

FOREWORD

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In the context of the 21st century complex challenges, the Black Sea Region remains a strategic area of utmost importance for global security and regional stability. The geopolitical dynamics, the emergence of new types of threats, as well as the need for solid international cooperation between the littoral states and their partners underline the significance of a permanent dialogue between experts, servicemen and political decision-makers.

This volume gathers the papers presented at the **2024 Romanian Military Thinking Conference**, having as central theme **“Defence and Military Cooperation Strategies for Ensuring Security in the Black Sea Region”**. The conference was conceived as a platform for academic, professional and strategic dialogue, with the aim of bringing to the fore innovative solutions and perspectives related to the complex security challenges in this region of major geopolitical importance. Through its dual format – academic, based on scientific articles, and expert-level debates –, the event provided an environment conducive to reflection, analysis and exchange of ideas on the most topical issues regarding defence and military cooperation.

The conference was held at a time marked by multiple international crises, which highlighted the importance of a concerted effort to ensure a stable and predictable security environment. During the debates, essential topics were addressed, such as: the adaptation of defence strategies to the new geopolitical realities, the relevance of regional cooperation within alliances and strategic partnerships, the modernization of the armed forces and the integration of emerging technologies in the military field.

The Black Sea region has become, in recent years, an area of intense interaction between local, regional and global interests, marked by asymmetric risks and threats, frozen conflicts and strategic competitions. In this context, the debate on defence strategies and military cooperation has become key to strengthening resilience and promoting stability.

The papers in this volume reflect the diversity of perspectives and solutions suggested by experts from various fields, representatives of national and international institutions, as well as practitioners with extensive expertise in managing security issues. Through the quality of the ideas expressed, the present volume is intended to be not only a synthesis of the conference conclusions, but also a starting point for future research and initiatives in the field of security and defence.

We are grateful to all the participants who, through their efforts, contributed to the success of the event and to the development of the volume! We are convinced that the presented ideas and conclusions will constitute a valuable reference point for experts in the field and for all those interested in the Black Sea Region security issues!