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Dominik Jankowski

A crisis of multilateralism has resulted in a search for solutions which will ensure better functioning of international co-operation. Minilateralism is one of them. Its essence is about creating capabilities for building coalitions. Agreements concluded within a smaller group of states may constitute a starting point for further negotiations and for including more members in the search process. This article is aimed at depicting the Visegrád Group (V4) as an efficient minilateral format with the participation of Poland. Its fundamental feature is the capability for proposing such projects and initiatives, *inter alia* in the area of security policy, which go beyond the common denominator of regional interests and lead to coalitions being built between V4 and other states.

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Bartosz Cichocki

2013 marks the 5th anniversary of inauguration by the government of Donald Tusk of the normalization policy in relations with Russia. This round anniversary presents a good opportunity for summing up the policy and learning lessons for the future. The policy of normalization in Polish-Russian relations undoubtedly allowed Poland to efficiently promote diplomatic initiatives in the EU and NATO. As regards bilateral relations, it enhanced transparency of intentions underpinning decisions made in the sphere of security policy. Furthermore, it created conditions conducive to starting talks *inter alia* on solving disputable issues stemming from the common history and tightening economic co-operation. Readiness to make mutual concessions during these talks will depend on the progress achieved in the process of building the relevant level of confidence.

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Nuclear weapons remain to be an important element of some national arsenals. The fact that the number of nuclear warheads has dropped dramatically over the last 30 years is a success. Nevertheless, the states which have these weapons at their disposal are still based on nuclear deterrence and keep investing large amounts in modernizing their arsenals. Although the idea of a universal denuclearization is very popular and attractive, and though it has gained a very strong advocate in the person of the US President - Barack Obama, it is hard to expect that the *Global Zero* option would be feasible in the foreseeable future.

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The policy of security and defence of France as implemented by the government led by François Hollande is encapsulated in the document published on 29th of April 2013, entitled the “White Paper”. It includes an analysis of the strategic context and major threats, as well as the defence strategy and a detailed description of measures indispensable for its implementation. In case of France, the nature of interests of the country and its priorities are defined by its geographic location. Possession of overseas territories and departments turns the borders of this state into most exposed European outposts. At the same time, due to its permanent membership status in the UN Security Council, France has a direct influence on the shape of the global security. But are its ambitions equally global in this respect if confronted with the geographic and financial reality? The text of the White Paper suggests that France is looking for balance between maintaining full sovereignty and deepening co-operation with its closest partners as well as developing the European culture of defence.

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Paweł Turowski

Although it does not have broad competences in energy security, the European Union exerts an impact on energy relations among member states, through prerogatives concerning *inter alia* the construction of the Single Market and the environmental protection. Free market rules regulating trade in energy resources among member states contribute to improved energy security of Poland. This is also the impact of EU legal regulations on boosting security of natural gas supplies. On the other hand, both the existing as well as planned regulations on environmental protection are less clear. They may generate high costs related to modernization of the electricity sector and slow down the pace of economic growth.

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