

The changes in international security environment

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Abstract

With the end of the Cold War, the threat of conflict between East and West disappeared. At this moment, there was a growing awareness for the increased interconnections and interdependence of peoples, states, regions and continents. Peace, security and development are now more interconnected than ever. The initial consequences of these changes provoked a reconfiguration of the national strategies towards the creation of unions of multinational entities sharing common interests. One of the most explicit examples of such unification is the process of European Union enlargement to other European countries including those of Western Balkan.

Security is a precondition of development, the European Security Strategy confirms. If we measure the prospects for development and successful reforms according to the level of security which has been reached and according to the degree to which civilians perceive threats to their safety, the Western Balkans countries still face a myriad of both "hard" and "soft" security challenges, most notably in the areas of defense and security sector reform, justice and home affairs, in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and establishing effective border management, not to mention such tasks as preventing potential threats of terrorism.

Predicting the future is impossible, however it would also be irresponsible not to try to identify the current trends and co-relate them with their drivers where possible. Today's security environment is characterized by uncertainty, complexity, rapid change, and persistent conflict. This environment is fluid, with continually changing alliances, partnerships, and new national and transnational threats constantly appearing and disappearing. Identifying, analyzing and assessing today's threats, risks and challenges are the bases for constructing a real and effective security strategy.

Keywords: Security, threats, opportunities, uncertainty, complexity, terrorism, fighting, strategic environment, cooperative security and the Western Balkans.

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