

## **“SOFT” SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS A PART OF EURO-ATLANTIC COURSE OF UKRAINE**

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The matters of safety acquired new characteristics in the XXI century. Symptomatically, the direct military threat plays a less important role having been replaced by asymmetrical threats and responses to them, as well as by blurred distinction between internal and external security. Among the new types of threats researchers and practitioners constantly single out the threats to ecology safety. Against such challenges military formations of national armies and even the united NATO forces are powerless. Effective and adequate response can be found only in a complex system of co-operation of separate individuals as well as whole countries and peoples in the fields of economy, politics, trade, culture etc.

The shift in emphases found its reflection in the basic documents that guarantee security in the European Union. “The nature of changes in our security environment is a shift of emphases from classical threats (military intrusion) whose significance is decreasing to the non-typical ones, which originate from non-state organizations and institutions that are not always easy to determine. These threats may concern safety of our citizens, organizations, institutions and services essential for normal functioning of the country. They require special attention on our side.”

The European Union due to its economic strength and quick growth of political weight is an instrument of “soft” (non-military) security. This process presupposes mostly political ways of influencing the economic, ecological, cybernetic and other securities, as the adoption of modern EU political and economic standards will lead to meeting of the modern ecology standards. In this case our country’s foreign line of policy defines the arrangement of the internal state security, including the environmental one.

European and Euro-Atlantic ambitions of Ukraine help to create a safety zone of a new type, but the success of these attempts directly depends upon the achievements in stabilization and development of the economic and political life of the country.

The Council of the EU adopted a special declaration on Ukraine stating that the development of the EU-Ukraine relations will depend on the progress of the reforms in Ukraine. The Council welcomed the European choice of Ukraine and the creation of a new government of the country that had declared an ambitious program of political and economic reforms the Union promises to support.

Newly appointed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk told journalists that all steps of Ukraine in its foreign policy should be “not pro-Western, not pro-Eastern only pro-Ukrainian.” European and Euro-Atlantic integration is priority for Ukraine, which will try to move “from words to actions,” said Tarasyuk. He stressed that this year Ukraine must solve all issues that impede its relations with the EU. In particular, it must achieve the status of a market economy country, join the World Trade Organisation, and push for the start of negotiations on creation of a free trade zone with the EU and liberalisation of the visa regime.

Oleh Rybachuk, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration and Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, the state presiding the EU, signed the Action Plan for Ukraine in Brussels on February 21st. The goal is to increase political and economic co-operation between the contracting parties. The three-year plan aims to bring Ukrainian law more into line with EU norms and is seen by the Ukrainians as a step toward eventual EU membership.

The support of other countries is needed to establish the Ukraine-EU relations. A serious struggle may be foreseen between the supporters of the Northern, Mediterranean and Eastern dimensions of the European Union policy. This struggle will be also affected by other factors, e.g. the role of NATO and the USA in Europe, the pace of deepening of the integration etc. The USA, for example, is interested in stabilization not only in the Black Sea region but also on the Balkan peninsular. For France and Italy it means predominance of the Mediterranean dimension over the Eastern one. And one may offer a number of such combinations. By using the mutual interests of the countries that support the Eastern dimension, preservation of co-operation between the countries and the Atlantic policy of the EU as opposed to those who support the Mediterranean dimension, deepening of integration and the European military identity Ukraine may achieve the desired result.

The success in co-operation with the EU in the matter of building the East-European “soft” security zone depends on the domestic situation in the Eastern European countries (first of all in Ukraine) and the political art of establishing the coalition groups of interest in Europe. Ensuring the “soft” security in the region has to involve vigorous actions on the part of the EU in the frame of all “three pillars” of the EU – economic policy, security of the member countries of the EU and preservation of peace, and at last the coordinated migration policy and co-operation of the customs and law-enforcement agencies.