

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – COMPONENT OF EUROPEAN SECURITY**

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### **Abstract**

*The current security environment, the direct consequence of the profound transformations that have occurred in Europe's configuration of the world, is particularly complex, constantly changing, being still marked by destabilizing phenomena regionally or globally.*

*Emphasising the importance of what should be given to the risks and threats to the non-classical, asymmetrical, organic, given the international character of their cross-border dimension and negative effects, and sometimes irreversible in time, materialise by producing disaster, with direct impact on national security, continental and even planetary.*

*Ecological security, included in national security objectives, represents, in the new context, an important objective on the agenda of all Governments responsible for maintaining balance planetary environment.*

**Keywords:** *environmental policy, sustainable development, ecological security.*

**JEL Classification:** *Q56, Q57*

### **1. Introduction**

As noted by the representatives of the school in Copenhagen in the 1980s-1990s, addressing the concept of security only in terms of traditional military is no longer satisfactory, nor sufficient. Barry Buzan, representative of the Member Schools, identifies five dimensions of security and at the same time five sources of threat to it. Thus, for him human collectivises security is affected by various factors into five major sectors: military, political, economic, societal and environmental issues [Barry, 2000].

At European level, rules on the protection of the environment have arisen after the 1970s, when awareness of problems in this area, by diversifying the channels of dissemination of information. Until then, the only intervention as a result of events was accurate and had a short temporal character. Moreover, the treaties that formed the basis of the European Communities do not provide community skills in this area.

It all began in 1972, when during the first Conference on the environment of the United Nations is determined that environmental protection is a cross-border phenomenon, requiring a sustained effort at an international scale, not only on a national scale. Therefore, the European Commission proposed the elaboration of a programme of action in 1973, in the form of a combination of medium-term programmes and strategic thinking, which emphasize the need for protection of water and air, and which contained a sector approach to the fight against pollution.

In subsequent years, develops strong and the Community law on the environment, which subsumes more than 200 directives and regulations for water protection, air quality, protection of flora and fauna, noise pollution and waste management; in the context of all these regulations is involved and the economic factor.

## **2. Community action programmes in the environmental field**

Since 1973, the European Community and then the European Union have adopted several action programmes on the environment (known under the abbreviation PAM), without legal documents, which expresses a "theory" in regard to the protection and improvement of the environment, and to set a timetable for implementation of the proposed measures. [Dragoş et al, 2004]

1. The First Action Programme (1973-1976). Defines the basic principles and fundamental objectives of Community policy on the environment and identify actions to achieve general. Soon, however, it became evident that environment, it is easier to prevent than to combat and certain principles that are necessary to address the actions of environmental protection.

2. The Second Action Programme (1977-1983). Dedicated in particular to the implementation of the first program, it shall pay particular attention to the protection of the marine environment, as well as improving the quality of the environment by introducing compulsory environmental impact assessment of major industrial projects and infrastructure.

3. The Third Action Programme (1983-1986). He is best known for two achievements: then you have established for the first time the priorities of the Community action in the field of environment and have accepted the principles of the new approach to environmental considerations, how to be the integration of environmental considerations in other Community policies or the preventive approach. Thus, ecological considerations become incidents since the phase of elaboration and conception of economic decisions in the fields of agriculture, energy, industry, transport and tourism.

4. The Fourth Action Programme (1987-1992). Continuing preventive strategy, this program had as its objective the integration of

environmental protection into all Community policies, as a key element in the idea of a more inclusive approach to pollution control and reduction, designed to prevent the transfer of pollution from one region to another. In this respect, it was stressed the importance of four aspects: full and effective application of Community legislation in the field; controlling the environmental impact of all substances and sources of pollution; ensuring better access to information for the public; the imperative of creating new jobs.

5. The Fifth Action Programme (1993-2000). It bore the name "towards sustainability" and took many ideas from the fourth. The program focused on environmental issues, with the medium-term objectives and long established in five specific areas: industry, agriculture, energy, transport and tourism and had the following priorities: the integration of environmental considerations in other Community policies; initiatives relating to public transport, green technologies, and regional and local issues; other areas of interest, such as education, to promote the protection of the environment; strengthening the European Union's role in international initiatives.

The document also provided for the establishment of an institutional structure for the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted at the Conference by Dan Savage in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The fifth programme had an important role in trying to reconcile development with the environment into EU policies. It was noted also the need of seeking new instruments to contribute to the implementation of its provisions, such as the polluter commitment to repair the damage, or imposition, through tax law or economic, to such liability.

6. The Sixth Action Programme (2001-2010). This action programme, hereinafter referred to as "our future, our choice" fixed priorities of the European Union by the year 2010, being mainly targeted four large areas of protection of the environment: climate change and global warming-aims to reduce the emission of gases that produce the greenhouse effect compared with 8% of 1990 (the Kyoto Protocol) by 2012, and long-term 20-40% by 2020; protection of nature and biodiversity-is aimed at the protection and restoration of the structure and functionality of natural systems and halt the destruction of biodiversity, both within the community and at world level; health in relation to the environment aims at ensuring an environment that does not have a significant impact or may not be hazardous to human health; preserving natural resources and managing waste aims to increase recycling of waste by 20% by 2010 and 50% by 2050 and their prevention.

For the implementation of this programme have been taken a series of measures, such as improving the application of legislation in the field of the environment; cooperation with citizens, who must be empowered in the

process of changing behaviour towards the environment; the integration of environmental considerations in other Community policies; partnering with business, encouraging companies to make public the performance in terms of environmental protection and the application of the relevant rules.

Also, EAP 6 provides for the development of seven thematic strategies, which correspond to important aspects of environmental protection, such as protection of soil, protection and conservation of the marine environment, the use of pesticides in the context of sustainable development, air pollution, urban environment, waste recycling, resource use and management in the perspective of sustainable development. The approach of these strategies is the gradual one, being structured in two phases: first, a description of the status and identification of issues; second, the presentation of the proposed measures for solving these problems.

7. The Seventh Action Programme (2014-2020). This program for the environment, hereinafter referred to as "the good life, within the limits of our planet", was adopted in November 2013 and will guide the European policy by 2020. This program creates a framework for all EU environmental policies from now until 2020. The program is consistent with the current strategy Europe 2020, which stresses sustainable growth as one of its priorities, and the efficiency of resource use as one of its flagship initiatives.

The most recent program objectives for the environment has the following objectives: preserving, protecting and improving the natural capital of the EU; the passage of the EU at a "green" economy and competitive low carbon dioxide and efficient in terms of resource use; protecting EU citizens of environmental pressures and risks to health and well-being; enhancing the benefits of EU environmental legislation to improve implementation; development of environmental knowledge and database for policy; insurance investment policy in the field of environment and climate and justification of the environmental costs of any activity related to the company; a better integration of environmental considerations into other policy areas and to ensure consistency in the time of new policies formulation; increasing the sustainability of cities in the countries of the European Union; EU support for more effective approaches to the challenges of environmental and climate issues internationally.

### **3. Strategies of environmental policy**

Environmental protection strategy is defined as "the totality of actions and measures of conservation of natural resources you destination and maintaining the quality of environmental factors at an acceptable level" [Petrescu-Mag, 2008].

Strategies for the realization of environmental policy strengthen the principle of subsidiary (delegation of responsibilities to the Member States,

whilst the European Union sets out only general framework, objectives should be taken into account) and try replacing the traditional vertical approach, type command-and-control, by promoting an alternative model for achieving EU environmental objectives.

A strategy must include several elements: to cast a major goal; establish the means by which to accomplish that objective; leading to measurable results [Rizea, 2005].

On 12 December 2003, the European Council approved the European security strategy entitled 'a secure Europe in a better world ". The European Union has managed to produce a document that provides a coherent picture of the security threats and European political reactions. What the new European strategy brings new security environment analysis is extensive and thorough at the same time: more attention paid to the effects of globalization; accolades for "old" and "new" forms of terrorism; the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was redefined as being potentially the largest but not the only threat; the inability of the State and organized crime threats list appear distinct key, and regional conflicts have been added to it.

It can be said that these are some kind of "AIDS", to complement the standard instruments and which act as incentives for the adoption of measures for the protection of the environment or which emphasizes the tendency towards an approach based on the voluntarism principle. [Popovici, 1989]

#### ***A. Sustainable Development***

In addition to promoting economic and social progress and a high level of employment and work, the European Union has set itself the objective of achieving a balanced and sustainable development. This goal was enshrined in the Treaty of Amsterdam by the 15 member States and was viewed as a key aspect of Community law to be adopted in the framework of the negotiations with the ten new Member States, the candidate then. Environmental policy is therefore of great importance not only in the EU 15, but will continue to be so in a Union enlarged to 25, 27 and 28 Member States.

The common goal of sustainable development is defined in detail in the chapter dedicated to the environmental policy of the EC Treaty (art. 174): "the community will preserve, protect and improve the quality of environment, protect human health, natural resources will be used prudently and rationally and will promote measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems".

The European Union strategy for sustainable development was adopted in 2001 at the international working meeting in Gothenburg (Sweden) as long-term strategy what sustainable development policies

focused in the following areas: economic, social and environmental protection and which has seen a significant appreciation in the coming years. The concept of sustainable development, however, is present in the environmental policy of the European Union since EAP 5 and delineated as a stand-alone strategy in 2001. [Bran et al., 2013]

Through this framework were identified four priorities: climate change and "clean" energy use (energy sources, environmentally friendly); public health; responsible management of natural resources; transportation systems and land use.

To treat these priorities have been established three strands, which materially alter the structure and strategy of sustainable development and that at the same time, complement each other. These include: proposals affect several sectors; measures of achievement of long-term objectives; progressive revisions of the degree of implementation of the strategy.

#### ***B. Program promoting NGOs active in the field of environmental***

This program operates as a financial instrument and encourages systematic participation of NGOs in the development of Community environmental policy as well as supporting small local and regional associations that contribute to the implementation of the acquis communautaire. His role of incentive is materialized through the non-repayable financial support to NGOs active in the field of environmental protection, on the basis of proposals sent by them.

#### ***C. Integrated Products Policy (IPP)***

IPP is based on a green paper integrated products policy (February 2001) and exists as a strategy since June 2003, with the adoption of the Commission communication relating thereto. IPP aims to minimize degradation of certain products causes environmental during their life cycle and proposes a voluntary approach with a view to "green products", as well as close cooperation with stakeholders.

The basic principles of this strategy are: thinking in anticipation of the life cycle of products; involvement by creating market incentives to encourage demand and supply of "green products"; stakeholder involvement; updating and further development; creation of various tools.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of this strategy, the Commission has provided for a review of its every three years.

#### ***D. Voluntary Environmental Agreements***

Environmental agreements represent a form of co-financing the regulatory role to support active involvement and empowerment of economic operators against environmentalists. They are voluntary and are used routinely in all Member States, at national, regional or local level. Among their advantages are: proactive approach on the part of industry;

effective solutions and created specifically for the problems identified; achieving environmental objectives quickly.

Areas in which these agreements at Community level can have an important role are: PVC products impact the environment, integrated products policy, climate change and waste management.

***E. Fees and taxes for the environment within the single market***

Fees and environmental taxes were adopted in 1997, as a way to promote the use of fiscal instruments in order to increase the effectiveness of environmental policy. These are fees and taxes imposed by the MS (and not at Community level), what strategy was encouraged by the Standing Commission and involving the use of two categories of fees and environmental taxes: the applicable pollutant emissions (for example, taxes on water pollution, noise emissions; in aviation); the products (excise tax on oil, pesticides).

Revenue from these fees and taxes are added to the budgets of MS and may be used for the purpose of financing environmental protection activities, but also to reduce other taxes (such as taxes).

***F. The European Environmental Strategy and Health (SCALE)***

Considering the complex causal relationship between pollution directly, changing the characteristics of the environment and human health. SCALE is the result of constant concern to the European Commission in this direction and was initiated in June 2003, being drawn up by DG Environment DG Research and DG Health. The element of novelty of this strategy is focusing on children's health-representing the most vulnerable social group most affected by environmental pollution effects-unlike the rest of the environmental legislation, which is based on the norms and standards for adults.

***G. Thematic strategy for waste management***

For this strategy implementation, the waste has been classified into domestic or industrial.

In Romania, only 22% of the total waste produced are capitalized, the highest amount being removed by storage and only 1% being incinerated.

The objective of this strategy is the Elimination of the causal relationship between the rate of economic growth and resource use/production waste. The following issues are identified: to formulate a good policy on waste prevention is necessary scientific analysis, at present there is no reliable statistical data; in respect of recycling, must place greater emphasis on materials instead of emphasis on products that have completed the period of life; a new debate on the definition of waste; need to establish a common level of recycling of all Member States.

The European Union seeks a reduction in the period 2000-2010 with 20% of the quantity of waste generated, and by 50% by 2050. Union policy in waste management involves three complementary strategies: eliminate waste production at source through improved methods of manufacture of products; encouraging recycling and reuse of waste through their recovery in the special collection points; reduction of pollution caused by the incineration of waste. This measure requires careful monitoring due to the damage that can be made to the environment.

#### ***H. Management of emergencies and environmental risks***

Extreme manifestations of natural phenomena such as storms, floods, drought, landslides, earthquakes and others, combined with technological accidents (serious pollution, for example) and conflict situations may have direct influence on the life of every person and of society as a whole.

Vulnerability highlights how much they are exposed to the man and his belongings in front of various hazards, indicates the level of damage that they can cause a phenomenon. The destruction of the environment results in an increase in vulnerability. It differs depending on the mode of the equipment and training of the population. Most vulnerable to the action of natural phenomena are poor States and social groups without material resources to protect themselves.

Classification of disaster from the point of view of NATO should be presented as follows: natural disasters: earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, flooding, drought technological accidents: a nuclear accident in nuclear power stations, chemical and industrial accident, plane crash, railway, naval, and acts of terrorism.

#### ***I. Thematic strategy for the urban environment***

Following the Council meeting in June 2006, was adopted "thematic strategy for the urban environment", suggesting actions in four priority areas: sustainable urban management, transport, construction and urban design.

The measures set out in this strategy aim to contribute to a better implementation of EU environmental policies and legislation at the local level by supporting and encouraging local authorities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management and inviting Member States to support this process.

#### **Conclusions**

The expansion of the European Union successive waves of put problems not just political, institutional, economic and social, but also from the perspective of the environment, and matters of environmental policy in the EU were boosted considerably.

As the security aspects of the environment worsens, the conflicts between States of the following causes: access and control of natural



resources; the decline in the standard of living and mass migration due to degradation of the environment; altering the actual power of States as a result of the degradation of their environment; pollution across national boundaries; global degradation of the environment (air, water).

Current threats to the security of the environment are related to the overrun of the support capacity of the natural conditions through population growth and multiplication of economic activity. Environmentalists assert that people would be able to reverse this trend of undermining their own living if he understands this. The fact is, for the time being, that environmental security is a security sector that tends to gain prominence over other sectors.

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