

ROMANIAN MILITARY THINKING  
CONFERENCE

**NATO-EU RESILIENCE,  
MILITARY CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT  
AND COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF A BLACK SEA SECURITY STRATEGY**  
**EDITORIAL**

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*First of all, I would like to thank all the participants for the way in which each has contributed to both the panel discussions and the scientific sections scheduled in the conference program. We are convinced that the exchanges of ideas advanced in such an institutional framework will add value to the process of development and promotion of the security culture, necessary for the Romanian society, especially in the increasingly complicated context of current risks and challenges to security.*

*A general conclusion at the end of this conference is that the security culture development requires an interagency approach. It is necessary to explain the new types of threats, risks and vulnerabilities that may have an impact at the individual, group, societal, national, regional or global level. The construction of a modern society is based on ensuring individual and collective security, which is the point of convergence for national and international institutions, professional associations and non-governmental organisations.*

*No nation is safe in a world where one country can violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another, where crimes against humanity are committed with impunity; where a country with imperialist ambitions can go unrestricted.*

*The NATO Allies response to this kind of threats should be a demonstration of our collective commitment to uphold international rules and norms. Rules and norms which, since the end of the second World War, have provided unprecedented security and prosperity for the people around the world.*

*Regarding the Black Sea region and the needs for developing a security strategy for this area, which has been the general topic of the conference... we can state that Black Sea represents an area of maximum strategic interest for Romania, for the littoral states, as well as for all their partners and allies.*

*The Black Sea region was and remains an area with strong disparities and different levels of political, economic and social development, with impact on the level of cooperation and integration. Russia's open and unprovoked war in Ukraine, the frozen conflicts in Abkhazia, Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh*

and Transnistria, alongside the economic, environmental, migration and illegal trafficking issues are obstacles that prevent the littoral countries as well as those in their near vicinity from capitalizing on their potential for cooperation.

As an organization, NATO is inherently interested in the sovereignty and defence of the Alliance members in the Black Sea region. This is the Alliance's fundamental *raison d'être*, which must be taken into account in developing a transatlantic strategy for the region. The Russia-Ukraine war has revealed a high degree of cohesion among NATO member and partner states, whose visions of what the Alliance is and how it should respond to threats are largely shared. In the longer term, however, NATO's cohesion will depend on the Allies' success in bringing together their different strategic cultures and threat assessments into a vision that has even greater cohesion, synergy and interoperability.

NATO, the EU and the wider transatlantic community have an interest in deterring or resolving as quickly as possible the security challenges affecting the sovereign rights of non-NATO countries in the region. To ensure that the Black Sea region contributes to the overall goal of a free, whole and peaceful Europe, the transatlantic community should have in mind four very clearly defined objectives in developing a security strategy for the Black Sea region, namely:

- effective deterrence and credible collective defence;
- resilience;
- stability and security within NATO partner states in the region;
- regional economic security, so that no state has the power to use economic and energy resources to coerce other states.

In this context, resilience is of paramount importance to the Alliance's systemic preparedness. Actions are needed to improve societal and regional resilience. At the same time, our armed forces must adapt and modernize to respond to complex threats. Another element to consider is the concept of integrated deterrence, recently introduced in the US latest national security strategy. Like our adversaries, we must use new domains and emerging technologies, develop our cyber capabilities, and equip our armed forces with state-of-the-art technologies.

A security strategy for the Black Sea region will be feasible if it also addresses, in the same framework, the long-standing problems of the Eastern Balkans, the Caucasus, as well as the conflict in Ukraine.

Conceptually, no security strategy for the Black Sea region could pass the test of feasibility unless it integrates the relevant diplomatic, economic and intelligence instruments of power along with the multiple aspects of the military instrument of power. It should address deterrence, resilience, hybrid threats, energy security.

Moreover, it should be underpinned by a strong economic component and bilateral and multilateral diplomatic commitments. The resources needed for its implementation should be provided by the countries involved as well through the involvement of international institutions.

To conclude, I express once again our gratitude to our institutional partners that have agreed to support the organisation of the event – New Strategy Center, Center for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning, Euro-Atlantic Centre for Resilience, the “Integrated Intelligence, Defence and Security Solutions” Association, University of Bucharest, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Their effort is visible only by looking at the conference agenda.

I also thank the delegates representing various NATO, EU structures and NATO or partner countries that have been represented to this event with high level delegates: Türkiye, Greece, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, NATO Defense College, Supreme Allied Command Transformation, MARCOM, Joint Air Power Competence Centre, European Defence Agency, researchers and professors from important European universities, experts from major security Think-Tanks.

Last but not least, I greatly appreciate the help provided by our main sponsor – TNT to run such an event!