

# Preface

Dear Readers,

Over half a year on, after adopting the NATO Strategic Concept which offered an optimistic prospect of cooperation and partnerships as well as an ambitious catalogue of goals and undertakings, the security landscape looks differently. The mood among the international public is bitter, differences in the approach to essential problems and threats have hardened, the expected Western solidarity and political will are in crisis, while the tendencies to “renationalise” security policies are on the increase. In short, the sense of lack of a comprehensive strategic vision and leaders who would confidently have it realized as well as the failure to build a workable security order are acutely felt. Local interests, short-term actions and opportunism hardly compensate for them. A Chinese curse says: may you live in interesting times. And we are living in the time of uncertainties and threats; although the ideas for remedies are numerous, they are not accompanied by appropriate courage and determination to put them into effect. Starting its presidency of the European Council, Poland has an ambitious program, also including European security and defence. Should the agenda be successful or even partially successful, it might give impetus to overcome the progressing Eurocepticism and to restore Europe’s role as a vital international actor.

Before reading the analyses of selected processes and areas of international relations relating to broadly defined security, it is worth putting the basic notions and categories thereof in order. Comprehending the essence of security and the definitions of terms such as strategy, interests, strategic goals, opportunities, challenges, risks and threats are of an educational value, supplemented by a concise review of historic evolution of security. The lecture thereon is a useful reference tool for those interested in the Strategic Review of National Security, as initiated by the President of the Republic of Poland.

The main challenge for the European and world community – already adversely affected by the economic crisis – has become the wave of political and social changes and destabilisation that took place in Maghreb and in the Middle East (the “Arab Spring”). Complying with our promise made in the previous issue of the Quarterly, we present the reader with three articles focusing on different aspects of this phenomenon, whose implications, scale and duration as well as final outcomes remain unknown. We begin the series with the analysis of origins, course and perspectives of events happening in the region that stretches between Tunisia and Yemen and Bahrain. We recommend interesting observations concerning the premi-

ses of different processes that are taking place in individual countries, factors that give shape and content to the government systems in those countries or possible reshuffles in the balances of power in the region. The surprise caused by the Arab Spring in the field of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) should – one would think – have given impetus to their strategic and instruments. Sadly, so far we cannot see the desired dynamics in the area, therefore the author of the subsequent article asks if the outcome is to be a “European winter”? The intervention in Libya is a hot military conflict in the region; however, the analysis does not so much aim at its causes and course as at the opportunity to develop NATO capabilities to control crises and conflicts (crisis management). Furthermore, in South Asia, Pakistan is increasingly a cause of concern for both its neighbours and allies and at the same time it is a target of Al-Qaeda’s enhanced interest as the organisation is grasping at the opportunity to use to its advantage the adverse occurrences and troubles which that nuclear state is going through.

Poland attaches great importance to integration of military and civilian aspects of the capabilities under the CSDP; it is one of the major items on the security- and defence-related agenda of the Polish presidency in the EU. Therefore, it is worth taking a closer look at the participation of civilians in international peace operations involving armed forces. Economics and practicality weigh strongly in favour of enhanced, systematic use of civilian components in this type of actions undertaken by the international community. Following the recent presentation of the Polish Navy’s condition (Quarterly no. 14-16), we complete the picture with an article about the international activities of the Navy.

The section concerning non-military security issues includes a review of the main threats that currently exist and will influence in the coming years the quality of our life as well as the core and sense of security in the “non-traditional” domains, that is, the areas that are not connected with the “hard” dimension of this part of human life. This includes cyberspace. The USA has become the first country that strives to manage this international – fourth, in addition to land, sea and air/outer space – virtual “dimension” of security.

The energy industry is another critical part of non-military security, which occupies high position among the priorities of Poland’s presidency in the EU. The main goals of the second half of the year as well the long-term goals include creating the external energy policy, building a single market, developing the transmission infrastructure and free access thereto. The EU requirements oblige Poland to change its power energy profile in order to reduce the greenhouse gases emissions. Today Poland faces an opportunity, and at the same time a challenge to launch the optimal energy strategy – a reduced dependence on the coal and an increased use, proportionately, of shale gas and nuclear energy.

Facing the EURO 2012 football games in Poland, the so-called stadium ban – that relates to fighting criminal activities at mass events – has become critical. It is therefore worthwhile to examine how this penal measure functions in practice in Poland. Last but not least, the Quarterly presents the legal aspects concerning the use of unmanned aerial vehicles. Their application – including in the military field – grows dynamically. Therefore, it was necessary to regulate their legal status and the rules concerning their use in Poland.

We encourage our readers to peruse the articles written by the NSB authors, which, hopefully, will be found both instructive and interesting.

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