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In 2007 number of Muslims in 27 EU countries was estimated at 16,1 million people, which was 3,3 percent of the population living in the Community. Demographers anticipate that keeping the current trends, within the next 15 years their number will double, and by 2025 it will reach 25-30 million people, which will become a challenge for the ageing Europe, as its population is to reduce by 3,5 percent. Growing number of Muslims is a result of high fertility rate in Islamic families.

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In 2009 an intensive discussion about the methods of improving the security in Afghanistan, resulted in re-strategising coalition forces. The President of the United States Barack Obama announced new approach to the issue of stabilising Afghanistan included in AfPak concept. It has emphasised Pakistan's new role in solving the Afghan conflict as well as the importance of non-military aspects of increasing security level in the region.

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It's been 12 months since the Polish Military Contingent withdrew from Iraq. Now we can look at the 5 years of Polish presence in Iraq from the perspective, evaluate the benefits, losses, accomplishment of the goals.

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During the past few months the leading world analytical centres and experts specialising in WMD proliferation have been expressing their doubts concerning the security of Pakistani nuclear arsenal. Those concerns are connected with the fact that the Taliban rebel is progressing and their activity has been spreading beyond the tribal territories of Pashtun

people. Due to the character of the conflict as well as several internal and regional factors the governmental forces have currently little chance to win the battle with the extremists. Therefore, there is a need to evaluate possible control overtaking by the Taliban and its consequences.

ON THE EAST

Polish and Ukrainian relations in 2010. What happens to the “strategic partnership”? 54

Paweł Świeżak

The election of Victor Yanukovych for the President of Ukraine is a good occasion to give some thoughts to the shape of Polish and Ukrainian relations. The outcome of the election campaign in Ukraine has confirmed the concerns of the observers that were sceptical about the idea of special relations between Warsaw and Kiev.

Economic relations between Belarus and Russia 60

Paweł Świeżak

Since 2007 Russia has been more consequent than in the previous years trying to gain real benefits from the Belarus’ economical dependency. It seems that Kremlin is not intending to be satisfied with symbolic concessions (such as “unification” ideology based on the Union State of Russia and Belarus created in 1999). Russia is no longer satisfied with loyalty in security area demonstrated by Belarus.

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Konrad Zasztowt

Central Asia is economically important although not key region for the People’s Republic of China (PRC). It is an important source of hydrocarbons for the dynamically developing Chinese economy. It has also become more important as a transport route for Chinese products exported to the west, i.e. Iran, Turkey and Europe. In the future the so-called new silk route may become more competitive for the longer sea routes around Asia. Central Asian countries are also an area of investment for Chinese capital.

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Treaty of Lisbon – new chapter of European integration 73

Stawomir Moćkun

Treaty of Lisbon that entered into force on 1 December 2009 has ended several years of reforming process of the enlarged EU, which was intended to restore the steerability of decision taking process and ensure the tools necessary to form ambitious global aims. Reform, which initial shape was introduced in the constitutional treaty, was to prevent Europe’s marginalisation in the world arena in 21st century.

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There is life after the shield 85

Przemysław Pacuła

On 17 September 2009 the President of the United States of America Barack Obama announced the decision of changing the plans relating to the antimissile shield program. From the Polish point of view, the main consequence of that decision will be the withdrawal from the plans to build a base in Redzikowo near Slupsk. Poland is considered as a country participating in the new system based on more mobile SM-3 missiles launchers. Yet, they are currently under design and the “Polish” element of the new shield will not be completed for at least 6-8 years.

Military engagement of the US in Europe 91

Sławomir Moćkun

American soldiers have been stationing in Europe since the end of the WWII. The end of “the cold war” has triggered a discussion in the US about the reduction of military presence in Europe. German unification and NATO enlargement resulted in moving the borders of the western world. Expanded American bases in Germany partially lost their geo-strategic importance. Shifting the priority areas of engagement (into Iraq, Afghanistan, Far East) and the financial crisis makes the US to rationalise the use of their military potential, keeping at the same time superpower status of the country.

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