

# NATO'S "SMART DEFENCE" BETWEEN THEORETICAL CONCEPT AND REALITY

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*The article briefly presents the developments in time of the cooperation of the NATO member countries over the complex issue of constituting common defence capabilities with bigger emphasis on the last few years (2010-2012) following the difficulties emerging after the effects of the world economic crisis.*

*The author presents how the wording of the "Smart defence" concept was reached and presented in detail to the NATO Summit in Chicago, on May, 20-21, 2012, its content and constitutive elements in the vision of NATO's officials, the agreement of the member states inclusively of Romania on its implementation in the coming years.*

*In the end, we approach how Romania can contribute to the concept and its weaknesses related to the defence budget, the defence industry situation and the political will of the people responsible with the national security and the defence of the country.*

**Keywords:** NATO Summit, Chicago, C4ISR, cooperation, the New NATO Strategic Concept - Lisbon 2010, Romania and „Smart defence“.

## 1. Developments in time

**F**or a long time there have been debates in the NATO structures and the member countries framework **on the creation and operation** of some common military capabilities (i.e., equipment, services, maintenance, personnel training, resolution of complex issues related to compatibility and interoperability), without formulating a clear concept of the „**Smart defence**“ type.

In reality, a thorough analysis of the North-Atlantic organization history reveals many and consistent examples of close cooperation between some

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