EUROPEAN UNION'S STRATEGIES FOR STRENGHTENING THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract: *Security can be perceived as a dynamic process that constantly relates to new types of threats from the external environment that tend to adapt to the vulnerabilities of a state, amplifying the security risk at regional level. This represents a primary goal within the policies of the European Union, including in the relationship with third countries, which is why, through the security strategies and the security activities carried out, it aims to ensure the safety of all citizens in the European space.*

Keywords: *European Union, security, strategy, threats, european citizens.*

Goals of the European Security and Defense Policy of the European Union

The period that followed the end of the Cold War is defined by the outbreak of a series of crises within several states, which is why the military forces of the European states participated to numerous missions in regions such as the Balkans, Afghanistan, Somalia, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thus, the USA has become the main state with a significant role in asssuring the European security, both through the security commitments towards Europe undertaken within NATO, and through the support given for the European integration.

At the same time, the international security environment changed after the terrorist attacks from September 11, 2001, in the sense that there were new types of threats from the external environment that European states cope with, such as terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, economic criminality and corruption, cybercrime, cyber attacks, human trafficking or arms trafficking.

These threats have experienced a fast evolution and have acquired new forms, jeopardizing the security by undermining the main values underlying the existence and development of the rule of law. Given this

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