

POSSIBILITIES OF ROMANIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN ARMY

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Abstract: *Is there a European army or not? Do we need a EU army or not? A controversial subject, supported by some and criticized by others, the European army is a desired goal by France, which could thus strengthen its position in Europe and gain advantages from militarization.*

But what are Romania's interests, how open are the officials from Bucharest on the topic of the creation of the European army and what are the chances of our country participating in it?

The present paper represents a theoretical and analytical research on the possibility of Romania's participation in the European Army. Its purpose is to analyze the internal and external factors that can influence both the existence of such an organization and Romania's possibility of being included in it. Thus, the article brings to attention the factors that influence Romania's participation in the European Army and its implications.

Also, this paper takes into account the need for a quick intervention of an armed force in the context of the increasing risks to which EU states are exposed, the most recent example being the threat of Russia.

Keywords: *European army, EU army, security, European security and defense policy, threat, EU, NATO, Romania, armed conflict, war, Strategic Compass, US, France, Emmanuel Macron.*

Introduction

Romania officially joined NATO (North Atlantic Alliance) on March 29, 2004. As a NATO member, our country benefits from the North Atlantic Alliance's security guarantee and is also engaged in participating in various NATO missions and operations. "*Our entire participation in the Alliance's activity aims to ensure the security and defense of Romania and the region which we are a part of, as well as strengthening NATO as a collective defense alliance*"¹.

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¹ Press Comunicate-Participarea secretarului de stat Dan Neculăescu la reuniunea ministerială dedicată proiectului Busolei Strategice a UE, available at <http://www.mae.ro>, accessed on 13.10.2023.