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Ukraine in the European Security Architecture: towards new approaches

The creation of the European security architecture is one of the most important events of the twentieth century, which was the result of a desire to unite nation-states as well as a number of circumstances and factors: Germany's reunification and Soviet Union's collapse. showed evidence of the fact that NATO started to play on the multilateral platform while OSCE lost its central role being originally envisaged for it. At the same time, Europe initiated advocacy towards its own security and defense system development. However, over the two decades, this existing order is under revision again.

The debate at the beginning of the XXI century about Europe's security has received a new impetus since Russian Federation's diverging views with NATO and EU on the evolution of the countries of the "common neighborhood" such as Ukraine. This research is aimed at analyzing European security architecture as well as Ukraine's role and place in it. Such an analysis is important due to the fact that the security assurance of all spheres of life raised its visibility at the beginning of the XXI century. The research is representing an attempt to focus on external and internal benchmark of Ukraine's challenges and opportunities in the European security system.

Where are we now? Domestic context of Ukrainian policy

Undoubtedly, our country might be characterized as a main actor in the overall European security and economic architecture. After the USSR dissolution, Ukraine proved to become a real subject in global geopolitics. Being a non-aligned country, it creates a stabilizing geographical space between Russia on one side and EU on the other. However, despite huge potential for a long-term prosperity, Ukraine remains even now one of the most complicated geopolitical areas, being at the same time extremely vulnerable to emerging security threats, as at the beginning of the XXI century.

What might be the reasons for such vulnerability? The answer lies in the peculiarity of the Ukrainian state-building in the 1990s. The actual Ukraine's transition towards democratic and economic development has been determined by one internal malice which blocks all other attempts for prosperous future - lack of good governance.

As a system of economic, equitable, just and citizen-caring tools Ukrainian good governance machine should have implications of being both responsible and accountable. Moreover, it has to be predicated upon mutual cooperation of government, civil society and private sector. The lack of cooperation within such a triangle represents a backbone of all the current disputes and controversies in Ukraine. The nature of these relationship and need to coordinate these interactions is to assume critical importance in the nearest future.

The art of good governance measurement lies in ranking such public tools as rule of law, political freedoms, an access to economic activity, education, healthcare and security. Together, with the management, supply and delivery of these tools, they constitute the system of governance and its efficiency to be measured.

The empowerment of these preconditions sets basis to create security helmet in the country. The construction of the security architecture of the state is regarded to be the central facet of the stabilization and state-building processes in especially such newly-born democracies as Ukraine. Paraphrasing Kant's famous quotation, the link between security and good governance is to be vital since good governance helps to prevent conflicts and in such a way advocates for peace and prosperity.

Being the monumental landmark for Ukrainian security, good governance should not remain a standalone concept. It is essential to understand that good governance can't be limited only to its development pattern but should encompass all the sectors of human society. Creating transparent and accountable government is considered to be the most effective national strategy. However, its effect is minimal without confidence and trust building in the society. The effective political development of a country depends less on the immediate fulfillment of goals and reforms established by its democratic transformation and more on the methods in which the nation achieve its democracy.

Where are all of us now? European spectrum of Ukraine's importance for European security on cross-border cooperation

Nowadays, our world becomes smaller and globalized while it remains more and more unstable. We are evidencing the rise of two controversial tendencies. From one side, the end of bipolar competition led to the appearance of new actors on the international stage: international organizations, NGOs and non-state entities that are playing an active role in international relations. From the other side, while the risks of inter-state conflicts decreased, it marked the rise of new threats being taken insufficiently into account before. The most vivid factors of such instability are intra-state conflicts, international terrorism, extreme poverty, threat of weapons of mass destruction

enriched by the general feeling of anxiety and insecurity. One of the issues to analyze is a cross-border cooperation in Europe. Similar to the state level on the supranational level we may observe that the process of greater penetration in the "fuzzy" borders is accompanied by new over-whelming challenges like drugs and human trafficking and finally terrorism which are turning to be more crucial in terms of value.

Ukraine should be valuated as an important partner in resolving frozen conflicts of EU neighborhood. Our country has already been playing its mediator's role since 1994 in the Transnistrian conflict resolution being the only frozen conflict located on the EU border. Ukraine was the country which initiated to develop a Transnistrian conflict resolution plan and EU Border Assistance Mission has been implementing it by providing necessary consultancies and trainings. The core issue in this respect hindering the cross-border understanding lies in the approaches each of the government is undertaking in order to overcome the problem. The vast array of governmental programs, regional planning efforts, cross-border task forces is viewing the way-out of dealing with the new challenges. However, a large number of such initiatives both from EU and Ukrainian side being well-intentioned are overlapping or performing the same task repetitively. It is due to the lack of over-whelming vision of how to trigger cross-border partnership platform and come to the common ground of understanding the ways of tackling the joint challenges. Primarily it concerns ENP countries, in particular Ukraine and other members of Eastern Partnership group. Some attempts should be made to consolidate cross-border dialogue into a set of uniform mechanisms that are used consistently in and outside the borders of the European Union. Moreover, it is worth recalling having political support from the policy and decision-makers in the national and EU governments on the facilitation of cross-border relationships.

Ukraine might become one of the pioneers among Eastern neighbors in development and implementation of examples of good practices for further effective cross-border cooperation. However, there are some of the obstacles in constructing essential dialogue with the EU in security matters generally. Since 2005 Ukraine has had a privileged status under CSDP. It made attempts to align its security policy towards European in order to ensure peace on its territory together with other members of the EU. However, our country is still underestimated in terms of security influence in Europe. European Security Strategy determines Russia being a key actor for developing further strategic partnership regardless the fact that Russia denied to withdraw the troops from Transnistria still providing economic support for it. Moreover, the official Kremlin is criticizing Eastern Partnership cooperation viewing it as a potential threat to its "strategic area of influence."

To my mind the key solution of EU-Ukraine security misunderstanding lies in believing in Eastern Partnership mechanism. Training and capacity-building are to be provided in the countries of "wider Europe" being crucial issues for the joint policies implementation. It will lead to the regions and states rapprochement in tackling the same challenges. In doing so disparities between and among the countries would diminish thriving to economic development and mutual political and cultural understanding.

Where will we all be? Conclusion

Ukraine approaches the end of 2014 having reached a political, economical and military stalemate, which it won't be able to come out alone. The pace of change for our common future will depend a lot on the pressure that people will be able to bring to the essential dialogue building between Ukraine, Russia and EU. Eastern Partnership will help to enhance alliance building also at the international political community level helping to overcome transnational threats and challenges.

It will help to create a real security roof promoted by NATO. The foundations of security order should be shared despite existing political and governmental disputes on EU-Ukraine level.

All these points are to be essentially focused on the national and EU community levels with the unanimous help of member states. Only in this case the security helmet will be a conciliatory way of promoting peace and stability in the world especially nowadays, in the challenging world, where traditional tools of public policy and diplomacy are inefficient

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