

## PRESENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE ROUND-TABLE DEBATES

In order to provide as comprehensive as possible points of view, at different levels of expression, the conference proposed, from an organisational point of view, an academic component, focused on the presentation and publication of scientific articles, and a debate-based component, focused on a practical perspective. Both components of the conference were covered by three sections: *Intelligence and Security, Military Theory and Art, Defence Resources Management*.

The round-table debates addressed four topical issues for the Romanian Armed Forces, in particular, and for the civil society, in general, benefiting from the knowledge shared by internationally recognised experts: *Consolidation of the National Defence System Resilience at Strategic Level; STRATCOM – Fake News and Information Warfare; Economy-Military Strategy Relationship. National Defence Industry and the Armed Forces; Defence Resources Management and the Forces Mobilisation System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Territorial versus Professional Troops*.

### CONSOLIDATION OF THE NATIONAL DEFENCE SYSTEM RESILIENCE AT STRATEGIC LEVEL

Within the debate having the topic *Consolidation of the National Defence System at Strategic Level*, Iulian Chifu discussed the subject *Strategic Resilience from Stability and Prevention to Proactive Action and Dynamic Adaptability*, and Antonia Colibășanu, Senior Analyst for Geopolitical Futures, presented the theme *Resilience of the Alliances in the Eastern Europe Area*. Moreover, His Excellency, Sorin Ducaru, Director of the EU Satellite Centre, debated the issue *Impact of New Technologies on Resilience: Potential Vulnerabilities and Related Effects*, and Colonel Dan Colesniuc, expert in security within the Ministry of National Defence, talked about Educational Interoperability at Strategic Level. The theme proposed by Iulian Fota, Managing Director, Romanian Diplomatic Institute, was *Clarification of the Concept of Resilience at National Level*. Alexandru Grumaz, President, Centre for Security Analysis and Strategies, presented the theme *Hybrid Warfare and Resilience Strengthening in NATO Eastern Flank*, and Colonel Daniel Ghiba talked about *Continuous Adaptation to the Transformations in the Security Environment – Key to the National Defence System Consolidation*. Major General (r) Leonardo Dinu, Director, New Strategic Centre, approached the theme *Strategic Resilience in the Context of Emergent Threats to National Security*.

The moderator of the debate was Major General Iulian Berdilă, and the special guest for that round table was Mircea Geoană, NATO Deputy Secretary General.

## STRATCOM – FAKE NEWS AND INFORMATION WARFARE

The subject of the debate was *STRATCOM – Fake News and Information Warfare*. There were two sections – *Strategic Communication in the Current Security Context and Fake News: Influences and Manifestations in the Allied and Regional Information Environment*. Among the participants in the first section, Andrei Țârnea, Managing Director, Department for Communication and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Colonel Valentin Vasile, Deputy Chief of the Information and Public Relations Directorate, the Ministry of National Defence, can be mentioned. “Carol I” National Defence University was represented by Senior Lecturer Ruxandra Buluc, PhD, Professor Mihail Anton, PhD, and Lecturer Ciprian Pripoae-Șerbănescu, PhD. The second section benefited from the presence of Alina Bângăoanu, PhD, Dean, Faculty of Communication and Public Relations – National School for Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Oana Popescu-Zamfir, Director, Global Focus, Iulia Anghel, PhD, Lecturer, Faculty of Communication Sciences, Ecological University, Bucharest, Lieutenant Colonel Constantin Bălan, Information and Public Relations Directorate / Ministry of National Defence, and Colonel Professor Adrian Lesenciuc, PhD, “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy, Brașov.

The moderator of the debate was Brigadier General Constantin Spînu, and special guests were Dirk Dubois, Director ESDC – European Security and Defence College, and Colonel Peeter Tali, Deputy Director, NATO Stratcom COE.

## ECONOMY – MILITARY STRATEGY RELATIONSHIP. NATIONAL DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND THE ARMED FORCES

The third round-table debate, moderated by Major General Corneliu Postu, started from the relationship between economy and military strategy, focusing on the national defence industry. Simona Moagăr-Poladian, Director, Institute for Global Economy, Romanian Academy, was the special guest, giving a presentation about *Romania’s Strategic Economic Development in the Current European and Global Context*. Simona Cojocaru, State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, as well as directors of important companies in the defence industry, including the Directors of ROMARM and PATROMIL, Gabriel Tuțu and Viorel Manole, participated in the debate. Viorel Manole talked about the *Advantages of a Real Partnership between National Defence Industry and National Defence System Forces*, and Niculae Iancu, President I2DS2 (Integrated Intelligence, Defence and Security Solutions), gave a presentation entitled *Towards a National Defence Research and Industry Community*. Admiral (LH) Ion-Cristian Lișman, Deputy Chief for Resources of the Naval Forces Staff, approached the theme of *Challenges for the Naval Forces in the Current Economic and Geopolitical Context*, and Grigore Filip, Managing Director, AEROSTAR Bacău, talked about the *Evolution of the Technologies Required by the Romanian Armed Forces – Determinant*

*in the Aerostar Development. Case Study.* Chief Commissioner Lucian Ivan, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Operational Management General Directorate, approached the theme of *Resilience at the Level of National Defence Industry*, and Colonel Tiberius Tomoioagă, Scientific Deputy, Military Equipment and Technologies Research Agency, discussed about *PESCO/EDF/EDIDP Implications on Defence Capabilities*. General (r), Director, Damen Naval Romania, talked about *Naval Industry Resilience in a Global Crisis Period*.

## **FORCES MOBILISATION SYSTEM IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY. TERRITORIAL VERSUS PROFESSIONAL TROOPS**

A less debated subject so far was the *Forces Mobilisation System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Territorial versus Professional Troops*. Current and former chiefs of the armed forces services as well as current and former chiefs of directorates within the Defence Staff provided different points of view related to the challenges of the forces mobilisation system in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The special guest in that case was Marius Bălu, State Secretary and Chief of Department for Parliament Liaison and Personnel Welfare, who opened the mentioned debate by providing a legal perspective. Major General Gheorghiuță Vlad was the moderator of the debate.

In the round-table discussion, Professor Ion Giurcă, PhD (*"Hyperion"* University, Bucharest) provided a historical perspective of the subject – *Territorial Troops versus Professional Forces in the First Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, and Marian Zulean, University of Bucharest, approached the *Civil-Military Relations in Contemporary Romania*. Colonel Adrian Vasiliu, Deputy Chief of Personnel and Mobilisation Directorate, the Defence Staff, talked about *Territorial Defence – Challenge or Necessity*. The subject proposed by General (r) Ștefan Dănilă, Vice-President, I2DS2, and former Chief of the Defence Staff, was *An Analysis of the Forces Mobilisation System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Territorial Troops versus Professional Forces*. Major General (r) Florian Răpan drew the audience attention to the theme: *Strategic Management or Strategic Planning in the Field of Defence?* Major General Viorel Pană, Chief of the Air Force Staff, presented *A SWOT Analysis: Professional Forces vs. Territorial Troops*, and Rear Admiral (UH) Mihai Panait, Chief of the Naval Forces Staff, approached *Sufficiency of the Vision of the Romanian Naval Forces Modernisation to Fully Accomplish the Assigned Missions in National and Allied Framework*. *"Nicolae Bălcescu"* Land Forces Academy from Sibiu was represented by Colonel (r) Toma Pleșanu who talked about *Generational Interoperability of the Human Resource in the Ministry of National Defence*. Lieutenant General (r) Virgil Bălăceanu, President, Romanian Reserve Officers Association, approached the theme *Complementary Character of Territorial Forces in National Defence*.

## **THE MAIN IDEAS PROMOTED WITHIN THE DEBATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- the definition of resilience needs to be clarified so that everyone can operate with the same concept;
- in Romania's Defence Strategy for the period 2020-2024 the focus is on resilience – an element of modernity, an anticipatory element, which is reflected in

Romania's fundamental strategic document in a correct and ambitious manner. In fact, in Romania, it provides the foundation for a good strategic governance;

- Romania can and must play an important part in refining the dialogue related to resilience at the Alliance level as well as at the international one;
- the most important competition is the competition for ideas, for the philosophy that governs our way of organising as a society;
- building the resilience of the Western society and the defence infrastructure in Eastern Europe should be our priority in terms of individual nation, region, and transatlantic partnership;
- at the European Union level, it has been acknowledged the fact that the organisation is able to have a unitary approach, which includes all the components that define resilience at the societal level;
- resilience 1.0 entails prevention and stability, resilience 2.0 refers to proactive action and early warning, resilience 3.0 means dynamic adaptability;
- the state resilience is different from the country resilience;
- the religious vein is the "soft" influence, which can be adopted at the political level and can be used in influencing the potential security threats in Europe;
- STRATCOM is seen, at the Alliance level, rather as a continuous process than as a capability. This process should promote a better understanding of the function of communication, beyond the traditional approaches in the mass media;
- NATO STRATCOM final goal is related to meeting NATO policies final objectives, and, in this context, a primary desiderate is to protect and promote the Alliance key messages;
- social networking sites are not interested in providing correct information but in maximising their profit;
- our level of attention is constant, while the sources of information increase exponentially;
- the sources of disinformation are structural, not circumstantial, being related to the speed and complexity of the phenomenon, to the explosion of social media platforms and the information bombardment;
- infodemic is correlated with the actions of some hostile state and non-state actors;
- infodemic is not limited to information warfare, there is no sign of equality between the two phenomena. Infodemic is also linked to certain tendencies of people to amplify, to tell stories, to transmit to others;
- the new type of soldier: the influencer, capable of using communication in order to have effects on those insufficiently prepared to respond adequately;
- reactive response – the usual products of strategic communication are insufficient once the new ways of influencing get diversified and benefit from the even unforeseen possibilities provided by new technologies;
- the fake news-type action produces effects on the information infrastructure of the military organisation and of the state structure, discrediting the institutions and decreasing the level of trust in them;
- a high level of security culture, obtained by the democratisation of the hybrid confrontation, allows for the transformation of all citizens of the state, be they military or civilian, into agents of positive change.