulated the establishment of certain cyber defence structures that can provide for the prevention and countering of the threats emerging from the cyber space, which will allow the exploitation of the opportunities offered by the cyber environment in order to contribute to gaining informational superiority both at peacetime and during armed conflicts, the state of siege, mobilization and wartime.

Also, the conception integrated lines of actions envisaged by Romania’s Cybernetic Security Strategy approved by Government Decision no.271/2013 and the in-progress measures listed in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Cybernetic Security National System, promote an open inter-institutional cooperation framework, by actively involving the MoND in ensuring cyber security at national level.

The conception sets out the following priority objectives and guidelines in the cyber defence field:

- develop, promote and implement the cyber defence doctrines, policies, guides and standards;
- identify and assess the cyber threats and counter the relevant cyber aggressions against the cyber security of the MoND communications and informational technology infrastructure;

- establish, render operational and develop the cyber defence capabilities by levels of competence, responsibilities, level of expertise and missions which will be sized according to the national interest and the MoND policy in the field of protection of IT , communication structures and cyber space;
- develop and train specialists in the field;
- develop cooperation at national and international levels.

The implementation of the new cybernetic defence concept in the context of a dynamic IT infrastructure, which has constantly undergone changes, is a long-lasting process, having to adapt to the challenges posed by the cyber space. This initiative must be supported by planning and ensuring the human, material and financial resources in order to meet the military operational requirements, identifying and developing the mechanisms necessary to prevent and counter the cyber attacks against the IT infrastructure of strategic interest.

Cybernetic Attacks

The intensification of actions in the cybernetic field and their increased aggressivity requested an adequate response reaction characterized by continuity and efficiency. From this reason, the cyber defence became a major component of the MoND activity. The MoND created the necessary legal framework for the development of such capability that must be able to identify and counter cyber aggressions. If, in a first stage, the goal of cyber attacks over the IT networks was the intelligence gathering, later the goals increased and aimed at producing malfunctions and destroying hardware elements.

Over 2012-2015, cyber-warfare techniques (mainly intelligence collection activities) were conducted with the intention to penetrate the MoND IT systems.

We appreciate that these attacks were planned by structures specialized in conducting information operations within computer networks, which detain own attack instruments, starting with the simplest trojans, viruses and worms and culminating with the *Advanced Persistent Threats (APT)*, which use *complex exploitation techniques* and *massive botnet networks*.

For example, on April 2015, during a cybernetic attack named *SOFACY*, several official *e-mail* addresses from MoND were the target of certain *cyber*-type attacks. The attacks were possible because the initiators had a list with the official *e-mail* addresses of the MoND personnel, which was obtained by accessing several open sources. Following the protection measures implemented within the internet-connected networks and because of their employment only for public information purposes, the risks associated with such attacks cannot cause prejudices or affect the MoND missions at large scale.

Cooperation in the Cybernetic Defence Field

The MoND conducted the following activities in the field of national and international cooperation:

- Signed a memorandum of understanding with NATO, in the military field (MOU POC NATO);

- Participated in the project team reunions in the Cyber Defence field, organized by the European Defence Agency (PTCD EDA)
- Took part in the activities organized as part of “Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cyber Security” Project (PESCO);
- Conducted cooperation activities, at national level, as part of SNSC, according to Government Decision no.271/2013.

Development of Operational Capabilities

The cybernetic defence forces were established in order to share the cyber defence burden within own cybernetic infrastructure and to ensure an increased degree of flexibility when countering aggressions. These forces are made up of: the Cybernetic Defence Command, formations, units and other structures, established according to law.

The Cybernetic Defence Command’s main goal will be to prevent, detect, analyze and respond to the MoND cyber security incidents as well as to manage the associated risks. The Cybernetic Defence Command was established on October 1 2018, as a part of Romanian Armed Forces.

The Cybernetic Defence Command is a command structure subordinated to the Chief of Defence, which plans and conducts the cyber-space missions, ensuring at the same time, through specific capabilities, protection and high resilience to network infrastructure, information technology systems and weapon systems used in the entire spectrum of operations, in domestic or allied environment.

The structure of the Cyber Defence Command is the result of a complex analysis. It derives entirely from the analysis of the missions and tasks of the cyber defence structures and information technology.

The Cyber Defence Command has two subordinate agencies, namely the Cyber Defence Agency and the Information Technology Agency.

When designing the Cyber Defence Command and its subordinate agencies, the following principles were taken into consideration:

- transforming the cyber space into an operational field, according to the decisions made in 2016.
- the implementation of military and civilian standards applied by other nations: the IT Infrastructure Library, functional analysis of the Cyberspace operations, the Federated Mission Networking / FMN, the Projects in a Controlled Environment / PRINCE2, the Open Group Architecture Framework / TOGAF, the NCIA organization model and NATO Cyberspace Operations Center (CyOC) organization model;
- the implementation of the cloud model, which is essential both for the improvement of the quality of services provided to users and for the protection of cyber infrastructures;

Finally, the Cyber Defence Command activity will be based on organizational processes and not on persons.



#WEARENATO

Campaign on Defence and Security

PARTNERS
TRANSPARENT
WE ARE
WE ARE

The WeAreNATO campaign highlights how unity and solidarity between Allies contributes to protecting peace and security for citizens across the Alliance. The communications campaign will depict the central role and importance of NATO in maintaining Euro-Atlantic security and the ways in which the Alliance uses diplomacy, military strength and technological advancements to secure peace. By this campaign, Romania aims at improving the perception and trust of the young audience (aged 16-24) in NATO structures' capacity of protecting its population and the allied territory and will mainly focus on facilitating the youth access to information about NATO by means of different manifestations especially dedicated to them, supported by a virtual component. Also, the MoND will organize meetings of the pupils and students with the allied soldiers deployed in mission to Romania in order to better exemplify the significance of North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the way the Allies act together within the NATO-led operations and missions.

The first step in planning the WeAreNATO campaign in Romania was the signing of an inter-institutional project by the ministries involved in the project which provides the legal basis for the organization of the campaign manifestations. At the MoND level, the defence minister approved a campaign planning matrix.

The conferences held in the university centers for the 18-24 year old target audiences are organized with the approval of the rectors. The Information and Public Relations Directorate, with the support of the Department for Armaments, introduced a WeAreNATO sequence, as part of the **PatriotFest** innovation competition, run in civilian universities by the MoND, in partnership with other defence institutions.

For the youth aged 16-18 years, the campaign integrates WeAreNATO sequences within the projects run by MoND in the civilian high-schools, such as: "The Armed Forces-A different School" and "The Romanian Armed Forces' Day in Schools". Also, the campaign introduced WeAreNATO sequences within military profession promotion caravans run throughout the country by all three Services.

Information and Public Relations Directorate (IPRD) fully uses the potential and opportunities offered by the Services academies and the Military Technical Academy in the civil university centers with a view of identifying certain projects which can involve civilian students of the partner universities to organize WeAreNATO conferences. Thus, such WeAreNATO conferences were held at the Military Technical Academy and "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy, another one being scheduled to take place at the "Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces' Academy from Braşov.

IPRD aims at adding certain WeAreNATO sequences in other projects run by MoND structures in the high-schools and university centers, in order to integrate public information elements with respect to NATO specificity.

On the occasion of NATO Day celebration, on April 1st 2018, the IPRD suggested displaying presentations on NATO's role within the current regional security context during the manifestations organized in the military units or in the public space, with the attendance of the target audience. Also, the IPRD supports NATO activities (exercises, operations, ceremonies and official visits) by using certain visual identity elements and sending certain message elements. At the same time, IPRD has a constant dialogue with the Romanian Non-Governmental Organizations interested in running certain WeAreNATO projects, supporting these organizations by

WE ARE ALLIES WE ARE SAFE

sending its speakers to conferences, by the overall usage of the visual identity elements of the campaign and by promoting the events both on its official social media channels and in the military press.

The interest of the target audiences in the projects conducted so far as well as in other events organized throughout 2018 creates the preconditions for considering the WeAreNATO campaign a successful one due to the positive feedback received by the campaign coordinators from the NATO HQ.

Phase Two of the campaign began in 2019 and will be conducted through specialized meetings, round-tables and debates on specific topics such as military history, political science, communications, military medicine, science and technology. It will be dedicated to groups of students interested in a particular topic in NATO.

The 22nd of March 2019, marked the beginning of phase two in the We Are NATO campaign, a major event, organized in the biggest University of the capital, Bucharest University, where the focus was on revealing the form in which the main targeted audience will be engaged

throughout the year. With the minister of National Defence, Gabriel Beniamin-Leș, the Minister of National Education, Ecaterina Andronescu and the Foreign Affairs State Secretary, Victor Micula, all present at the activity, the emphasis was placed on the importance of the Alliance in this international security context, why NATO members are stronger together, and the fact that the young public must be aware that the organization is a guarantor of security and safety for all its members. We have been living in a period of peace and security for 15 years now, and we'll continue to do so.

Under the umbrella of *Romania – 15 years in NATO. 70 years since the establishment of NATO*, the campaign had its first competition launch event on the 4th of April 2019, in Bucharest, at the Politehnica University, where the technology students from all over the country, were challenged to put their inventions or papers in a run for the best project, related to the military and NATO domain.

At the University of Fine Arts *George Enescu*, from Iasi, the art students were

➤ WE ARE NATO Conference at
“Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces’ Academy



WE ARE UNITED WE ARE STRONG

given a similar challenge, that of competing for the best graphics, under the same thematic scenery.

Cluj-Napoca was the next stop for the We Are NATO campaign, on the 18th of April, at the Babes-Bolyai University, where history, security, international and political studies students embraced their own challenge – that of elaborating papers on *Romania – 15 years in NATO*.

Alongside the Photo exhibition: *Romania-N.A.T.O. – from partnership to an alliance, in the fight against terrorism, for a safer and better world*, from the National Military Museum from Bucharest, 3 more competitions are about to be delivered to the young public, in Tirgu-Mures, Constanța and Timișoara, that of the best article regarding a NATO military, the best medical paper on the

treatment of wounds suffered in NATO missions and the best PR brochure for *Romania – 15 years in NATO. 70 years since the establishment of NATO*.

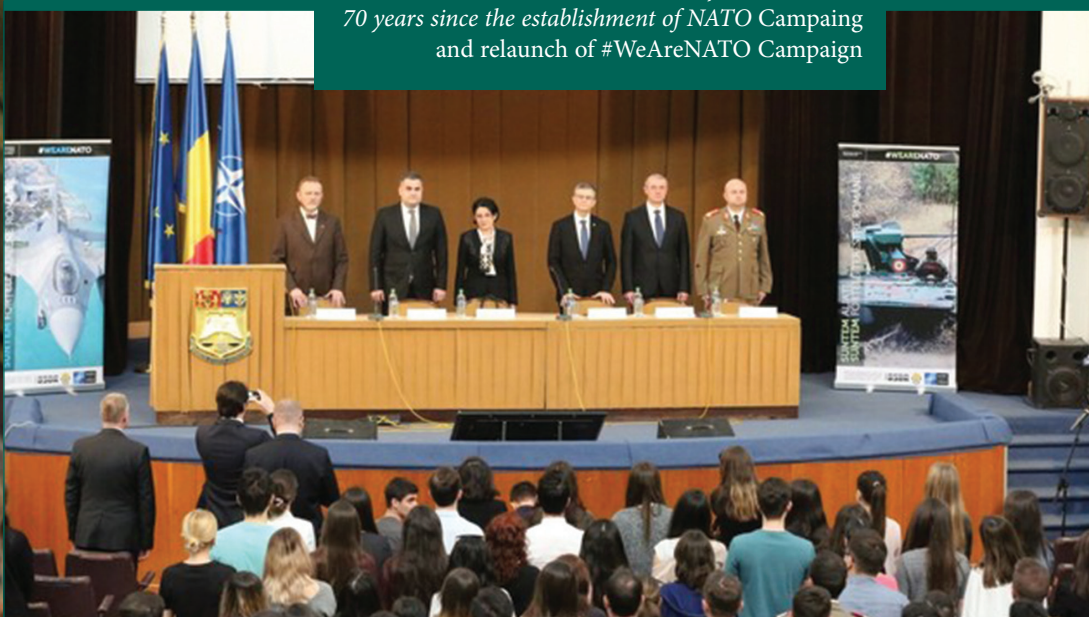
Reaching out to the targeted audience, from spring till autumn, offers us the possibility to interact and show how NATO is addressing today's security challenges – through diplomacy, consensus and cooperation, but also tomorrow's security challenges – through them, the young generation, by always investing, adapting and innovating.

You can find details on each competition on https://www.mapn.ro/nato_15_ani/.

An audience-led campaign, We Are NATO is going to continue its work throughout the entire year, informing and keeping a high level of awareness of NATO's aim and method of functioning.



➤ Relaunch of *Romania – 15 years in NATO. 70 years since the establishment of NATO* Campaign and relaunch of #WeAreNATO Campaign





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romania2019.eu

Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union