

THE MAIN DECISIONS OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING, ON SEPTEMBER 2014

*Colonel (ret.) Professor Eugen SITEANU, Phd**
*Colonel (ret.) Professor Benone ANDRONIC, Phd***

Abstract: *The paper is generous and full of political and security significances and also represents an issue of high interest, given the latest developments in the Euroatlantic Area in general, and in the wider Black Sea Area in particular.*

Keywords: *NATO Summit; Heads of State and Government; Nord-Atlantic Council; conclusions; statement/declaration; security.*

Introduction

The political, economic and military implications of Russia's actions against Ukraine are dramatic against the states in the environment on NATO's eastern borders. Romania has undergone all the effects of the negative evolutions in this Area.

General overview

On September 11th, 2001, during the terrorist attacks on the United States a deep melancholy settled down upon Romania's spirit. A deadly chill has gone to our Romanian hearts. Since 2001 everything had changed.

Since the critical moment on September 11th, the strategies of the United States and of the member countries of NATO have developed from a defense planning (depending on threats) into a new one based on capabilities. "In order

* Professor eng., PhD, Commercial Academy of Satu Mare and "Carol I" National Defence University; AOSR associate; vice president of Alumni Association within "Carol I" NDU; e-mail: esiteanu@yahoo.com; tel.:0720566911

** Professor eng., PhD, "Carol I" National Defence University; e-mail:benoneandronic@yahoo.com.

to counteract a series of various and atypical threats and risks, the military system required a modular structure, agility and flexibility”¹.

NATO has implemented the Strategic Concept for defence and security, adopted in Lisbon in November 2010, to be more “effective in a changing world, against new threats with new capabilities and new partners”².

“Russian Federation national security strategy until 2020” was published in 2009, the Strategy presents some aspects of political, economic, cultural and military evolvments of Russia in the near future. Euro-Atlantic political and military leaders should pay more attention to Russia’s strategic intentions.

The Russian Strategy is an essential resource for learning about the reconfiguration of the Russian strategic interests and the Russia’s dogfight for military and political supremacy in the environment on NATO’s eastern periphery.

In June 2014, the rebel troops have taken over the control of South-Eastern part of Ukraine. Since then the Military situation in the South-Eastern Ukraine get worst and altered dramatically the whole region. Crimeea declared independence and was annexed to the Russia.

The Russian military actions came as a strong response to Ukraine’s “choice of leaning towards the West”³.

The insecurity environment in the Wider Black Sea Area was created by Russia’s military actions. Vladimir Putin maintains “weak satellites, vulnerable and fragile, unable to make a choice on their own and fully depending on Russian commercial benevolence”⁴. But in the Moldovan Republic this effort paid by Putin has not reached its purpose because “the Communist Party is facing dissolution” and the signing of the Association Agreement with the EU was a fulfilment of 2014 year.

Some conclusions

NATO Summit has hold in Newport (Wales-UK) “at a pivotal moment in Euro-Atlantic security” with “long-term consequences for peace

¹ Teodor Frunzeti, Concept Development and Experimentation, Journal of Military Science Issue No.2 (13), Year VII, 2007, p. 15.

² Eugen Bădălan, Eugen Siteanu, The signifiance of NATO’s strategic concept for defence and security, adopted in Lisbon in November 2010, Annals series on military sciences, Vol. 3, 2011, Number 1, Academy of Romanian Scientists Publishing House, Bucharest, p. 3.

³ Anna-Maria IORGA, Inaugural speech of president of Ukraine - a peaceful declaration of war?, Annals series on military sciences, Vol. 6, 2014, Number 1, p. 48.

⁴ *Idem.*

and security in the Euro-Atlantic region” and entire world because of “Russia's aggressive actions against Ukraine” and the growing instability from the Middle East to North Africa⁵.

NATO is based on solidarity, the indivisibility of Allies security and the Alliance cohesion and is “an essential source of stability” and security in the “unpredictable world”. Allies are united in their aim to fulfil the measures in “Washington Treaty and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations” and in Strategic Concept (collective defence, crisis management, and cooperative security). NATO is “the transatlantic framework for strong collective defence” and the best “forum for security consultations and decisions among Allies”. In the Transatlantic Declaration it is stated that member countries of NATO are committed to further strengthening the transatlantic bond, protect and defend NATO’s territories and populations “against attack, as set out in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty”. The Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance have made a strong assessment of unity and “to providing the resources, capabilities, and political will required to ensure “the Alliance remains ready to meet any challenge”⁶. All of them are “ready to act together and decisively to defend freedom” and Alliance’s” shared values of individual liberty, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law”.

The heads of State and Government of all Allies “have taken decisions to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow”⁷. They were reaffirming their “strong commitment to collective defence and to ensuring security and assurance for all Allies” and to strengthen their “partnerships with countries and organizations around the globe to better build security together”⁸.

The Alliance’s troops deliver the security that is the foundation of the member countries prosperity and their way of life.

In order to ensure that the “Alliance is ready to respond swiftly and firmly to the new security challenges”, the heads of State and Government have approved the NATO Readiness Action Plan which provides a “comprehensive package of necessary measures to respond to the changes in the security environment on NATO's borders”.

⁵ http://www.nato.int/cps/po/natohq/official_texts_112964.htm.

⁶ *Idem.*

⁷ *Idem.*

⁸ *Idem.*

The Plan responds to the challenges imposed by Russian Federation aggressive actions, their military implications and to the risks and threats in NATO southern neighbourhood, in the Middle East and in North Africa. It strengthens NATO's collective defence and NATO crisis management capability . It will also contribute to ensuring that the North Atlantic Alliance is a strong, ready and responsive Organization capable of meeting all the "challenges from wherever they may arise"⁹.

The elements of the "NATO Readiness Action Plan include measures that address the continuing need for the Allies' security (assurance of Allies) and the adaptation of the NATO's military strategic posture.

The assurance of Allies (the assurance measures) are: "continuous air, land and maritime presence" on a rotational basis as well as a meaning military activities in the environment on NATO's eastern borders (at the periphery of NATO's territory).

The others measures (adaptation measures) include the forces required to ensure that the NATO can strongly address to the threats, to ensuring security and assurance for all Allies.

The Heads of State and Government agreed to halt any decline of defence budgets to make the better or the best effective use of NATO funds. The Alliance's security and defence strongly depend on size of defence budget and how the allies spend it.

The investments should be increased and directed only towards meeting NATO's capability priorities. A stronger Euro-Atlantic defences industry means a stronger defence industry across the NATO (a stronger defence industry in European Union and better cooperation within EU and across the Atlantic). This is essential for making the greater NATO capabilities.

Increased the Alliance and EU defence capabilities are obviously complementary.

Allies meeting the NATO plan to spend more than 2% of GDP on defence must to continue to do so, and others spending less than 2% have to halt any decline in defence expenditure (DEX) and to increase DEX and to move to wards the 2% within a decade (Figure 1).

⁹ *Idem.*

THE MAIN DECISIONS OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, ON SEPTEMBER 2014

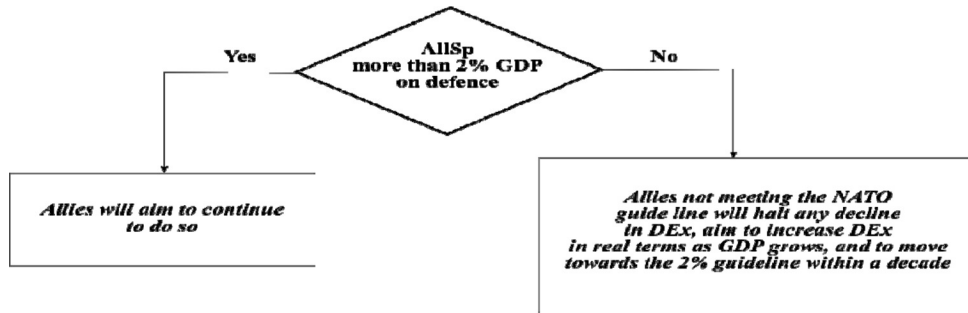


Fig. 1. Graphical representation of the meeting the NATO guideline on DEX

Legend:

GDP = Gross Domestic Product;
AllSp = Allies spending;
DBs = defence budgets;
DEx = defence expenditure.

Allies meeting the Alliance guideline to spend minimum of 20% of their DBs on MEq, including related R&D must continue to do so (Figure 2) and the Allies who spend less than 20% must to increase their annual investments to 20% or more (Figure 2).



Fig. 2. Graphical representation of the spending more than 20% of their DBs on MEq, including related R&D

Legend:

AllSp = Allies spending;
TDB = their defence budgets;
MEq = major equipment;
DBs = defence budgets;
DEx = defence expenditure;
R&D = Research & Development.

The member countries of NATO must ensure that their armed forces (land, air and maritime forces) meet Alliance guidelines for deployability and sustainability and can operate together effectively.

The Alliance will strongly enhance the capability of NATO Response Force by developing the forces being able to move faster and respond better to potential threats. NATO will make a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) as part of NRF¹⁰. The VJTF is a force that has to deploy within a few days to respond to risks and threats at the periphery of Alliance's territory. NATO has to establish a command and control presence on the periphery of its territory.

The passage of nearly an year after the events that have changed the history of Ukraine and Russia gives us the opportunity to look back to the Ukrainian crisis and to give a verdict regarding EU and NATO involvement in terms of failure or success of their political actions.

The Summit NATO/OTAN in September 2014 took place in conditions of very complex military-political crisis in Ukraine, resulting in the modification of the Russian-Ukrainian border and thousands of deaths of Syrian military and political crisis of unprecedented terrorist actions the formation of an Islamic State which is a huge threat to international security and compromise the international community's efforts for peaceful settlement of disputes in the region. Some analysts believe that the current political and military crisis in Ukraine would be a challenge to achieve global domination-conservative American West.

Heads of State and Government of NATO adopted at the meeting of NAC (NAC) in September 2014 Summit Declaration of Wales (here in after will use the abbreviation "Statement") in a turning point for the international security Russian aggression against Ukraine is a threat to freedom, integrity and peace of Europe besides there are threats of transnational and multi-dimensional, and the Middle East to North Africa that could have repercussions for peace and security in Euro Atlantic and the whole world.

CNA condemns Russian aggression against Ukraine and asked the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops from Ukraine and its borders as violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine is a violation of international law and a serious threat to Euro-Atlantic security. NATO Heads of State and Government does not recognize "annexation" illegal and illegitimate Crimea by the Russian Federation and require it to act in the spirit of international law, its international obligations and responsibilities, to renounce

¹⁰ NRF – NATO Response Force.

illegitimate occupation of Crimea and aggressive actions against Ukraine to withdraw its troops, to no longer supply the separatists with weapons, equipment, etc. and cease to provoke tensions in Ukraine and bordering it.

However, they ask Russia to use its influence in order to de-escalation separatist crisis situation and find a political and diplomatic solution to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in compliance with its internationally recognized borders. They also require Russia to take the necessary measures to ensure the security, rights and freedoms of all persons in the Crimea. Russian aggression and felling led Malaysia Airlines MH17 airliner in July 17 2014. Pursuant to Resolution 2166 of the UN Security Council, states and other actors require the Allies in the region to allow immediate access to the aircraft crash site in order to resume the investigation and repatriation of remains of victims and accountability and prosecution of others guilty of shooting down aircraft. NATO Heads of State and Government encouraged Ukraine to promote democratic values and respect for human rights and the rule of law, calls for a constructive dialogue with Russia Poroshenko President and welcome the signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union on 27 June 2014 that highlight Ukraine's European aspirations. North Atlantic Alliance strongly supports the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Actually, broad approval of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution no. 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine certifies international rejection of "annexation" illegal and illegitimate Crimea by the Russian Federation. Allies notes with concern the escalation of violence Russian and Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine to destabilize sovereign state.

The statement said, Allies supports sanctions imposed by the European Union, G7 and other organizations to counter Russia's aggressive behavior and lead to de-escalation and a political solution to the crisis adoption military. At the same time they will have a strategic discussion on Euro-Atlantic security and Russia, which are the foundation of the Alliance's vision on how to deal with NATO relations with the Russian Federation in the future.

It is known that after the disappearance of the USSR and NATO so far has worked hard to create and strengthen the partnership with the Russian Federation, in particular through the NATO-Russia Council, based on

NATO-Russia Founding Act and the Rome Declaration. But Russian Federation trampled commitments and international law. However Allies have not ceased to hope that the partnership between NATO and the Russian Federation is of strategic value if it is based on respect for international law. Therefore, NATO believes in a constructive cooperative relationship with the Russian Federation, including mutual confidence-building measures and mutual understanding of the position of non-strategic nuclear forces of the Alliance and Russia in Europe, based on common security interests. Unfortunately, there is not now necessary conditions of such a relationship.

As a result, Allied decision to suspend civil and military cooperation between NATO and the Russian Federation is still in force, but political channels of communication remain open.

NATO did not want in the future and does not want any confrontation with the Russian Federation, arguing that there is a threat to it, but can not and will not compromise on principles that underlie the EU and NATO and security of America North. Alliance is not only transparent but also predictable and is determined to demonstrate its durability and strength, as it always did. NATO's relations with the Russian Federation depend on the occurrence of a change of constructive actions of the Russian Federation to show that it complies with international law, its international obligations and responsibilities. But Russia does not comply with the UN Charter and international law nor to any other member. The Russian Federation has a hostility towards Moldova and Georgia by violating fundamental European security commitments (especially those undertaken by the Helsinki Final Act), by not implementing TFC in Europe and through the use of military and others to interfere in the internal affairs of neighboring states. Inappropriate behavior, even aggressive Russia is a serious threat to international order, based on international law; and Euro-Atlantic security. All these inconsistencies and threats have medium and long term effects on security in the wider Black Sea and the Euro-Atlantic security since the recent actions of the Russian Federation contradicts the principles that underlie mechanisms to increase confidence in the Black Sea. Accordingly, the Allies will support: Black Sea States efforts to ensure security in the region; OSCE actions that should have free access to all regions of Ukraine in order to fulfill the mandate unhindered.

NATO also supports the European Union's decision on initiating a mission under the CSDP to support Ukraine's civil sector reform (including in the fields of police and rule of law).

Allies recognize Ukraine's right in restoring peace, order and defend its people and its territory and its armed forces must exercise maximum restraint in military operations to avoid the risk of civilian casualties in the area. Heads of State and Government of NATO adopted a joint declaration with the President of Ukraine and decided to support Ukraine in its Annual National Programs Allied Distinctive Partnership. All they support reform of the security and defense sectors of Ukraine in order to ensure interoperability between the largest Ukraine and NATO forces.

NATO, while also supporting the initiative on improving the interoperability with partner states of NATO. Many Eastern European NATO partners are worried and concerned legitimately encroaching, illegitimate Crimea by Russia and brutal military intervention in eastern Ukraine. NATO will support and further right partners to make decisions independent and sovereign, without external pressures and territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In this respect, Allies supports peaceful resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus and Moldova, the principles and norms of international law, the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and urge all parties to engage constructively and give demonstrate political will to resolve conflicts peacefully in formats established by negotiation.

Euro-Atlantic security and international security are seriously threatened in the Middle East and North Africa. NATO will continue to support the struggle of the peoples for peace, security, democracy, justice and prosperity.

A serious security threat is the so-called "Islamic State" in Iraq and the Levant (Syria), or abbreviated Isil, especially against Iraqi and Syrian peoples. NATO condemns the barbaric attacks / villain of Isil civilian population and ethnic and religious groups.

NATO is committed to supporting the NATO-Iraq partnership to help Iraq to create some security forces more effective. Allies also condemns the violent actions of the Assad regime against the Syrian people and the Syrian government to respect the sky UN Security Council resolutions and to engage in a political transition according to the Geneva Communiqué of 30

June 2012. Isil presence in Iraq and Syria is a serious threat to regional security. To counter this threat, the international community must act in a coordinated manner.

NATO will continue to maintain a presence in Afghanistan Allied and after ISAF (December 2014) for training, counseling and support ANSF through Resolute Support mission and financial support of the ANSF. NATO is a major source of security in the Euro-Atlantic and around the world. Allies are strong democratic states united by the Treaty of Washington and principles of the United Nations Charter. NATO is based on solidarity and indivisibility of Allied security, the collective defense as a democratic forum for security consultations and decisions of the Allies, to protect and defend territory and its citizens, according to Art. 5 of the Treaty, against any attack.

Consequently, according to their statements, NATO Heads of State and Government pledged to strengthen the transatlantic link and provide both resources and capabilities and the political will to ensure conditions for NATO to be always ready to face any threats and any attack. They were committed to achieving the three core tasks of NATO Strategic Concept (collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security).

Wales Summit endorsed NATO Action Plan aimed at increasing responsiveness and accountability fast and firm to the new security challenges. Current plan contains a set of measures to address the new changes in the security environment in the vicinity of NATO, but also the most remote and challenges of the Russian Federation "their strategic implications". He also responds to, risks, dangers and threats in the southern neighborhood of the Alliance, but also from North Africa and the Middle East. It leverages the collective defense of the Alliance and NATO crisis management capacity. This Plan aims to maintain OTAN (NATO) strong, highly trained, reactive and able to give a decisive rebuff all the challenges of today and tomorrow. The components of the plan include and those measures that meet the requirements of ensuring NATO permanent and strategic military adaptation of the Organization.

Among the measures mentioned insurance: permanent military presence and activity of air, land and sea in the eastern neighborhood of NATO on a rotating basis. This will be essential not only to insurance

requirements, but also deterrence, being flexible and measurable in terms of the response to the evolving security situation.

Adaptation measures provide strong alliance to meet all security challenges that may arise. It will also increase the responsiveness of NRF (NATO Response Force) on the development of forces capable of rapid action and response to any challenges and threats. Within this force will establish a multinational force grouping with a very high level of response (VHRJTF), which is a new joint NATO force that could be deployed in a few days and will face threats and dangers of the boundary; Alliance. The force will include a terrestrial component to be included in air, sea and special operations.

Level of VHRJTF reaction will be tested through exercises that will make the notifications short time. NATO will send the appropriate command and control elements on the far eastern territories Alliance and some strength. If necessary the outskirts NATO allies will be established for deterrence and collective defense.

Allies have committed to increase the capacity strengthening NATO Allies quickly and efficiently concerned "by preparing infrastructure, pre-positioning of supplies and equipment and means of designating specific bases", especially by host nation support. Allies will also ensure that NATO forces maintain an appropriate level of response and consistency necessary to carry out the full range of Allied missions, especially deter aggression against the Allies and the ability to defend throughout Allied.

NATO Heads of State and Government pledged to maintain robust, flexible and capable NATO command structure to ensure the effectiveness of controls and control simultaneous threats. Also it will take measures to increase responsiveness and capabilities NE Headquarters Multinational Corps. Connected Forces Initiative (CFI) is useful to achieve coherence of all elements of training / exercise of the Alliance Action Plan aimed at increasing reaction.

NATO Heads of State and Government will take the Alliance to be able to effectively counter the threats of war by military action hybrid, paramilitary and civilian (open and undercoating by a highly integrated architecture, which includes developing strategic communications, developing scenarios for war hybrid and strengthening coordination between the Alliance and other organisms.

Allies will establish the Center of Excellence for NATO Strategic Communication in Latvia.

NATO Heads of State and Government decided that the Allies who spent less than 2% of GDP on defense budget to stop any decrease this percentage and increase this budget as GDP increases to reach a value of 2% within a maximum of one decade to achieve the Target Capabilities NATO. Allies who spend less than 20% of defense budgets for major new military equipment shall, within a decade, to reach minimum investment of 20% of total defense spending.

Conclusions

In the last months of 2014, the world witnessed the most dangerous crisis between NATO and Russia (but also, and between the EU and Russia) embodied the highest political and military confrontation between the US and the Russian Federation in decades (for the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 to the present). The consequences of this crisis might even complete with a military confrontation between NATO and Russia, which could exceed the intensity of the previous Cold War. Statement by the NATO Summit in Wales contains a condemnation of Russia's aggression and annexation of Crimea Ukraine for failure international law and principles of the UN Charter regarding independence and sovereignty of Moldova and Georgia, for violation of commitments and other unacceptable actions that Russia is a threat to international security.

Russia's rearmament effort and reconure of territory in eastern Ukraine, Crimea annexation and forceful actions are attempts to rebalance power between the US and Russia. Russia has strengthened its strategic alignment advanced and captured a geopolitical foothold in Ukraine and Moldova.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Declarația summit-ului din Țara Galilor publicată de șefii de state și de guverne participanți la reuniunea Consiliului Atlanticului de Nord ținută în Țara Galilor la 4 și 5 septembrie 2014, http://www.nato.int/cps/fr/natohq/official_texts_112964.htm?selectedLocale=fr

Declarația finală a Summit-ului NATO din Țara Galilor din 4-5 septembrie 2014.

GRUNDERBEEK Van Pierre, *La Russie, l'Ukraine, la Crimée et la bague de fiançailles*, <http://www.mondialisation.ca/la-russie-lukraine-la-crimée-et-la-bague-de-fiançailles/5415269>, accesat la 28 noiembrie 2014.

MEARSHEIMER John, *Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault*, <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141769/john-j-mearsheimer/why-the-ukraine-crisis-is-the-west-s-fault>

