



Parlamentul României

Senat

Bucharest, 27 February 2018

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the ROMANIAN SENATE

**on the
REFLECTION PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEFENCE
COM (2017) 315 final**

The Romanian Senate, pursuant to art. 67, art. 148 (2) and (3) of the Romanian Constitution and the Protocol no. 1 annexed to the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, ratified by Law no. 13/2008, has examined the **REFLECTION PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE- COM (2017) 315 final**,

Considering the Report of the Committee for European Affairs of January 31 2018, **the plenum of the Senate**, during its session on 26 February, issued an OPINION, as follows:

We note the indicative character of the European Commission document which, although presenting options within three different scenarios for moving towards a union of security and defence, indicates in a clear manner that these scenarios are not mutually exclusive and wish to reflect the different levels of ambition of the EU in terms of joint security and defence activities. The scenarios advanced by the European Commission are therefore not prescriptive, which rigidly sets out the options available to the Member States to position themselves in relation to the European defence project, but EU level indicators for EU-level efforts to respond as effectively as possible to the approach present and future security threats.

It is also noted that the scenarios are evolving and the way in which the consolidation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is currently predominant will most likely involve a combination of actions applicable to all three scenarios, with the prerequisites to advance differently on different levels.

We note that an increasingly integrated European defence will involve the integration of defence markets and a transformation of the European military industrial sector in the direction of increasing competitiveness, optimizing production capacity and reducing costs. From this perspective, it is appreciated that the development of the industrial and

technological defence base will have to be done in a balanced manner with opportunities for the industry in all Member States.

At the same time, it is emphasized that the balanced development of the industrial and technological base will require consideration of the specifics and needs of the Central and Eastern European industrial sector, especially of small and medium enterprises. In this regard, it is emphasized that among the mechanisms proposed by the Commission, the European Defence Fund will provide real support both for the strengthening of the common defence and for the consolidation of the European economic and industrial bases.

From the point of view of Romania, a real opportunity has been created to involve the national defence industry in the context of European funding with regard to the creation / development of joint capabilities.

We reiterate the national commitment to the 2% of GDP allocation for the defence sector and the maintenance of this level of funding for the next 10 years.

We emphasize that the individual efforts of the Member States need to be matched by an increase in European solidarity as well as an increase in joint actions or through the EU institutions, the ultimate goal being a Union that contributes most to this effort without taking but by the prerogatives of Member States or other organizations. In this context, it is considered necessary to pro-actively involve all Member States both in the strategic reflection on the future of the European Defence and in all the forms of advanced cooperation associated with this sector.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts at European level to strengthen the role of the EU institutions in the security and defence spheres and to balance the transatlantic defence effort. It is particularly appreciated that the European Commission joins this effort and concrete proposals to date in the field of research, capabilities development and endorsement of procurement processes.

We support the European Commission's view of the need to coordinate the EU's security and defence policies with key partners such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the United Nations.

We also emphasize the significant progress made so far in the implementation of the Joint Statement on Strengthening NATO-EU Cooperation, adopted in Warsaw in 2016.

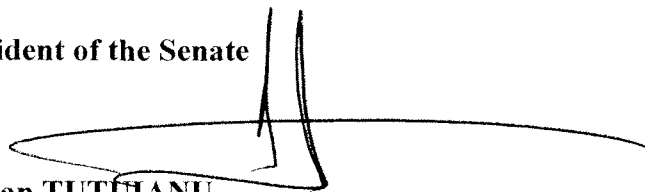
We point that Romania has consistently supported the strengthening of the EU's role as a global actor on the international security scene, with a more effective involvement in crisis management in the immediate neighbourhood (eastern and southern), while ensuring complementarities with NATO, avoiding duplication and conjoint approach of the two organizations, as well as the development of credible and robust defence capabilities to support the EU's major role.

We emphasize that for Romania the main guarantor of security is and will remain NATO, and a stronger European defence can only be beneficial to NATO in general and to

the transatlantic relationship in particular to the extent that it will contribute to the strengthening of the military capabilities of NATO Member States, according to the principle of a single set of forces.

We highlight that Romania is a constant supporter of improving the dialogue NATO-EU dialogue and cooperation in as many areas of common interest, respecting the specificity and autonomy of each of the two organizations.

p. President of the Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping horizontal stroke with a vertical line intersecting it near the center, and a smaller loop below the intersection.

Adrian ȚUȚUIANU