

THE EUROPEAN ISSUE BEHIND THE “SMART DEFENCE” INITIATIVE

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In 2012, a new initiative in defence planning caught the attention of the entire Euro-Atlantic community, i.e., “smart defence” and its European corollary, “pooling and sharing”. Basically, the two concepts define a new manner to make defence investments more efficient in the context created by the world economic and financial crisis. But, in our opinion, this initiative also has deeper significances at the strategic level and its implementation presupposes serious challenges. The present paper analyses the “smart defence” implications not only for the European security, but also for EU and NATO’s future roles on the international arena.

Keywords: “smart defence”; “pooling and sharing”; world economic and financial crisis; challenges; defence planning; defence investment.

Introduction

The nowadays’ European security environment seems to be defined by multiple challenges, represented by social upheavals, political dissensions, severe economic turbulences, and, last but not least, a legitimacy crisis identifiable at the level of Brussels authorities. The fact that all this was caused and amplified by the economic and financial crisis is no news, as well as the fact that Europe was not the only region severely affected by this global phenomenon, the US and NATO being other relevant examples in this respect.

The military has not been spared of these trends. Military budgets decreased all over the world, and neither the EU, nor NATO, nor the US are exceptions to this tendency. At the same time, at present, security and defence concerns are as necessary as they have always been, while security risks and threats are still a current reality. International terrorism, the proliferation of weapons

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