

THE NEW EURO-ATLANTIC COOPERATION DIMENSION – THE SMART DEFENCE INITIATIVE

*Dr. Mihai-Ştefan DINU**

The beginning of the 21st century brought critical transformations on the background of the strategic changes initiated by the major actors involved in the energy resources competition, after a financial crisis that led to austerity budget planning. This fact affected the defence budgets too, especially those of the European countries. That is why at the Chicago NATO Summit a new defence initiative was launched, an initiative that would support the European defence sector through collaboration in the wider framework of NATO. In our opinion, this new initiative – Smart Defence – will reopen on new bases the development of transatlantic relations.

Keywords: USA; EU; European Union; Europe; defence; armament; Romania; Smart Defence; Pooling & Sharing

Introduction

The new international context has become, especially after the 2008 financial crisis, increasingly complicated. The competition for resources has intensified, echoes of the Arab Spring phenomenon have turned into a bloody civil war in Syria and the major international actors are adapting differently to these changing conditions. The U.S. planned to transfer its major strategic effort from the Atlantic to the Pacific area based on the strengthened positions of China and Russia in the region; China continues its race to accumulate energy resources, mean time transforming its army and military equipment, while Russia is strengthening – based on the financial resources gained from the exploitation of natural energy resources and rare metal provided by its national territory – a dominant position as compared

* Mihai-Ştefan Dinu, PhD – senior researcher at the Centre for Defence and Security Strategic Studies, National Defence University "Carol I", Bucharest, Romania. E-mail: mihaistdinu@yahoo.co.uk.