Current risks in Europe

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Abstract

This paper on the current Risks in Europe is based on the problems faced by European countries in general. Given the potential problems that arise from this topic, I aimed to present the potential risks that may involve our country. In this paper I have tried to present the problems that come from the potential dangers which have involved a good part of Europe but also of our state, Kosovo. At the beginning of the paper I presented the Understanding on Risks, Collective Security, Economic and Social Risks as well as military risks and relations between powerful states. From this paper it can be understood that all European countries can be exposed to all possible risks that may occur. Among the current risks that may involve European countries are the permanent risk of organized crime, corruption, etc.

Keywords: Terrorism, Production of weapons of mass destruction, Regional conflicts Failed states, Bad governance.

Introduction

Critics of various theories in international relations have their own views on risks and threats. Risks and threats have been studied in international relations not only by their state actors but also by many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Europe as one of the oldest continents in the world has constantly faced many problems such as risks and threats. Among others, some of the main problems of risks and threats have been since their definition, classification, coping and management, etc.

Europe has never been cheaper and safer than it is now. The wars and violence caused in the twentieth century have paved the way for Europe to achieve peace, stability and prosperity. The creation of the European Union has been fundamental in this development; it has transformed the relations between the states and the lives of the European citizens. The European countries have promised to face the difficulties peacefully and to interact through certain institutions.

Successful enlargement of the EU would be a vision for the European Continent to be united, peaceful and with better economic development.

Europe still faces security risks and threats. The outbreak of conflict in the Balkans is a reminder that war has not yet disappeared from our Continent. The European Union is inevitably a global actor. In the last decade, European forces have been deployed overseas in countries such as Afghanistan, East Timor and Congo (DRC). The growing convergence of European interests and the strengthening of EU solidarity make us more credible and an effective actor. Europe must be ready to share the responsibility for global security and building a better world. But Europe today faces new dangers and threats that are more destructive, less visible and less predictable.

Terrorism endangers the lives of people, it imposes high costs to face it, it aims

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to subjugate the tolerance and open policy of our society, and it poses a growing strategic risk to the whole of Europe.

The production of weapons of mass destruction is potentially the greatest threat to European security, the regime of international treaties and transport control agreements have reduced the speed of distribution of weapons of mass destruction and their distribution system.

Regional conflicts: Problems such as those in Crimea, Kosovo, between the two Koreas, then in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere have their impact on European interests directly or indirectly.

Failed states: Bad governance - corruption, abuse of power, weak institutions and lack of accountability as well as civil strife erode states from within. In some cases, this leads to the blocking of state institutions.

Organized crime: Europe is the number one target of organized crime. This internal danger to our security has an important dimension. Drug trafficking across the border, trafficking in human beings and arms trafficking by criminals is considered an organized crime which violates security on our Continent.

Therefore, all of us together as the Continent must be extra vigilant so that this does not spread because it can lead to a radical danger.

Understanding on risks and threats

What is the meaning of danger and threat?

Risk includes in itself a general unusual, abnormal condition, which leads to instability or deviation from the normal course of events. It must be considered to be managed with appropriate measures and actions at a certain time, with a certain commitment, to be kept in the existing state by preventing its further escalation.

The threat is an immediate or escalating evolution of a concrete risk unmanaged or ineffectively managed. It materializes to the use of various means, including the means of violence, complicating and questioning the existing situation. Thus the threat can be defined as a concrete risk, scaled and with clearly defined objectives.

Even if we have made a classification of risks and threats as the similarity between them is great we can conclude that for their classification different methodologies are used based on the extent, nature, intensity, and consequences. By not going into repetitions of the materials studied so far we have made a somewhat different classification of the dangers and threats that Europe faces today.

Collective security and other risks

The central challenge to the normal functioning of the European continent in the new millennium is to reach a consensus on the meaning and significance of collective security based on three main pillars.

1. Contemporary threats arise not only against nation states, but rightly they must be considered and addressed by resolving them properly not only locally but also regionally and internationally.
2. No single state in the international arena, despite its power, is more able to defend

itself or be untouchable from the effects of contemporary threats. Therefore, it is in the interest of all states to cooperate and interact, in order to deal as effectively as possible with possible problems and threats. In this way, a mutual interaction would be enabled to face as easily as possible the current dangers or threats such as: terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, drug and human trafficking, corruption, poverty, various diseases, etc.

3. Although the primary responsibility for protecting citizens rests with national governments, it is inconceivable that states are always able to do so without endangering any other state.

So, the primary interest and responsibility of European Governments is the protection of their citizens, as well as the fulfillment of obligations to the international community. What has to do with collective security is a common and inevitable value which must be treated as such, without prejudice, by each state. If different states protect their citizens, as well as take care of other states, helping them, and interacting, then it would be much easier to ensure full respect and proper functioning of rights, values and security of people. So the feeling must be developed among European countries that **we, the people, all share the responsibility for the security of each of us.**

Given the variety of risks and threats, international security in general and European security in particular are faced with several groups of risks and threats which are classified as:

- Sociale Social and economic threats and risks which include poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation.
- International conflicts involving internal conflicts, civil wars, genocide, ethnocide and other forms of violence.
- Biological, chemical, radioactive and nuclear weapons.
- Transnational organized crime.

The goals towards which the EU should aim is to face these types of risks and challenges which can be of catastrophic and disturbing proportions for different parts of the globe, but also for the EU itself.

To prevent these forms of risk, the EU must use precautionary measures that require leadership at the international, regional and local levels..

 Economic and social risks to security
Poverty, Hunger, Social Security, Infectious Diseases and Environmental Degradation

Poverty and Food Providing

The concept of human security highlights a range of risks to life where one of the most salient is poverty. Poverty kills hundreds of people every year as a result of the inability to provide enough food.

According to various data available to international organizations, poverty is a fundamental problem for a third of the world's countries and their citizens, although perhaps not so much for Europe as for continents such as Africa and Asia. Poverty is one of the reasons and causes of the appearance of social inequality. When the problem of poverty is added to the ethnic or religious inequality, respectively urbanization and unemployment, the main formula and all the premises of the emergence of civil wars

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are presented. So evil spreads successively-chain. To meet these risks and threats Europe needs to better manage its natural resources by learning from the fact that 20% of the world's people use 80% of their material goods, the question arises as to what should be done for 80% of other people who do not have access to these goods? So class and social inequality must be erased. In addition to poverty, developing countries, especially the underdeveloped ones, also face a range of carcinogenic and infectious diseases with devastating proportions and effects.In 1987, six years after the first identification of the AIDS virus infection, an awareness-raising and initiative was launched in the fight against this deadly evil by conducting various campaigns to raise awareness among residents living in countries where the deadly virus had wreaked havoc. After 9 years, 25 million people have been infected with AIDS, while 2 million people die each year from tuberculosis. According to a forecast of the World Health Organization in 2020 this figure will increase to 36 million L O 2003, page 26. So, apparently these are a lot of great challenges for Europe which need to be taken seriously, and which challenge this old Continent and all of humanity around the world. At the same time, concrete actions need to be taken to prevent the spread of these risks.

We have the ways, we have the capacity to erase hunger and poverty from the face of the earth in our lives. We only need the willstressed J F. Kennedy at the 1963 World Congress on Food.

In summary for this aspect we can conclude that:

Poverty is a current danger for the peoples of Europe but also for our country Kosovo.

*Not having*is a human phenomenon as it is sometimes politically motivated and politically avoidable.

Hunger is also an avoidable risk as long as there are all possibilities to provide the necessary food products but it remains a current risk as a result of the failure of global economic policies.

But economic risks can also occur as a result of economic sanctions.

Social Security

The social security of the European population is often threatened by the Governments of the respective States and other groups in society because of their social identity. One of the most prominent aspects of **social risks is violent discrimination**.

The main forms of social identity subject to life threatening through discrimination are nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability and ideology which occur due to race, sex and disability.

Military security risks from states

Two major global issues such as the Cold War and decolonization have dominated international relations in the last years of the second half of the twentieth century and have helped to better understand the preoccupation of countries today focused on foreign security.

The resolution on the Cold War and the decolonization of states in the early 1990s brought optimism that a new world order would bring about a world of peace and peaceful relations between states and a more coordinated cooperation for peacekeeping.

But not all realists share the same optimism about the issues we addressed above. Some of them think that the end of the Cold War and decolonization disappear, it was minimized by some risks to be replaced by a series of other more dangerous risks and threats, especially of a military nature.

Realists emphasize that war is an inevitable phenomenon, and an inevitable phenomenon for international relations that is conditioned by the balance of power between states.

Russia-USA, Russia-EU relations and between other countries

Russia-US relations have been strained since 1991, with the dissolution of the United Russia (USSR). This was especially noticeable in the Kosovo War where signs of pan-Slavism reappeared and Western Europe was seen as part of their influence. Russia strongly opposed the UN taking steps to take military action against the former Yugoslavia, but failed to stop NATO from playing its role in Kosovo. The bad relations between Russia and the USA were clearly reflected with the entry of NATO in Kosovo after the signing of the Kumanovo agreement, this was reflected in the security of Prishtina Airport by Russian troops in which case the risk was potential between The Russians and the British although this conflict was not seen during the Cold War. In conclusion, Russia-US relations and especially Russia-NATO relations, despite careful control of European and NATO policy, are a current threat to European security. Russia's recent attempts to form political alliances but which may also have military tendencies, with the former BS countries and those around them are an attempt and a bad taste for European security.

Although international conflicts were the ones that influenced the formation and enhancement of collective security, after the 1990s risk was replaced by conflicts in and around states. These conflicts challenged and are still challenging the world and Europe, because the damage is collateral and many times greater compared to world wars. Although conflicts between states have been reduced by 9%, there is still a risk of their spread. But what challenges the World and Europe today more are the conflicts within the state, which come as a result of a lack of social cohesion. Also, conflicts have become very easily transmitted to other countries through refugees, criminals, etc. After several years of creating the Agenda for Peace, we find that a very important challenge is how to move towards a potential collective mobilization of the European Union system with more coherence and focus on conflict prevention. This can be achieved through interstate cooperation, intensification of the diplomatic, political, humanitarian, institutional field, etc., towards the expansion and advancement of human rights and towards the prevention of conflicts.

Continuity of NATO Enlargement

NATO began its expansion into Europe, immediately after the end of the Kosovo War, when it became a full member of several Warsaw Pact countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, this expansion of NATO troops, was not well received by Russia even though NATO's goal was to maintain security in Europe.

NATO has assured Russia that the purpose of its expansion is not a counterweight to Russia and that it has no plans to deploy missiles in eastern countries with the aim of maintaining the threat from Russia. But from Russia this enlargement was seen as an opposition to it. NATO has shown that its goal remains what it has been for years: "To keep America inside, Germany down and Russia outside." The same danger can be seen even now by Russia and its allies. NATO enlargement is continuing further with European countries. So the number of member states is increasing and certainly Russia will not be satisfied with this policy. The bottom line is that while NATO remains with the same goals of collective security, Russia uses a variety of countermeasures to regulate power, sometimes economically, such as closing gas pipelines and sometimes militarily, such as intervening in Georgia.

Political security risks from non-state actors

Terrorism

Terrorism is probably the most controversial term in political and military science today. Hundreds of definitions by scholars, academics in various fields have tried to define this term but without reaching any meaningful conclusion. The best definition was last given by Schmidt in 1983, a definition which was later used by the US Department of State. He defines terrorism as premeditated, violent, politically motivated, directed against non-military objectives.

The ways and forms of spread that terrorism today are numerous and undetectable since the assassination of state leaders, taking hostages and acts against international and national organizations, etc. Examples of Europe's confrontation with these acts have been shown by the terrorist organization IRA in Ireland and ETA in Spain, but there are also recent cases in France, Britain, Germany, Spain…

What can Europe do today against this current danger?

A number of measures have been taken by the EU and NATO to prevent the terrorist threat. We see the main preventive measures in the context of strengthening European legality but also within the countries themselves. The EU has taken measures such as: Drafting emergency laws, identifying and stopping terrorist-related organizations, seizing terrorist assets and setting up the Europol anti-terror unit.

Counter-terrorism within the EU appears in two phases:

The first stage is the period before the strokes of 11.9. 2001 in the US, characterized by incomplete countermeasures.

The second phase is the period after the September 11, 2001, attacks, which is characterized by comprehensive and effective measures, which were further strengthened after the attacks in Madrid in 2004 and 2005 in London.

EU counter-terrorism measures are based on four components: the implementation of measures envisaged by the UN; increase cooperation with the United States in the fight against terrorism with the aim of exchanging information at the level of the secret services as well as cooperation between the police and the Courts; envisaged EU measures, in the action plan in the fight against terrorism, where the formulation of the notion of terrorism, the lists of terrorist elements, the freezing of funds for

terrorists and the opposition to any form of terrorist financing, the adoption of the right to arrest , appointment of a counterterrorism coordinator, elaboration of a strategy for the benefit of European security.

*EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy,*30 November 2005 which aims to prevent, provide protection against terrorism, pursue it and respond to it.

The EU makes a strategic commitment to the fight against global terrorism and at the same time takes into account respect for human rights.

Program against "For the Security and Protection of Freedoms" of February 12, 2007: The program supports projects for the prevention of terrorism, preparation and management of the consequences of terrorist attacks and other security risks as well as the prevention and fight against organized crime.

The EU also pays special *attention**to the treatment of counter-terrorism measures outside the EU, such as: border control, analysis of terrorist conception coming from outside Europe, included in trade agreements with different countries and anti-terror clauses.*

An important assessment of terrorism as a danger and threat is the policy pursued by NATO.

International terrorism requires an international, multilateral and comprehensive response. This requires the coordinated use of political, economic, legal, social and, if necessary, military means. The tools available to NATO make it arguably one of the best equipped international organizations to deal with the threat of international terrorism.

NATO is making a major contribution to the fight against terrorism that has been fueled by the impetus and directives given at the Prague Summits in 2002, Istanbul in 2004, Riga in 2006 and Bucharest in 2008.

Nationalism

The current threat to Europe is nationalism. The most typical example of such a threat has been the policy pursued by Serbia in Kosovo during the armed conflict in 1999. Developments in Kosovo had a direct impact on the Republic of Albania in the form of military provocations and violations of territory and airspace.

External danger and threat to Europe's security may come as a result of a destabilization of the region, fueled by the resurgence of nationalist sentiments and the development of ethnic conflicts. The last typical case is the conflict in the Northern Republic of Macedonia. Such a danger becomes more present in the Balkans, as a result of the inherited state of conflict, the existence of a considerable number of nationalities within a state, the tendencies for the creation of nation-states. Another reason that could lead to conflict is the low level of respect for human rights and economic development. Treating an ethnicity as a second-class citizen is another cause that could lead to conflict, as happened in Macedonia.

The presence of a large arsenal of weapons in the region around our country poses another danger.

International organized crime is considered a threat that violates human rights and freedoms and is a major challenge for the EU. According to an analysis made by some French researchers, criminal groups through drugs profit from 300 to 500 million

dollars a year. D M Paris 2002, fq.11. This amount in some cases is higher than the GDP of many countries and governments, therefore more care should be taken in increasing the efficiency of this problem as the facts show that the lack of efficiency has come as a consequence:

1. Non-cooperation or poor cooperation between states

2. Poor coordination between international agencies

3. Inadequate implementation of cooperation against this risk by many countries.

For the prevention of organized crime should be acted immediately during and after the end of conflicts, as the post-conflict period is extremely suitable to attend and this risk has occurred.To successfully combat this risk, the EU must regulate and organize an international legal framework for the prevention of criminal activity. For this reason, not only must the Convention against International Organized Crime of 2000 and the three protocols of this convention, together with the Convention against Corruption, be implemented and implemented within the UN.According to information, more than half of the UN members have not signed and ratified this convention L G Shkup 2006, faqe 113..

Closely related to international organized crime and corruption are money laundering through criminal activities, trafficking in human beings, including women and children, which pose a permanent challenge to the EU and its member states.

A coordinated and joint action of all European countries would reduce or minimize the negative effects of these risks and threats. In order to be as effective as possible in managing risks and threats and not to face an irreparable catastrophe, it is required that these permanent challenges and risks be addressed in advance by strengthening cooperation in finding methods, methods and strengthening legality. This requires change and adaptation of decision-making in accordance with situations and restructuring of organizations, institutions.

I am quoting the father of Francophonie, the former president of Senegal, Leopold Sedar Senghor, who once said that «everything must change once, otherwise a static society would develop».

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