

Copyright: The author/s  
This work is licensed under a CC-BY 4.0 license  
(\*) Corresponding author  
Peer review method: Double-blind  
Review article  
DOI: 10.20544/HORIZONS.1.1.23.P10



---

## MAINTAINING GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY

**Prof. Dr.sc. Tatjana Gerginova, PhD\***

*Faculty of Security-Skopje, UKLO*

[tatjana.gerginova@uklo.edu.mk](mailto:tatjana.gerginova@uklo.edu.mk)

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-3669-0209>

### Abstract

The Russian Federation represents the most direct threat to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. Within the framework of the paper, the author analyzes the terms "aggression" and "military interventions". Furthermore, the author analyzes the activities undertaken by NATO and European Union to maintain and build global stability, peace and security. In the final part of the paper, the author states that the escalation of Russia's aggressive attack against Ukraine threatens European and global peace and security and indicates, emphasizes the importance of the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Western Balkans. There is no longer a monopole world, but a polycentric one with complexes and intertwined interests. The world today is in great geopolitical turmoil and upheaval.

The content will be created based on the analysis of foreign literature and using electronic content. In preparing the content of the paper, the author will apply the general scientific methods: the descriptive method, the normative method, the comparative method and the content analysis method as a special scientific method.

Key words: aggression, military interventions, invasion, global peace, global stability

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Russian Federation represents the most direct threat to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. Russian Federation launched a war against Ukraine under the pretext of defending national security and stopping the NATO expansion process. This war marks the creation of a new order in international relations, as well as a violation of international conventions, especially UN laws, because it is not subject to the concept of preventive war. Russian Federation seeks to establish spheres of influence and direct control through coercion, subversion, aggression and annexation.

The Russian Federation uses conventional, cyber and hybrid assets against NATO and its partners. Their goal is to undermine multilateral norms and institutions and promote authoritarian models of governance. They threaten the security of citizens through hybrid tactics. They promote disinformation campaigns, instrumentalist migration, manipulate energy supplies and apply economic coercion.

Its coercive military posture, rhetoric and proven willingness to use force to achieve its political goals undermine the rules-based international order. The Russian Federation violated the norms and principles that contributed to a stable and predictable European security order.

## **2. ANALYSIS OF THE TERMS AGGRESSION AND MILITARY INTERVENTION**

The term "Aggression" was defined in 1974, by a special Resolution of the UN General Assembly. According to this definition, "aggression is the use of force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another state, or the use of force which is in any other way incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, as derived from this definition".

As active aggression are considered:<sup>1</sup>

- Invasion or attack on the territory of a state by the armed forces of another country, military occupation and annexation;
- Bombardment or use of any weapon on the territory of one state by the armed forces of another state;
- An attack by the armed forces of a country on land, the naval or air force of another state;
- Blockade of the ports or coast of a state by the armed forces of another country.

Based on the definition of aggression, it can be stated that armed aggression is a method and means of the armed force in order to destroy the constitutional order, to violate the territorial integrity, i.e. to abolish the sovereignty and independence of the country against which the aggression is carried out.

In case of aggression, according to the UN system, the attacked state is authorized, in legal self-defense, to use force and repel the attack. Diplomatic relations are severed between the warring parties and restrictions and security measures can be applied to the citizens of the enemy state. Aggression is treated as a crime against international and global peace, therefore international responsibility is foreseen for those who commit this act.

Military interventions represent the greatest threat to global peace, security, the independence and freedom of many countries in the world.

Military interventions are an external armed form of threat to national security and represent the illegal interference of one or a group of states in the internal affairs of other states with the use of armed force. One of the goals of military interventions is the prevention of political changes in individual countries, which threaten the interests of the great powers.

This form of aggressive use of armed force was very often used for the realization of hegemonic interests and policy goals from a position of strength.

---

<sup>1</sup> Gocevski, Trajan., (2002). "Fundamentals of the National Defense System", Macedonian Treasury, Kumanovo

Military interventions are part of the strategy of the great powers. For that purpose, special forces for quick interventions are formed and weapons and military equipment are produced that enable those forces to be quickly transferred to the area where intervention is to be done.

In the largest number of cases, military interventions largely achieved the set goals and ensured the realization of full or partial control over the countries in which the interventions were made.

### **3. ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN MAINTAINING GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

In the modern world, political, economic, cultural and military-security relations are increasingly taking place in the global multiple and multilateral environment, in which the complex interdependence of states is increasingly manifested. The progress achieved in the implementation of the common foreign and security policy of the EU and the involvement of the European defense forces in the solution of security problems indicate the increasingly important role of the EU in the harmonization of the relations and interests of the European countries and assuming the share of common responsibilities in the creation of European and global security.<sup>2</sup>

The European Security Strategy of 2003 defines many activities that strengthen the role of the European Union in the realization of international security.<sup>3</sup> With this strategy, the following main benchmarks for the role of the European Union in the realization of international security are determined: Preventive action – to prevent the occurrence of certain problems and threats. The EU should act preventively and provide assistance where necessary in order to remedy security problems; Stable security environment; Maintaining the transatlantic partnership and cooperation with the United States and determining the list of key security threats to the security of the European Union.

Today there is a belief that the European Union is taking the leading role in leading sustainable development at the global level. It is one of the world's largest donors of development aid, the world's largest trading partner and the largest source of direct private investment. The European integration model is based on conducting mutually supportive strategies for stable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Investing in a shared future with its closest neighbors is fundamental to the long-term political stability of the European Union itself. Therefore, the enlargement of the European Union is based on development programs aimed at achieving political stability, secure economic conditions, social cohesion and environmental sustainability.

---

<sup>2</sup> Gerginova, Tatjana., (2023). Global Security Second supplemented edition, Publisher Faculty of Security, Skopje - University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola

<sup>3</sup> A secure Europe in a better world; European Security Strategy - Policy Implication for Europe, pp. 11-14  
Bezbedna Evropa u boljem svetu – Evropska strategija bezbednosti usvojena od šefovi država i vlada na Evropskom savetu u Brisel, 12.12.2003, str. 10.

Resilience is defined in the EU's Global Strategy as "the ability of states and societies to reform, thereby enduring and recovering from internal and external crises".<sup>4</sup>

This strategy in the field of foreign and security policy establishes five priorities which will shape the foreign policy action of the European Union in the future.<sup>5</sup>

- The European Union undertakes activities aimed at strengthening capacities and investing additional efforts in the field of defense, "cyber" space, counter-terrorism, energy and strategic communications;
- It is in the interest of the citizens of the European Union to invest in the resilience of the states and communities as far as Central Asia and Central Africa;
- Integrated approach to conflicts – the European Union acts with the preventive component; reacts responsibly and decisively to crises; it intervenes in stabilization and when new crises break out it will avoid premature withdrawal.
- Regional order for cooperation – the voluntary forms of regional government enable states and people to realize a wide range of interests: from security, culture and identity to the realization of influences in world relations;
- Global governance for the 21<sup>st</sup> century – the European Union is committed to a global order based on international law that ensures human freedoms, sustainable development and permanent access to global goods. This strategy is based on visions and ambitions for the creation of a stronger European Union with the will and ability to improve the position of its citizens as well as situations in the world.

In 2020, the European Union adopted a new EU Security Union Strategy for the period 2020 to 2025, which provides guidance on strengthening security by preventing and detecting hybrid threats.<sup>6</sup>

Through this strategy, the European Union describes the tools and measures to ensure European security, both in the physical and digital worlds and across all sections of society, through the prevention and detection of hybrid threats.

The comprehensive approach of the European Union in dealing with hybrid threats, as well as the established cooperation between the European Union and NATI in the field of hybrid threats, (EU-NATO Joint Declaration -2016 and 2018 - cyber defense and capacity building, have been taken into account in the development of this national Strategy. Within NATO, in 2016, guidelines for building resilience were defined, as well as evaluation criteria to support the seven basic

---

<sup>4</sup> "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe", A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, 2016. available to: <http://europa.eu/globalstrategy>

<sup>5</sup> Gerginova, Tatjana., (2023). Global Security - Second supplemented edition, Publisher Faculty of Security, Skopje - University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola

<sup>6</sup> See more: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication-eu-security-union-strategy.pdf>

needs/requirements for building national resilience - Seven Baseline Requirements for National Resilience.<sup>7</sup>

The proposal for a new strategy defines four priorities for action at European Union level.<sup>8</sup>

The first priority refers to the future security environment that focuses on protecting and increasing the resilience of key physical and digital infrastructure.

The second priority recognizes the problem of rapidly evolving threats and the need for the European Union to adapt to it in order to combat them. This primarily refers to the growing cybercrime and the need to improve the capacity of digital investigations, but also to combat hybrid threats aimed at disrupting social cohesion and trust in institutions.

The third priority is the fight against terrorism and organized crime. Regarding the fight against terrorism, the strategy emphasizes the importance of eliminating the causes of radicalization, prosecuting terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters and cooperating with non-EU countries and international organizations. As far as organized crime is concerned, the measures will focus on combating human trafficking, especially migrants, drug trafficking and illegal weapons.

The fourth priority refers to building a strong security ecosystem, which means cooperation and exchange of information, strong external borders, strengthening research capacities and improving skills and raising awareness in security issues.

The comprehensive approach of the European Union in dealing with hybrid threats, as well as the established cooperation between the European Union and NATI in the field of hybrid threats, (EU-NATO Joint Declaration -2016 and 2018 - cyber defense and capacity building, have been taken into account in the development of this national Strategy. Within NATO, in 2016, guidelines for building resilience were defined, as well as evaluation criteria to support the seven basic needs/requirements for building national resilience - Seven Baseline Requirements for National Resilience.<sup>9</sup>

#### *A Summit of the European Union in Tirana*

A Summit of the European Union and the countries of the Western Balkans was held in Tirana on December 6, 2022, at which it was discussed the joint resolution of the consequences of the Russian invasion against Ukraine, the intensification of political dialogue and political expansions and the strengthening of security and building resistance to foreign involvement, solving challenges that represent migrations, the fight against terrorism and organized crime.<sup>10</sup> The summit

---

<sup>7</sup> See more about this [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_132722.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm)

<sup>8</sup> Gerginova, Tatjana., (2022). "National security and resistance of the Republic of North Macedonia in a modern global security environmental", Paper published in Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference - 45 YEARS HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE AREA OF SECURITY - EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES AND SECURITY PERSPECTIVES, organized by the Faculty of Security, Skopje and the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

<sup>9</sup> See more about this [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_132722.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm)

<sup>10</sup> Declaration by Tirana, 06.12.2022

link: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/60549/tirana-declaration-01.pdf>

was held two months after the informal summit of the EU states in Prague, which was attended by all European states except Russia and Belarus.

At the end of the EU – Western Balkans Summit, a declaration was adopted which warns that the escalation of Russia's aggressive attack against Ukraine threatens European and global peace and security and expires the importance of the strategic partnership between the EU and the Western Balkans, confirms its full and unequivocal determination of perspective membership of the Western Balkans in the European Union.<sup>11</sup>

Through the content of the Declaration, the need for coordinated action between the EU and the Western Balkans, which share a large number of security challenges, is established (the Russian aggressive war against Ukraine is mentioned here). In that direction, the partners have demonstrated their commitment to the Common Security and Defense Policy through their contribution to EU crisis management missions and operations.

The EU and the Western Balkans are determined to further strengthen cooperation on basic security and defense issues, including at the operational level. The EU will continue to cooperate with the region to further develop defense capabilities and capacities, including through the European Peacekeeping Instrument. The EU welcomes the continued commitment of partners to develop effective instruments for cooperation within the Western Balkans in the field of security and defense. The EU will further strengthen its engagement in areas such as space and military mobility.

The EU and the Western Balkans are determined to fight against foreign information manipulation and interference, including disinformation and other hybrid threats that are present in the societies of the Western Balkans and that seek to threaten the stability of the region, its democratic processes and the perspective in the EU.

In the period 17-19.02.2023, the 59<sup>th</sup> Security Conference was held in Munich. Since the first conference in 1963, Munich has served as a sort of brainstorming ground, where politicians and experts take initiatives and develop solutions to the most critical security issues of the present and future.<sup>12</sup> At this Conference, over 450 world leaders and high-level decision-makers are participating, including heads of state, ministers, leaders of international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives from business and civil society. The participants discussed the challenges and opportunities of the European integration path and the challenges of the foreign and security policy with special emphasis on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Strengthening of support for Ukraine, one year after Russian aggression, the need to protect the international order and the norms on which it is based, revision of the security structure, fears of an alliance between the People's Republic of China and Russia, but also the need for stability in individual regions of the world, among and the Western Balkans, were part of the topics addressed by the participants of this Conference. The participants debated security in light of the war in Ukraine, but also in terms of energy, economy, food, water, environmental protection.

---

<sup>11</sup> Source: EU-Western Balkans summit in Tirana, 6 December 2022, link: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/60568/tirana-declaration-en.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://mia.mk/story/започна-59.-минхенска-конференција-главна-тема-рускоукраинскиот-конфликт>

#### **4. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATO IN MAINTAINING GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

Today, NATO is a defined alliance and its key purpose and greatest responsibility is to provide collective defense against all threats. In its program of action, NATO remains committed to the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter and the North Atlantic Treaty.<sup>13</sup> NATO's Strategic Concept (adopted in Madrid on 29 June 2022) sets out the Alliance's priorities, core tasks and approaches for the next decade. The concept describes the security environment facing the Alliance, affirms European values and sets out NATO's three core tasks of deterrence and defense; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative provision.

The document defines Russia as the "most significant and direct threat" to the security of allies, while referring for the first time to China and the challenges Beijing poses to the security, interests and values of allies. The documents also state that climate change is "the definitive challenge of our time".

NATO is taking action to address the systemic challenges posed by the People's Republic of China's to Euro-Atlantic security. NATO undertakes activities to strengthen common awareness, strengthen resilience. The primary purpose of NATO's nuclear capability is to preserve the peace, prevent coercion and deter aggression.

NATO invests in the ability to prepare for deter, and defend against the coercive use of political, economic, energy, information and other hybrid tactics by states and non-state actors. Hybrid operations against allies could reach the level of an armed attack and could prompt the North Atlantic Council to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

NATO is taking action to strengthen deterrence and defense, strengthen resilience against Russian coercion and support partners in their efforts to counter malicious interference and aggression. The Russian Federation cannot be considered a partner, but the NATO Alliance is ready to maintain open channels of communication with Moscow to manage and mitigate risks, prevent escalation and increase transparency. For the sake of building stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, it is necessary for the Russian Federation to stop its aggressive behavior and fully comply with international law.

The deepening strategic partnership between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation and their mutually reinforcing attempts to undermine the rules-based international order run counter to the Alliance's values and interests.

Strategic stability, ensured through effective deterrence and defense, arms control and disarmament and reciprocal political dialogue, remains essential to global security. Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation contribute strongly to the Alliance's goals. Allied arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts aim to reduce risk and improve security, transparency, verification and compliance.

---

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf)

The preventive component in the activities undertaken by the NATO Alliance to maintain global stability and security should be highlighted.

Political dialogue and practical cooperation with partners, based on mutual respect and benefit, contribute to stability beyond our borders, enhance our security at home and support NATO's core tasks. Partnerships are crucial to protect the global commons, enhance our resilience and uphold the rules-based international order.

The European Union is a unique and essential partner for NATO. NATO and the EU play complementary, coherent and mutually reinforcing in supporting global peace and security.

NATO's approach will remain interest-driven, flexible, focused on addressing common threats and challenges and able to adapt to changing geopolitical realities.

Investing in NATO is the best way to ensure a lasting relationship between European Union and North American Allies, while contributing to global peace and stability.

Coordinated actions will continue to be taken to strengthen its political unity and solidarity. Consultations will also be expanded and deepened to resolve all issues affecting global security (especially emphasizing the strengthening of consultations when security and stability are threatened or when European fundamental values and principles are threatened).

## **5.CONCLUSION**

In the final part of the paper, the author states that the escalation of Russia's aggressive attack against Ukraine threatens European and global peace and security and indicates, emphasizes the importance of the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Western Balkans. There is no longer a monopole world, but a polycentric one with complexes and intertwined interests. The world today is in great geopolitical turmoil and upheaval.

The following are suggested as possible solutions for ending the war:

One solution would be to postpone the issue for ten to fifteen years and then decide it in a referendum conducted according to democratic standards under UN supervision.

The second solution would refer to the payment of compensation by Russia and the third would be the creation of a new security order in the region. Ukraine needs assurances that it will never again be the victim of a Russian attack.

For the sake of building stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, it is necessary for the Russian Federation to stop its aggressive behavior and fully comply with international law.

The analysis of the activities of the European Union and NATO in maintaining global peace, stability and security indicates the importance of building a strategic partnership between the European Union and the Western Balkans and confirms the full determination of prospective membership of the Western Balkans in the European Union.

NATO Allies face threats and challenges from both state and non-state actors who use hybrid activities to target political institutions, influence public opinion and undermine the security of NATO citizens. Hybrid methods of warfare – such as propaganda, deception, sabotage and other

non-military tactics – have long been used to destabilize adversaries. What is new about attacks seen in recent years is their speed, scale and intensity, facilitated by rapid technological change and global interconnectivity. NATO has a strategy on its role in countering hybrid warfare and stands ready to defend the Alliance and all Allies against any threat, whether conventional or hybrid. Readiness to prevent, counter and respond to hybrid attacks, whether by state or non-state actors, is a top priority for NATO.

## 6. REFERENCES

A secure Europe in a better world; European Security Strategy - Policy Implication for Europe, pp. 11-14; or Bezbedna Evropa u boljem svetu – Evropska strategija bezbednosti usvoena od šefovi država i vlada na Evropskom savetu u Brisel, 12.12.2003, str. 10.

Gocevski, Trajan., (2002). "Fundamentals of the National Defense System", Macedonian Treasury, Kumanovo

Gerginova, Tatjana., (2023). Global Security Second supplemented edition, Publisher Faculty of Security, Skopje - University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola

Gerginova, Tatjana., (2022). "National security and resistance of the Republic of North Macedonia in a modern global security environmental", Paper published in Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference - 45 YEARS HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE AREA OF SECURITY - EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES AND SECURITY PERSPECTIVES, organized by the Faculty of Security, Skopje and the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

Declaration by Tirana, 06.12.2022

link: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/60549/tirana-declaration-01.pdf>

"Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe", A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, 2016. available to: <http://europa.eu/globalstrategy>).

Source: EU-Western Balkans summit in Tirana, 6 December 2022

Link: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/60568/tirana-declaration-en.pdf> accessed on 25.08.2023

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication-eu-security-union-strategy.pdf>

<https://mia.mk/story/започна-59.-минхенска-конференција-главна-тема-рускоукраинскиот-конфликт>

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_132722.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm) accessed on 25.08.2023

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_132722.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm) accessed on 25.08.2023

[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf) accessed on 25.08.2023

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_132722.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication-eu-security-union-strategy.pdf>