

# RULE OF LAW, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA

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**Abstract:** *Threats, risks and perils we are facing today are complex and atypical. The importance of limited natural resources is put under debate more than anytime before by great world actors through new security concepts.*

*One major future problem of any community is the problem of resources, mainly of energy resources. Energy represents an essential logistic support of the modern society and that is why ensuring energy resources stands as a key element in keeping the state of security.*

*Increasing the community energy security actually means increased energy security for Romania, while our country's energy security may ensure greater energy security at the European level.*

**Keywords:** *security; security policy; energy resources; economic crisis; economic power.*

## Introduction

**H**aving witnessed a lengthy economic crisis, the current security environment, characterized by asymmetric as well as conventional threats, emphasizes the importance of the realistic and timely identification of the type of threat, of anticipating vulnerabilities and the pragmatic and efficient means of solving them.

The threats, risks and perils we are facing today are complex and atypical as they are the outcome of human action as well as the way in which the society intervenes in solving the problems which are of the society itself.

The importance of limited natural resources is put under debate more than anytime before by great world actors through new security concepts.

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Actually, natural resources have always been the trigger of latest major confrontations, without decreasing the power of the one who owns or exploits them.

In order to understand the complexity and the relational character of security, the latter needs to be viewed today through the way in which the society is able to ensure and protect the degree of welfare and prosperity. Thus, security studies emphasize the fact that we can differentiate at least five fields of security in the contemporary society (political, economic, military, environmental and societal)<sup>1</sup>. Still, one of these fields may be of greater importance and incidence over the society at a certain moment, though this is not always correctly mirrored (military security seems to be less important than the economic one).

One major future problem of any community is the problem of resources, mainly of energy resources.

As far as this aspect is concerned, the energy security of Romania, as a NATO and EU member as well as being an important decision-making factor in the Black Sea region, depends on economic cooperation and a solid strategic and energy partnership between the EU and Russia. We also need to keep in mind the possibility of maximizing the geo-strategic advantages, taking into account the energy potential and, last but not least, the possibility of becoming a key transit corridor between Eastern producers and Western consumers.

### **Security in the contemporary society**

The concept of security is a relative and not an absolute one, taking into account the numerous existing definitions of the term. Projecting it nationally, internationally and at the level of the individual entails certain gradualism of approaching. The more and more visible interdependence of political, military, economic, technologic, social and geographic factors extends the concept of security.

Being understood as state, security must not be taken for the potential or the actions undertaken for ensuring it, nor for the security policy of the state. Actually, this is a process parameter and not a state parameter, taking into account the attempts of getting absolute security of an actor of the

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<sup>1</sup> Barry Buzan, *Popoarele, statele și teama*, Chișinău , Editura Cartier, 2000, p. 32.

international system can lead to the contrary effect. The countermeasures of other actors can lead to insecurity, to the final decreasing of the security level of the initiator.

Security can be viewed as an ongoing and dynamic process in point of the policy it supports. The process comprises strategies, resources and efforts in the social sphere, through which the interests of existing social macro-groups. That is why security many times appears as a necessity in supporting the functioning of the social organization in function of the action of disturbing factors that generate insecurity.

Specialists in the field mention that the security policy presupposes “a strategic framework and an action plan through which current and future threats are tackled”<sup>2</sup>.

### **Energy security in the contemporary society**

An analysis of security sectors based on its object (society, state, economy, energy, environment, social, religious, ethnic group, individual, culture etc.), and of its levels in point of space (global, national, regional, local) can lead to designing diagrams that would mostly answer some of the existing questions, but they would also clear confusions which might appear in dealing with some security issues.

A security policy can determine at a certain moment, on basis of various perceptions of the security risk produced, a set of criteria and objective factors, but mostly subjective factors. And this may happen as the priority stands the security of a certain social domain which presupposes threats in the national or regional space and ignoring a different domain.

Having this under discussion, we can talk about various levels or spheres of security. Understanding threats or choosing the solutions that might be considered when setting up security policies could become unclear, provided semantic expansion of terms (economic, energy, ecologic, regional security etc.) did not take this aspect under consideration. There are two possibilities when choosing the target and the type of threat that needs fought against.

Focusing mainly on the economic security policy does not entail eliminating the preoccupation over national security. Priorities are set by the

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<sup>2</sup> *Securing an Open Society : Canada's National Security Policy*, în [www.pco-bcp.gc.ca](http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca) accesat la 07.05.2014.

players on the international stage in function of the type of threats as well as of the degree of risk that might be undertaken.

### **National security and energy resources**

The evolution of the human society, as well as its economic development has been permanently and decisively influenced by energy resources. Actually, gas and oil keep being a solid reason for cooperation, but also for disputes on the international stage in point of control, access, owning, supplying and employing them. States' priorities, foreign policy, security and economy are more and more consistently set by this aspect.

Ensuring the energy security requires at present even more than in the past, correlations of political and military aspects of security as a whole. Moreover, the latter are taking a greater stand as a separate aspect of global, regional and national security.

The welfare and individual security interests cannot be met without ensuring the economic security, not to mention the energy security. For this reason, vulnerabilities, risks, threats and perils on the part of the individual need be overcome in order to achieve energy stability.

The European Union, a serious energy consumer, has a vulnerable position on the global market. The authorities in Brussels are dealing with this issue, having in mind the dependence on the energy resources of the Russian Federation, as well as the great risk of economic development.

Irrespective of the official position in Brussels, Romania owns a wide, although limited in point of quantity, range of primary energy resources (natural gas, oil, coal, uranium ore), but also a relatively low potential of renewable resources which can be employed. In the past, Romania made use of important non-renewable energy resources, while today hydrocarbon deposits have become limited as new important deposits have not been discovered and domestic production has declined.

Current natural gas deposits are approximately 49.29 billion m<sup>3</sup>, while oil reserves are over 60 mil. tons<sup>3</sup>. Should we consider reducing these deposits, the role of local coal should increase in the energy balance of the country.

The uranium ore is necessary in producing nuclear fuel for the Cernavoda nuclear electric units and that is why the former is of paramount

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eia.doe.gov/countries/country-data.cfm> accesat în data de 07.05.2014

importance for the national economy. Moreover, special emphasis is laid on the future development of the nuclear energy program.

Renewable energy resources in Romania which are themselves scarce in point of economic evolution and consumption needs, are more and more often brought under discussion. Romania's technical hydraulic potential is about 36.000 GWh/year. According to the Minister of the Environment, "Romania has promised that the electricity coming from green resources would represent by 2020, 38% of the national consumption. Taking into account the potential that our country has in this respect, the targets are feasible for Romania"<sup>4</sup>.

The solar energy is another type of renewable energy, whose potential is about 1.100 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year. According to experts in the field, the solar potential, employed at maximum, could generate 50% of the domestic water or 15% of the household heat<sup>5</sup>. This alternative resource has been only experimentally and poorly employed in households.

Employing the whole biomass potential through entirely using logging residues, sawdust and other wood refuse, agricultural waste coming from grain, corn stalks, vegetal vine waste, as well as urban domestic waste and residues could cover 89% of the heat necessary in households and for preparing food in rural areas<sup>6</sup>.

Having these in mind, the main objectives of developing the energy sector in Romania are the following:

*Supply security* (respecting national options in the energy field and maintaining national sovereignty in point of primary energy resources);

*Durability* (promoting producing renewable resources primary energy which should ensure by 2020 energy consumption of 38 % out of renewable resources);

*Competitiveness* (entails among other things pursuing development and perfecting mechanisms of competing markets through electricity, natural gas and energy services; active participation in building up a

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<sup>4</sup> Romania's energy strategy between 2007-2020), on <http://www.minind.ro/presa/Strategia.pdf>. accessed on 12.05.2014.

<sup>5</sup> Solar energy is slightly used only as an experiment, playing a minor role in Romania's energy production.

□ Adelina Vlad, Cum sa faci bani din producția de energie regenerabilă, in Curierul Național on 31.07. 2009.

regional energy market and a unique European market; increasing the interconnecting capacity by 2020).

### **Conclusions**

Peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without ensuring security of all domains, including the economic security. Reaching a certain level of economic security depends on the state capacity of employing resources domestically, but also getting or maintaining access to foreign economic resources.

Energy security, as a vital aspect of economic security, is tightly linked to any endeavor of any actor involved in the owning, exploiting, producing, shipping, distributing and consuming energy chain, with the aim of influencing or controlling the others. That is why any economy dependent on foreign energy resources, irrespective of its degree of development, constantly faces the energy risk. The energy security of an actor presupposes the energy security of other actors the latter interacts in this respect.

Solving the issues of national energy resources should, in the long run, represent a priority which should be less politically conditioned, while, economically, should be accepted and managed equally and reciprocally with potential partners.

Energy represents an essential logistic support of the modern society and that is why ensuring energy resources is a key element in keeping the security state. As far as NATO and EU are concerned and taking into account huge energy resources and the possibilities of employing them, this aspect generates an unprecedented interest in the Black Sea enlarged region. The region itself is a guarantee of energy security in Europe for the years to come.

With its geographic position in the region, Romania can be a key geostrategic actor. This situation could be viewed as a huge opportunity mostly because its geographic position could help our country actively take part in developing masterly oil and natural gas pan-European projects.

National energy resources deposits are constantly decreasing, while Russia acts as the main energy supplier of energy shortage in Romania. And this should be the mere starting point for any discussion on ensuring Romania's energy security.

The state goes on being the owner of relatively important energy resources. Still, Romania cannot meet its own resources for domestic

consumption, given the economic crisis, the globalization, but also the increasing competitiveness on regional and international markets.

Increasing the community energy security means better security energy for Romania as well as the energy security of our country might entail better European security energy. Such security can mainly be obtained within European energy interdependencies, but in an advantageous partnership between the European Union and Russia. Thus, it becomes very clear the major role energy resources play in ensuring the national security.



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