

ROMANIA, REGIONAL STABILITY PILLAR

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Abstract: *Why is the security of the Black Sea region important? Or, is the Black Sea important at all or more important than the Baltic Sea? What states are particularly concerned with the security situation in this region? These are questions which the hereby article attempts to answer, in a coordinated approach which takes into account the existing security challenges and threats, the existing actors of the international community and especially one riparian state – Romania. By emphasizing the steps undertaken by this country in becoming a security provider, our intention is to conclude that the Ally and EU member state Romania is a reliable stability pillar in the region and that, besides national efforts, for any “construction” in the region to last, it needs the constant and active support of the North-Atlantic Alliance and the EU.*

Keywords: *Romania, Black Sea, strategic, NATO, regional, deterrence.*

CONTEXT

Placed at the intersection of Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia, the geopolitical region of the Black Sea is an important transit area for energy resources and a space for asymmetric risks, but also for outbreaks of conflict, which have a substantial impact on Euro-Atlantic security.

The post-2014 timeframe, immediately after the illegal annexation by the Russian Federation of the Crimean Peninsula, and up to the present has been, as far as the Black Sea region is concerned, a period of gradual awareness, by the international community, of its strategic importance. Strengthening Russia's military capabilities in the region and the so-called A2/AD (anti-access and regional ban systems); the efforts of some riparian allies to make other NATO member states aware of the importance of NATO engagement in the area; Allied military exercises – all these are elements which have built the present canvas of a region whose security needs to be strengthened and constantly ensured.

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