EURO-ATLANTIC COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM OF INFORMATIVE COOPERATION DESIGNED TO COMBAT UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS

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Abstract: *Globalization, seen both as an significant element in human development and also as a disturbing factor for the society, continues to characterize the evolution of the contemporary world, especially of those leading state or non-state actors. The phenomenon, acting in key business areas on the basis of well-defined system of regulations also generally accepted, has different manifestations that may cause, in the system of international relations, interactions and challenges among participants and non-conventional threats hard to be controlled and to quantified, especially in border areas affected by illicit trafficking. Those aspects motivate our attempt to investigate the possibilities to improve the cooperative activity of international intelligence for efficient operations to combat unconventional threats specific to border areas.*

Keywords: *international stage, globalization, asymmetric non-conventional threats, security umbrella, international intelligence cooperation.*

1. INTRODUCTION

After the dissolution of the Soviet communist threat, the dynamic of contemporary international relations is marked by an irreversible transition from one bivalent era to one multivalent ,, network era,, open for informational cooperation required to facilitate planning of the operations designed to combat contemporary unconventional asymmetric threats.

The interdependence between the components of international system of democratic values imposed the implementation and enforcement of new governance rules based on *the collaborative platform* which enabled the consensus and coordination of international democratic systems activity efforts with attributions in adjusting the dynamic of noxious elements, occurring in the contemporary security.

Some rules, of international concern, must be respected as a priori because they can solve coherently current security problems related to control, security and border permeability, areas of major importance in the context of the rising of the globalization process.

The unconventional threat fits perfectly in the pattern of globalization consequences, whether it is about organized crime or terrorism.

Moreover, it may be noted that, along with the evolution of international relations, it has grown a system of unconventional threats with resources, actors, strategies, objectives and their own means of action.

This system has developed meticulously, building the three pillars of support (internal corruption, transnational organized crime and international terrorism), complementary in their activity to threat and destroy freedom, safety and security of democratic states.

The activity of effectively fight against the flow of unconventional threats is possible only through a joint effort of cooperation, managed by international collaborative structures which can work effectively on the basis of strategies, techniques, tactics and procedures designed to identify and combat unconventional asymmetric threats and the causes of their evolution (we consider in particular the activities developed by: Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, Barcelona process, the Greater Middle East, Russia sanctions generated by the aggression Ukraine etc.).

Such cooperation initiatives should lead to political and economical stabilization, to reconstruction and respect of the values, culture and tradition of social entities from affected areas.

The identification of right answers to the types of unconventional threats must involve a framework of regional and international informational cooperation, which may attract both the specialized structures of civil and academics society, along with international bodies.

This collaborative platform thus achieved may be able to lead participants to a better understanding of the factors generating asymmetric threats and adverse effects induced in the states security.

The approach of multinational cooperation system is necessary due to the fight against asymmetric threats, requires consistency in security forces structure and in strategies formulation.

Depending on the experience and skills of the actors involved in the phenomena of social insecurity overall management, international cooperation should establish a set of priorities and concrete ways to limit and stop these phenomena, anticipating tendencies that may occur later and techniques, combat tactics and concrete procedures, with efficiency and minimum consumption of resources.

Cooperation can be a viable solution only as far as can overcome the theory stage, the transition to concrete measures that can optimize informational management system of international cooperation, based on realistic strategies and clear enough for the participants.

In essence, they should investigate ways and concrete directions of cooperation taking into account the specific appearance of the domino effect, specific to globalization of international relations (negative implications of unconventional threats in some areas with a relative immunity, generated and amplified new types of unconventional threats).

International intelligence cooperation should be done both at conceptually and acting levels.

The purpose of this approach must be done to design architecture of a new security system, connected to the realities and specificity of this beginning of millennium, able to take into account permanently the diffuse character, adaptable and flexible new risks and threats to national, regional and international security.

The United Nations Organization, as an international democratic structure, is the only authority that can achieve a consensus on the perception of unconventional threats legitimizing riposte actions and response arrangements (preemptive or preventive) against them.

So from this perspective, effective cooperative internationally work should consider an efficient management of the world organization characterized by the use of a legal framework, eliminating dissent, flexibility and adjustment to new parameters forces of climate and strengthening security universal vocation of the United Nations

2. THE NATO COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK IN INFORMATIONAL COOPERATION TO COUNTERACT UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS

Regarding the timing of changing the global security environment characteristics, among military theorists there had been no clear consensus.

There were several considerations regarding the placement of this moment, as follows: the dissolution of Soviet bloc in the early 90s (marking the new world order); 1991 (NATO Strategic Concept Release year); the events of September 11, 2001 (the kamikaze attack upon civilian and military targets with civilian airplane); Prague time (major moment with significant changes in strategic perception of institutions involved) etc.

Regardless of these opinions NATO, as the prime provider of security in the Euro-Atlantic area, has demonstrated that it has the necessary resources and sufficient knowledge to identify and harmonize optimal response solutions, giving the Alliance's the status of collective defense alliance and basic actor of international dynamics.

In support of these claims we can mention the events of the late twentieth century from Europe (Serbia, 1999), the events f in Middle East from the beginning of XXI century (Iraq 2001 and 2003), the events from Afghanistan (ongoing), relevant coordinates supporting the role and vocation as a security umbrella of NATO for Euro-Atlantic community.

Moreover, through the measures taken in countries near the arch of Eastern European insecurity to deploy missile shield, can be argued NATO system reliability, flexible framework that can adjust and refocus to identify and implement viable solutions. The existing structures in the field of cooperation with responsibilities at NATO and EU level, involved important state actors (USA, Germany, France, Russia, Ukraine etc.) in solving both the European oldest crisis, but also the current crisis from East European area.

At the same time was maintained a Mediterranean dialogue and effective measures have been taken to achieve an optimal level of control and security in the Black Sea tensioned area. These efforts were concentrated both to boost cooperation in areas of interest, and for shaping a new security architecture which can define better the dynamics of contemporary international environment. Informative cooperation between NATO states is based on national informative contributions in accordance with extremely complex procedures. This type of international cooperation mechanisms presents also perfectible features, as some important confidential information are too sensitive and cannot be shared with all members of the Alliance. As a consequence, there are required training activities of national informational support, so that each Member State to become a crucial element in the struggle carried by Alliance in combating unconventional threats to global and continental security.

It is regrettable that we had to face the tragic events (September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on US targets, terrorist attacks in Spain, UK, Turkey, Russian Federation, France etc), to take important measures to secure the informative system in order to eliminate the possibility of information leakage to the areas of responsibility of the cross-border organized crime structures and international terrorism.

Such examples justify the need to intensify Member States efforts to optimize cooperation in identifying viable ways to organize the whole NATO architecture of informational system.

We insist on the fact that the whole point of the Alliance is to streamline the system of collective defense of Member States, this mission being the main factor which will enhance mutual trust between the intelligence services and to increase the exchange of useful information, timely documentation purposes also countering global threats, thereby linking the appropriate anticipatory response. Cooperation of Alliance structures in the informational field will require a new stage in the collaborative work of specialized services, characterized by moving the center of gravity from the area of information exchange (information of a general activity) in the cooperation actions and specific cases area(recovery activity of the potential partners involved). Such logic should avoid unwanted informational accidents, the effort focusing on the need to identify effective ways of targeting and use of logistical, financial and human resources that are at the disposal of informative community.

The Alliance's vision on cooperation in intelligence activities may have certain limitations imposed both by objective reasons given by partitions and secrecy of special services activity and also by the fact that, the unpredictable world of intelligence is a world of competition rather than cohesion. The major players dominate permanent informational network, and the actors with modest informational possibilities are always pushed towards the periphery. This explains the fact that the exchange of data and information between intelligence services may fall within the term,, state within a state', is characterized by its own diplomacy, is based on specific agreements and treaties and their codes cannot be decrypt by the unadvised.

The partition of informational activity field is necessary for the following reasons: some deductions to intense exchange of data and information that may affect the safety of sources; different understanding of limits on the individual's right to information (privacy) and the necessity of informational system security.

The analysis of those two reasons, which justify limited access to information with specific nature, can conclude that the enhancing of cooperation in intelligence field depends heavily on the development of an information system set on special regime of information sources and also adjusted on specific approaches (private - security).

In the same context, we support the logic approach in the field of intelligence cooperation relations based on mechanism simple - complex, which requires the coordination of all activities of special services (domestic, regional and international) by NATO decision-making structures.

However, in order to avoid gaps in carrying informational activity, it requires increasing the coherence between the services of the same State, by avoiding overlapping areas of responsibility.

Analysis of the regional security environment highlights a set of common threats with specific features and forms, familiar only to countries from particular areas. For this reason there were European initiatives such as seminars and conferences which created premises for the assertion of a common language study of asymmetrical threats.

This is the first stage of real communication, community specific informational that ensures the coherence of activity of formulating and implementing appropriate response measures and actions. The second stage concerns the setting of common terminology that can ensure the compatibility of informational national structures with other regional or allied structures.

The development of a security culture that facilitates the communication at the level of states security and between these and other public authorities and institutions (civil society) is the third stage of real communication specific to intelligence community.

At this stage are set the bases of informational structures reconfiguration, element contributing to the structural and operational compatibility requirements.

3. THE EUROPEAN UNION COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK IN INFORMATIONAL COOPERATION TO COUNTERACT UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS

The new challenges and threats at the safety of democratic states guided the European institutions efforts towards strengthening cooperation between states of the European Union in the fight against unconventional threats.

At the present time the EU institutions and organizations coordinate a wide range of specific instruments of European security policy.

Their use is made on the basis of security structures contributions, participating effectively in multilateral informational trade.

European Union, at executive level, has limited opportunities (reduced operational capabilities) to combat unconventional threats from the community area or beyond.

This issue has been analyzed more seriously at the beginning of this century (after the conflict in Serbia), when, as a result of decisions taken by the European Union, began to appear own structure able to stop unconventional threats it its area of responsibility.

In the first stage were implemented forces designed to organize intelligence cooperation, represented by four structures of the European Union, which, together, form a information community structure (an intelligence agency) as follows: Joint Assessment Centre (SITCEN), Europol, Military Intelligence Division of the European Management (INTD) and the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC).

Most European states, in relation with the four structures, plead for the development of these mechanisms and their transformation into effective tools supporting informative strategies and policies.

Moreover, at present, EUSC and INTD meet the standards structures while EUROPOL and SITCEN should be reformed on the following issues: extending Europol responsibilities;

consolidation and development of SITCEN in comparison with the current monitoring and evaluation of risks and asymmetric threats (is envisaged increasing terror attacks on European democratic states); increasing cooperation with Central European intelligence structures specialized Community bodies (Court of First Instance, Eurojust, etc.) and national intelligence structures.

The activity to streamline the management system of cooperation between EU intelligence structures is imposed by the increasing contribution of information, efficiency, timeliness and safety in their submission to the operational structures. This effort will focus on at least four major areas where the needs of information contribution, priority as follow:

- *collection capacity* - some member states show a weak technical capacity to collect information, greatly restricting their opportunities to provide timely and effective information support for operational structures;

- *external information support* - due to lack of experience SITCEN structures fails to respond effectively to the needs of European Union in the field of external information support necessary in decision-making process;

- *humanitarian action and civil protection* - national security agencies must provide real information support to those humanitarian actions and civil protection, thereby increasing the capacity of the European structures involved in managing this problem;

- *compatibility and interoperability in action* - some informative structures of the European Union cannot operate effectively together in operations to combat unconventional threats because not all countries rise up to current requirements on consistency of informative activities.

The tendencies to strengthen computerized cooperation are best represented by multilateral component of the European informative system, SITCEN, which, employed with military and civilian personnel, provide early warning and current information for specialized bodies in crisis management, regarding situations and events unconventional with important repercussions on the security of community member.

Meanwhile, the SITCEN is an operational point of contact between it and the staff deployed in national assessment centers (crisis units) located within or outside the European Union. In addition, staff SITCEN will be strengthened with experts from some Member States to cover the mission of developing informative analysis approaching EU policies.

Some Member States of the European Union expressed doubts on their employment in a dynamic and multilateral information exchange at European level, considering SITCEN a common mechanism for the management of European information system. However, as a whole, we can appreciate the existence of a constant concern of European leaders to achieve a collaborative platform designed to optimize the management of cooperation system between EU states, especially during planning operations to combat unconventional threats. Also, those leaders have admitted some difficulties that have restricted bilateral information exchange, situation that affected the climate of trust and extension of cooperation at community informative level. Moreover, at the request of states heads were submitted concrete proposals on information integration unit to manage all aspects of contemporary international terrorism phenomenon.

In the area of informative exchanges, since the beginning of this century (2003), Romania has concluded agreements with the intelligence services of the member states to increase cooperation at EU level, especially for dissemination of terrorist information. In order to obtain a more dynamic cooperation activity with EU countries, operational and institutional capacity of the Romanian Police were aligned with EU standards, implementing best practices of police cooperation in the fight against organized crime.

Romanian police cooperates with the European Police Office in unconventional threats targeting in particular the following informative activities: establishing channels of information and ways of providing information to Romanian state; the supply with personal data by the structures of the European partners; evaluation of information and sources of origin; procedures regarding confidentiality of information;

representation problem of liaison officers; responsibilities of the parties on the settlement of disputes.

The Contracting Parties are required to take all measures so that exchanges of data and information to be carried at all times. National contact point between the European Police Office and Romania is the National Focal Point, a specialized unit of Ministry of Internal Affairs in informational cooperation issues at national and international level. In National Focal Point structure was organized SIRENE office, which deals with solving national connections between Schengen countries.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey of the area of improving international informative cooperation in combating unconventional threats reveals at least the following conclusions:
- international informative cooperation, conceptual and acting, should support the design of a new world security system, adaptable and flexible to new and unconventional threats and risks connected to the realities and specificity of this beginning of the millennium;
- the activity of effectively fighting against the flow of unconventional threats is achieved through the joint efforts of international structures based on strategies, techniques, tactics and procedures for planning operations to combat unconventional asymmetric threats
- the phenomenon terrorism cannot be dissociated from specific forms of financing provided by the phenomenon of cross-border organized crime and corruption, in this scenario, continues its role of guaranteeing the general framework of expression the irregularities both in the internal space, as in the border area;
- NATO and the EU member states should be set up in a collaborative system able to develop strategies against unconventional threats, primarily directed towards reducing, controlling and combating the scourge of terrorism, cross-border organized crime and other threats that endanger international stability;
- specialized structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, especially those of Romanian

Police, increased their cooperation with the structures of the European Union states to align operational and institutional capacities to EU standards and implementing best practices of police cooperation in the fight against organized crime and terrorist scourge.

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