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ETHICAL ASPECTS OF NATO-EU COOPERATION

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Abstract

In the ever-changing European and global environment in which the boundaries between peace, crisis and war become more and more unsafe every day, the task of promoting safety and security has become a priority on both the NATO and the EU agenda. NATO and the EU are two international organizations with policies and objectives worldwide. The purpose of the present effort is to observe common working points and to understand how the policies, objectives, values and resources can ensure convergence in achieving cooperation between the two international entities at regional and global level. By defining the major objectives, the statutes and the assumed governance, the organizations involved the human resource in the conceptual creation of the security and stability climate. By making efficient and timely use of the material and financial resources mobilized by NATO and EU Member States, they implement the objectives and policies of the organizations. The cooperation between the two organizations is a strategic process and evolves in stages to efficiently achieve the objectives assumed separately and in common.

Keywords: NATO, EU, cooperation, major objectives, resources.

Introduction

In an ever-changing European and global environment where the boundaries between peace, crisis and war become increasingly unsafe every day, the task of promoting safety and security has become a priority on both NATO's and the EU agenda. The dimensions of promoting regional security and stability are today more important than ever, given that the various developments in political, social, social, and even cultural processes can generate conflicts in areas of interest.

Since the foundation of the NATO Alliance, we appreciate that stability was a core value mentioned in the 1949 Washington Treaty, in which allies said they would "contribute to the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations [...] by promoting the conditions of stability and well-being " (Stabile et al., 2018). In the same way, the EU has developed more instruments to ensure and guarantee stability and security in member countries. However, stability seems to be at risk in a time of geopolitical change, the concept of threat is sometimes artificial considering a wide range of security challenges, including both state and non-state threats, as well as the problems resulting from the rapid dissemination of information and technological developments. Practically, approaching such a complex environment becomes more and more difficult for a single organization, regardless of the policies and objectives promoted and the resources allocated.

In fact, each of the two NATO and EU organizations has, since their inception, committed to securing citizens' security, but the ethics of the methods used and the strategies adopted have led to relative convergence. In terms of the dominant nature of each, the two

international entities went mainly on their own paths, have developed governance to achieve major goals without seeking effective cooperation and harmonization of initiatives.

The policies, major objectives and values promoted by NATO and the EU mobilized impressive human, material and financial resources, pursuing the development and maintenance of stability and security in their own areas and those close to the Member States.

Current conceptual approaches (Relations with the European Union, July 2018), defined by economic, social and military governance, attempt to relate and emphasize the need for a common working ethic of NATO and the EU, a concerted effort, given that many Member States are part of both international organizations.

Further, we will observe the common working points and we will seek to understand how the policies, objectives, values and resources of the two organizations can ensure convergence in regional and global cooperation.

In fact, by defining major goals and statutes, organizations have involved the human resource in the conceptual creation of a climate of security and stability. By making efficient and timely use of the material and financial resources mobilized by NATO and EU Member States, they implement the objectives and policies proposed.

1. EU organizational profile

The European Union is a unique economic and political union worldwide, bringing together 28 European countries and covering almost the entire European continent. If at first it was purely an economic union, it gradually evolved, becoming an organization operating in many policy areas, from climate change, to environmental and health protection, to external relations, security, justice and migration.

Through its institutions, the EU has adopted and promoted its major objectives and values as an expression of the homogeneous definition of its political, economic, social and cultural profile. The major objectives of the EU through which they operate are defined as follows: (The Lisbon Treaty)

- promoting peace, European values and its citizens;
- promoting freedom, security and justice without borders;
- ensuring sustainable development, based on sustainable economic growth and price stability, maintain a highly competitive market economy that promotes full employment and social progress and protects the environment;
- encouraging technical and scientific progress;
- strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity between Member States;
- cultural and linguistic diversity;
- economic and monetary unit;

The EU's major objectives are complemented by the common values of the organization promoted by the Member States:

- human dignity;
- freedom of movement within the EU;
- EU democracy is based on representative democracy;
- equality - equal rights before the law, which is also called the cornerstone of the EU;
- the rule of law - EU is based on the rule of law;
- human rights, which imply non-discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, ethnicity, race, beliefs;
- access to justice and the protection of personal data.

Globally, the EU is the largest trade bloc, exporting goods and services to more than 100 countries. The basic promoted principle is the liberalization of world trade. It also

promotes humanitarian aid to mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters around the world. It is practically the largest aid donor in the world.

At institutional level, major objectives and policies are backed by resources mobilized by Member States in the EU budget. Thus, the EU, considered a force for economic revitalization in Europe and globally, is currently funding the needs of 500 million citizens. (Popa et al., 2018). The EU budget is an important instrument, which contributes to achieving the stated objectives through the multiannual priorities set out in the budget structure in the expenditure component.

The EU budget is sizeable to the contribution of the Member States, which is about 1% of EU GDP. If at the outset the main source of the budget was the contributions of the Member States, after 1970 the EU has "own resources" to finance its expenditure. Legally, these collected resources became the property of the EU. Member States collect resources on behalf of the EU and transfer them to the EU budget. The budget structure is flexible, focusing on investment. The size of the EU budget is relatively small compared to the budgets of its Member States. The EU budget has grown from 127 billion EUR in 2011 to around 160.1 billion EUR in 2018. As general rules on the management of the EU budget, we identify the following:

- is maintained at 1% of the Member States' GDP,
- does not record a budget deficit;
- is almost entirely used (about 94%) for investment, not for consumption;
- financing of investments is mainly carried out in the long term.

Addressing profiled spending on investment financing is a strong point of EU resource policy, focusing mainly on long-term investment types that beneficiary countries cannot finance at national level. EU budgets and policies are multiannual, which limits an investment framework over time. (Popa et al., 2012). As an ethical effect, this measure is manifested by increasing the responsibility of organizations, bodies, institutions, economic operators and citizens at national level in the use of EU funding in the Member States.

The economic, financial and budgetary crisis, which emerged in 2008, showed that the EU needed a much more effective economic governance model than the economic and budgetary coordination applied so far. Developments in the area of economic governance have created enhanced coordination and supervision of budgetary, macroeconomic, macrofinancial and investment policies and a financial crisis management mechanism. One of the efficiency tools of governance is the European Semester, through which consolidated and coordinated economic and budgetary surveillance is carried out. This approach has resulted in a better relationship between the EU's governing bodies and the Member States, resulting in the creation of responsibilities in supporting proposals, recommendations and the establishment of guidelines for economic and social policies within the Union. (Guvernanța economică, October 2018)

We can see that the organizational profile of the EU is a state-based one, based on democratic principles, which, through its policies, its objectives and the resources promoted, integrates a wide range of approaches to the development domains into the Member States. By helping and financing critical situations in countries outside the world, the EU develops diplomatic and trade relations at institutional level and promotes security and stability on various levels and areas worldwide.

2. NATO organizational profile

NATO is a political-military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on the 4th of April 1949 by the US, Canada and 10 European countries. Currently, NATO counts 29 member states from Europe and North America. The Alliance is an

association of free states united by their determination to protect their security through mutual guarantees and stable relations with other countries.

NATO's ultimate goal is to ensure freedom and security for all its members through political and military means, in accordance with the North Atlantic Treaty and the principles of the United Nations Charter. The Alliance contributes to regional and international security and stability through its crisis management operations.

Another aspect of NATO's work is cooperation with third countries to develop defense capabilities as well as to increase their resilience but also with international organizations, in particular with the European Union, the United Nations and the African Union in areas of common interest.

The major objectives of the alliance are developed over three broad lines of action and are conceptually defined as:

- collective defense;
- international crisis management;
- security through cooperation.

Collective defense is one of the most important goals of the organization, which has started the idea of NATO's founding. Military governance on collective defense and its concept is based on the principle of joint defense of a state that is being attacked, as stated in the founding document, "an armed attack against an ally in Europe or North America is considered an attack against all" (Relations with the European Union, July 2018). Within NATO, Allied states consult and cooperate in security and defense.

International Crisis Management is developed in close correlation with the emergence of threats, conflicts and critical situations manifested in areas of common interest at the local and even global level. Thus, the Alliance contributes to regional and international security and stability through its operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and the Mediterranean. All decisions taken at NATO level to ensure political-military governance of international crisis management are taken by consensus of the 29 Allied states.

NATO's third strand of action is security through cooperation with other partner countries and international organizations, especially with the EU, the United Nations and the African Union in areas of common interest. NATO member states contribute and assist partner countries in areas such as defense and security reform, modernization of armed forces and other relevant institutions, interoperability, participation in joint operations, crisis management, civil emergency planning etc.

It also promotes exchanges of experience and practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Of these, we are talking about the fight against terrorism, border security, preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, energy security, and ultimately protection against cyberattacks.

The essential aim and major objectives of NATO, as well as the military governance efforts made in their realization, are supported by a human, material and financial resource component generated by the member states of the organization. The resource component is materialized in the NATO budget, to which each Member State contributes according to the decisions taken jointly. The joint decision at NATO level has set an annual budgetary effort for defense spending of each Member State within 2% of national GDP.

Regarding the Alliance's budget, we believe that there is a group of countries that consistently comply with their commitment to NATO membership, regardless of the year, namely the allocation of 2% of GDP for defense spending, such as the US, Great Britain, Greece, Estonia, Poland, Romania. Achieving the budgetary effort quantifies both the responsibilities of each state and their interest in the modernization of the armed forces. Other countries, such as France, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Turkey, are reaching a 2% of their GDP

threshold. There are also states with allocations for defense spending above 1% or even below 1% of GDP. (Popa & Pîrvuț, 2018).

The expansion of certain real and potential conflict areas and threats has an upward trend in the Alliance's budget. NATO's involvement in crisis management at international level is experiencing and developing new approaches. (Terziev, 2017). Thus, in conflict and threat areas such as Afghanistan and Iraq, the alliance is undertaking measures to normalize the situation within the human societies involved. Normalization actions aim primarily at ensuring a democratic framework, training the police and the national army, developing infrastructure projects and promoting education in the spirit of the national social and cultural values of the respective countries.

Developing military governance on NATO's partnerships with other non-member states and other strong international organizations, especially with the EU, the United Nations and the African Union in areas of common interest, mainly leads to reducing the efforts of each organization both in the action plan and in mobilized resources.

3. The Strategic partnership between NATO and the EU

A significant aspect of cooperation with alliance partners is the development of strategic cooperation with the EU since 2002. This move continued in 2016, when NATO and the EU decided to strengthen their cooperation in response to common challenges in the eastern and southern neighbourhood, as well as the existence of a large number of common members in the two organizations.

The strategic partnership with the EU, signed by the Warsaw Joint Declaration of 2016, aims to achieve military governance in seven areas of interest for the development of cooperation between the two organizations. These are: Combating Hybrid Threats, Developing Defense Capabilities of EU and NATO Member States, Operational Cooperation including Maritime Affairs, Cyber Security and Defense, Defense and Research Industry, Exercises, Building Capabilities in Security and Defense. Subsequently, a number of 74 additional practical measures for the advancement of cooperation were identified and adopted to implement the provisions of the Joint Declaration

Addressing areas where enhanced cooperation was needed was made in 2018, when NATO and the EU reconfirmed their strategic partnership through a new Joint Declaration. Now the focus is on four reference areas: military mobility, combating terrorism, enhancing resilience to biological, radiological, chemical and nuclear (CBRN) risks, and promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS). (Parteneriatul Strategic NATO-UE, July 2018)

NATO and the EU also cooperate on an operational level. In 2016, NATO and the EU conducted joint operations in the Aegean Sea to support Greece and Turkey, as well as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, in order to respond to challenges related to human trafficking and uncontrolled migration. In the same year, Allied Defense Ministers decided, from the perspective of increasing knowledge of the situation in the region and logistics, that NATO Sea Guardian operation would support the EU, Sophia, in the Mediterranean. NATO and the EU are also operationally involved in the Western Balkans.

NATO and the EU have collaborated over time in Afghanistan or in combating piracy off the coast of Somalia. From a NATO perspective, it is also important for EU security and defense initiatives to develop and strengthen its capabilities, be complementary and coherent with the Alliance's activities. This is all the more important because the member states of the two organizations have a single set of armed forces.

Even if some steps have been taken, both in general terms and in particular to project stability in the Southern Neighbourhood, an effective cooperation between NATO and the EU is far from being achieved. To deal with current threats, such as terrorist attacks, political turmoil, and uncontrolled flows of migrants, NATO and the EU need to step up their relations

more quickly. In order to do this, the two organizations should shift from simply coordinating initiatives to redoubling efforts, specifically addressing the issues that are driving, by promoting governance in areas of common agreement. (Athena - finanțarea operațiilor militare de securitate și apărare)

Conclusion

Following the analysis, we conclude that NATO is a political and military body that contributes to regional and international security and stability through its collective defense, crisis management, and strategic partnership development with countries and international organizations. Political-military governance generated by major objectives has a dominant military character, although it also contributes to the development of political, social and economic projects.

The EU is a democratic and state-owned organization with a political and economic ascendant that assumes a European responsibility for the medium and long term sustainable development of the Member States. Another EU attribute is the involvement and development of economic relations, particularly trade and aid with different countries worldwide.

NATO and the EU are two international organizations with policies, major objectives and resources that enable them to achieve the roles assumed separately and jointly at European, regional and global level. The relevance of the promoted political, social, economic and military standards is emphasized by the existence and manifestation of various factors of instability, provocation and threat.

NATO-EU cooperation relations have reached a maturity threshold when the two organizations have accepted and agreed on common objectives and directions. Identifying priority areas of reference and promoting appropriate governance that will be pursued in common approaches at European, regional and global level is an effective way to manage separate efforts. (EU-NATO cooperation – Factsheet, Nov 2018)

Through the policies and resources promoted, the two organizations develop political, economic, social and military capabilities that provide balance management. Practical approaches to policy achievements promoted and applied in conflict management and threats have an ethic of democratic, economic, social, and often cultural values in conflict zones.

In the strategic process of NATO-EU cooperation, the latter will need to develop its security and defense policy initiatives by adopting appropriate military governance, bearing in mind that the states that are members of both organizations have practically one single set of armed forces.

As we already see, despite the convergence of NATO and EU interests, there are still clear differences in addressing the stability of strategic cooperation. These mainly refer to the classical dichotomy of civil and military power, according to which the EU fulfils its leading political and economic role, while NATO has the supremacy in terms of military issues. (Stabile et al., 2018)

We recommend increased convergence in the process of strategic cooperation between NATO and the EU in adopting adequate and reasonable objectives supported by common resources distributed according to the principle of separate and common effort in achieving common goals.

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