



ROMANIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERN SECURITY ARCHITECTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ABSTRACT:

Taking into consideration the importance of the process of building a new European architecture, Romania is increasingly manifesting its interest in defining its own expectations regarding the future of Europe. The situation appears much more imperative at the present moment, when Romania has not only expressed its option of becoming an EU member, but also began the accession negotiations. The last year's acceptance of ten new states, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Malta and Cyprus, proves the fact that the states already members of the EU are willing to develop a wide EU extension including Romania, Bulgaria and recently also Croatia. Therefore, the 207 new wave of extension is viewed as a nearly mechanical process, determined by the present organizational structure of EU. Since 1990, the Bucharest authorities have been permanently claiming that they wish for Romania to become a member in the European family. The soundings show that population also wishes this thing to happen. The only fact that remains is to convince the EU that we deserve to become a member of this "club".

Key words: *negotiations, strategy, architecture, multilateral relations, consolidation*

1. INTRODUCTION

On a short term, the extension of the EU is processes that not exclude but "incommode" each other. The present logic of the European Union organization and functioning will determine the "dilution" of the integration degree if a rapid extension takes place affecting its effort of profoundest. This process is caused by the fact that the new members will need time until they will completely adapt to the new organism in which they have been inserted.

The remarkable democratic transformations Romania has undergone during the last years have promoted it among the EU candidate states.

Thus, in 1993, Romania and European Union signed the Association Pact, its ratification-taking place two years later. This pact had as consequences the increase of the commercial relations between Romania and EU up to 60% of the total number of our country's exports and imports.

On the 9th of may 1994, Romania received the status of an associated partner to EU together with other 8 Central and East European states. The mixed Ro-EU Parliamentary Committee has been functioning in Ro since 1995 working in semestrial sessions.

Romania enlisted its candidature to EU in 1995. In the same year, on June, all the parliamentary parties signed at Snagov "The Snagov strategy for Romania's EU integration", expressing altogether through a political statement their support in accomplishing this objective. A period of 4 years of lethargy followed when Romania did not succeed in convincing the western partners that it is capable to become an EU member, managing to accomplish only the political criteria from Copenhagen. The only small exception in this period was the conclusion on the 22 of June 1995 and ratification in august 1996 of the Security Pact between Romania and EU concerning the circulation and deposit of documents.

The moment of an intensified cooperation was marked at the beginning of 1997, when on the 24 th of February, Romania notified the list of the military units that were to be put at the EU disposal carrying out missions of Petersburg type. Our country has proved through all the active participations that followed both at high level and in common action with EU and NATO that it understands its status of western ally.

Concretely through, Romania's negotiations with EU began only on the 15th of February 2000, all the political critics and chiefs of state concluding that the political decision taken at Luxemburg represented a reward for the firm position of Romania as an allied to the West in the Kosovo crisis.

"The EU needs Romania as much as Romania needs EU". This is what the Bruxelles officials declared eventually. In the same time it is not a secret that the integration in the European community represents the major ideal for Romanian people, perhaps the highest one. Even the Romanian prime-minister, reminded not a long time ago that "If 50 years ago we waited for the Americans to come, this time we will not wait for the Western Europeans to come, we will look for them".

However, until 2001, Romania managed to conclude only 6 chapters of negotiations from 31, establishing a negative record, being the country with the least concluded chapters as a series of European press agencies related at that time. The negotiation chapters' temporary concluded were: statistics, the small and medium sized enterprises, science and research, education, professional career and youth, external affairs, external policy and common security.

Although the Romanian officials rejected this kind of criticism indicating in exchange the number of opened chapters. The total number

reached thus 11 together with the 6 temporary concluded. The analysis of the EU-Ro negotiations status can not ignore the position of the European Commissary for integration Günter Verhaugen who declared regarding the negotiation chapters that it does not matter the number of chapters opened, but the ones which have been concluded.

The Ministers Council's decision – gathered at Helsinki in December 1999 – to open the adhesion negotiations with other 6 candidate states, among which Romania too, already became history. Through this act, the European Community recognized the fact that Romania is a constitutive part of the EU, within which it has to play an important role.

The intense wish of the authorities to bring Romania in the European family through its integration in EU and NATO results from the priorities expressed in applying the strategy. Certain action ways have been proposed, among which I mention:

- The support for the OSCE Cross European dimension;
- The consolidation of the privileged relationship with Moldavia;
- The constant concern for improving the juridical status and the treatment of minorities within this organization;
- The harmonization of the Romania's legislation with the European one in the perspective of the future Romanian integration in European Union;
- The consolidation of the partnership relations between the public information systems from Romania and the ones from EU member.

Romania developed along with the trainings and the common missions with the allied countries, a political system of regional cooperation, expressed through the three sided meetings with Hungary and Austria, with the Republic of Moldavia and Ukraine, with Bulgaria and Turkey, with Poland and Ukraine, and developed an active policy for maintaining peace in the Balkans through bi and multilateral political contacts. For example, during the Kosovo crisis in 1999, our country was totally on the side of NATO and EU, putting at their disposal besides the military hospitals also the capacity to receive refugees, the air space for the actions of the allied forces who tried to determine Slobodan Milosevic to obey the resolutions of the security council of ONU. All the political, military and social measures taken at that time proved that Romania wishes and is capable of being an important ally of the western structures in this part of Europe.

The evaluation report of Romania's progress instrumented by the European Commission and published on the 8th of November 2000 maintained the same perspective, not pleasant at all for Romania. Practically we were ranked on the last place in a top of the Eastern reformers.

In order to complete the framework of a fast adhesion to EU, Romania should also take into consideration the solution for the bilateral problems it still has with the unions countries, for example with Sweden. In this case, it is necessary to pay the national debt Romania has to Sweden, possible ways of solving this situation being overtaking of certain

Romania's factories by the Swedish investors. Sweden declared itself firm in supporting the Romanian agriculture, helping our country's integration in EU. The German situation should also be urgently solved. Taking into consideration the importance of the German opinion in the EU architecture, improving the bilateral relations starting with returning the building that belonged to the German Embassy in the past, is a compulsory objective.

The extension and consolidation processes of EU security, which I tried to define in this research paper, are in continuous change, their dynamism proving that in the following 30 years various scenarios could be valid.

From the theoretical perspective of the international relations, my opinion is that the neo-realism – neo liberalism synthesis can explain the best the future of the EU security, which will rather be based on a cross governmental type of integration than a project such as the United States of Europe. However, if Europe will decide to adopt this strategy of a supra state, a gradual agenda setting will be necessary. This will imply the politicizing of the subjects involved at supranational level and to create certain expectations for the people regarding a clear set of regulations concerning: citizenship, representation and decision making in Europe.

What means the European Union? What will be the Romania's role in the future Europe's configuration? What will be the costs and the gains of our integration? These are just a few questions to which the Romanian people will have to know the answer because soon they will become EU's citizens, citizens of a space which strengthens and promotes the well being the democracy, stability and security.

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