THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE SPECIFIC CRISIS MANAGEMENT TOOLS

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Abstract: *Currently, the EU is in an advanced stage of the process of unifying context in which relations between the Member States are no longer held exclusively on a specific set of norms and rules of transnational diplomacy. The UE is increasingly more and more embedded in a complex network of relationships which were rooted to an increasing number of areas coordinated centrally from Brussels. This paper try a succint presentation of the European Union crises management tools considering that the EU foreign policy shows that it developed gradually, a structural foreign policy that transcends pillars of the EU and is closely linked to a structural diplomacy specific and different from traditional diplomacy.*

Key words: *Crisis management, defence, security.*

The disappearance of specific bipolar order of the Cold War led for granting a particular importance of international organizations, the 90's knowing an unprecedented momentum in the development of bilateral and multilateral collaboration on security. Generally, the security environment has undergone an extensive transformation and shaping characterized by the occurrence of antagonistic tendencies, such as expanding democratization, upholding human rights and market economy, simultaneous with the enlarging cooperation and integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, the disintegration and fragmentation of multiethnic state entities. The end of bipolarity has created conditions favorable to building an improved security architecture for the entire Euro-Atlantic area and also other area, such as Middle East, which aiming at the same time increase global security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, avoiding in this way the redrawing of geopolitical dividing lines of the world.

The social changes that took place in Europe in the late twentieth century are reflected especially in the fields of defense and security, offering particular attention to the positive aspects of these changes, such as: replacing the confrontation with the friendship, developing of partnership activities, reducing armed forces in both the East and the West, as well as the continuous opening and the demilitarization of the societies. All these changes have imposed a reassessment of security requirements, a development of mechanisms and procedures in national security policy and crisis management, a major restructuring and a reduction in the

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military system, a reorientation of military officers and also of their philosophy (in general), as well as a long-term reform in the military, industrial field and in the production system.[3]

The period of peace and stability that the Europe has crossed at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century was due to the European Union which did not only a high level of economic development, but also a new approach to the security, based on peaceful settlement of disputes and multilateral cooperation through shared institutions. Along with the EU an important role in providing the European security have had U.S. by supporting the European integration and the security commitments concerning Europe taken within NATO.[5]

Redefining the rules on international security in the post-bipolar era has raised problems not only practical but also conceptual. These difficulties were caused by several factors such as: after the post-Cold War the international environment has become more dynamic and complex (than during the war); the lack of consensus on how to tackle the international security has enabled manifestation of various groups of interest at all levels so in this context they could not developed consistent policy; due to the proliferation of access to the information in real time (the so-called "CNN effect") the political leaders were forced (often) to take decisions of moment which not permit depth assessment; the lack of a reasonable security model for most countries has favored to take a series of ad-hoc responses.[1]

Given the fact that most analysts believe that at the beginning of the 21st century the main actors with a global impact on security are: USA, Europe, Russia, China and Japan, Zbigniew Brzezinski gives another perspective on security problem considering that the essence of the new

structure security of the world is in the relationship between the U.S. and Eurasia (this includes besides Europe, Russia, China and Japan). Within this structure Brzezinski identifies two Eurasian triangles of power: on the one hand, U.S. - Europe - Russia, on the other hand, U.S. - China - Japan, in each of these triangles of power one power (Europe and Japan) having as a basic principle the idea of stability and international security, and other powers (China and Russia) remaining interested in any geopolitical change.[1]

Despite the upward trend in the context of specific geopolitical repositioning from 90's in some parts of Europe, especially the Balkans, erupted several ethnic crisis. European Union intervention was operative in these regional crises, but also in other areas of conflict, such as Afghanistan, Congo, East Timor, Kashmir, Korean Peninsula or the Middle East.

Regarding the evolution of international conflicts, during 1990-2000 there were a number of 56 major armed world conflicts in 44 different areas; most of these conflicts occurred in 1990-1994, the annual number of armed conflicts being between 30 and 33; the lowest number of conflicts was in the 1996 and 1997, 23/19 conflicts.[5]

From the total conflicts recorded in the period 1990-2000, only three were non interstate conflicts, in other 53 were about internal conflicts caused by coups or military expeditions focused on conquering territory. The next decade (2000-2010) was marked by numerous terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, the date of September 11, 2001 requiring a new approach in approaching security issues.

Returning to the European Union and its involvement in international crisis management, the integration of new Member States has strengthened its position, over time, on the international

scene and reach the global largest trading partner and biggest provider of aid for developing countries. The EU is ranked the third in the world (after China and India), considering the population size and the impact on trade, economic and financial the organization appears as a major power in the world, making most of the world trade and generating also a quarter of global wealth. In this context, the size and economic strength of the European Union imposed the assuming of some additional responsibilities, the actions taken proves that it is a leading provider of financial and consultancy assistance for poorer countries. [8]

The European Security Strategy (presented by Javier Solana on 20, July 2003, under the title: "A Secure Europe in a Better World") adopted by the European Council, on 12 December 2003, started from the premise that "the Union is a global player" and "thus should be ready to assume the responsibilities of global security".[7]

The European Union foreign policy and security is focuses on management crisis missions and peacekeeping in Europe and around the world, is engaging increasingly more in conflict prevention, the post-conflict institutional reconstruction, also, in maintaining peace and counter terrorism activities. The EU's foreign and security policy is based on the so-called "soft power - the recourse to the assisted diplomacy, where is necessary trade measures, aid and peacekeeping, to resolve conflicts and to reach agreement on international level".[6] The "soft" european defense policy also requires the development of management military tools specifically in humanitarian crisis by developing Petersberg agreements and by the mission of increase the European presence wherever needed.

Since 1992, the European Union (under the Treaty of Maastricht) founded the dimension of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), according to which may undertake joint action when the interests of the Union demand it. Because the EU works to promote and maintain stability around the world, defending has become an increasingly important element of the CFSP, in close collaboration with other countries and international organizations when problems of terrorism, international crime, trafficking drugs, illegal immigration and addressing the planetary aspects, such as for example, environment protection.[8]

The European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) is a relatively recent intergovernmental UE's instrument, subsumed under the broader foreign policy and security, the evolving conceptual were in 1998 and operationalized in 2003, when it was adopted the European Security Strategy (ESS) and were launched, also, the first missions.

In the last years the EU has reoriented the foreign and security policy towards preventing the conflicts, ESDP being one of the tools developed in this sense; this change is due to the fact that since 1990 more than 4 million people died in conflicts around the world (90% of whom were civilians).[8] In addition to rapid response missions, which have the power to intervene at an early stage of the crisis, ESDP has the function of collecting and analyzing information, and the ability to monitor the application of international agreements in order to anticipate potential conflicts. The ESDP implies the development of a capacity for autonomous decision if the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO), as a whole, is not engaged, the launch and coordinate military operations under EU's authority, as a response to emergency, the employing of resource by Member States to such operations, based on sovereign decisions.

The European Rapid Reaction Force was formally established in 2007, even though combined European military forces have been deployed long before in some areas of conflict in the world. The Rapid Reaction Force duties as part of the European Security and Defence include a range of possible missions from humanitarian tasks, rescue to helping victims of conflicts, the peace-keeping tasks, crisis management and establishing peace.[9]

The institutionalization of activity concerning conflict prevention, peace-building and internal stability of states, zones or regions in crisis or threatened by crises has been done by the establishment of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, which is the fourth permanent body of the ESDP, having as tasks the providing of information, recommendations and opinions of the Political and Security Committee.[4]

The EU's operations emergency aid are achieved through the Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), which is the EU's humanitarian aid service. Since its establishment (in 1992) ECHO has been active in more than 100 countries around the world, being present in all outbreaks of crisis, including Iraq, Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territories and in many parts of Africa in crisis areas already forgotten or in instability post-conflict areas, such as: Chechnya, Kashmir, Nepal, Burma (Myanmar), the Western Sahara and Colombia, providing essential equipment and emergency supplies from its annual budget; ECHO also finances medical teams, experts in mine clearing, transport and communications, food aid and logistical support.[10]

The EU providing humanitarian aid through three main tools: emergency aid, food aid and aid to refugees from conflict-affected areas and displaced persons within the country or region in a state of war.

The EU operations in emergencies is mainly in Middle East, Asia and especially in Africa, there are in present post-conflict operations in Liberia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Darfur (in western Sudan) and in neighboring regions of Chad.[11]

A new financing instrument for the promoting democracy in external relations and the human rights worldwide was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 20 December 2006; this tool was designed to complement other mechanisms available, ranging from political dialogue and diplomatic demarches to various instruments of financial and technical cooperation, to supplement the interventions in the crises situations.[11]

Since 2007 the EU has implemented the Instrument for Stability (which replaces the Rapid Reaction Mechanism), its main component allowing for management of measures to respond to crisis situations whose duration is less than eighteen months. The Instrument for Stability covers several activities that support the mediation actions, the measures for establishing of a climate of confidence, establishment and functioning of an interim administration, transitional justice arrangements, civilian measures concerning the demobilization and reintegration of combatants and the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the response in disaster.[12]

The european constitutional project contains provisions which delimited the field of EU external actions (common commercial policy, common foreign policy, common security and defense policy, development cooperation, the Community assistance), inserting some new elements regarding: extending of Petersberg missions, the establishment of an Agency regarding the European Armaments, Research and Military

Capabilities, applying structured cooperation in international missions, the possibility of closer cooperation within EU states and the introduction of a mutual defense and solidarity clauses for cases of occurrence of terrorist attacks and natural or man disasters.[12]

The Treaty of Lisbon which came into effect on 1 December 2009, consolidates the institutional approach to foreign and security policy, mention the establishment of the post of High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, the establishment of the European External Action Service; this treaty mention, also, some concrete measures for implementing the provisions concerning objectives of the Policy Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).[13] The Treaty seeks a more efficient mode of action of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), set to become a CSDP policy and paying particular attention to civilian dimension of crisis management.

Starting with the Summit from Saint Malo, in December 1998, the EU has expressed his availability to perform autonomous crisis management missions. In July 1999, at the Cologne, the European Council decided that "the Union must have the capacity for autonomous action, supported by credible military forces, decision-making mechanisms for their use and the preparation to respond adequately to international crises without prejudice the actions of NATO"; this capability has been implemented from 2003, when the EU launched under the auspices of four ESDP, Petersberg tasks operations, three in Europe and one in Africa.[2]

Engaging in numerous missions demonstrates the contribution that the European Union has been brings in international crisis management by approaching of various global action by coordinating the civilian and military means, but also in terms of eradicating the major threats such as: the proliferation of weapons of mass terrorism and organized crime, the cybersecurity, the energy security, the consequences of the climate change, the regional conflicts, the states which are in a process of involution.[14]

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