

# Preface

Dear Readers,

Closing the year with this fourth issue of the 2011 „National Security” quarterly, we provide a broad range of challenges which confront Poland, its allies and partners as well as the international community. This time, a bit differently from the previous issues published this year, our attention is focused more on Poland and its surroundings, which does not mean that international affairs escape our attention. We will return to them in the next editions.

Traditionally, we start from political and strategic security issues. The priority of the Polish Presidency in the second half of 2011 – the EU security and defence policy – stumbled across the adverse, for many reasons, climate in the European Union and despite vigorous efforts undertaken by the Polish diplomacy, has not progressed as expected. Those issues – regardless of encountered obstacles – should not be ignored or put off until a more favorable political situation occurs. The 2012 presidencies in the EU – held by Denmark and Cyprus – do not show much promise (hopefully life proves otherwise) for particularly intensive efforts in this respect. We have to continue a broad debate on the subject, including the European security strategy. Therefore, in October 2011 the NSB provided its patronage of an international conference held in Warsaw entitled “Rethinking the European Security Strategy”.

China, its long-range goals and intentions have been the subject of speculations and numerous analyses conducted elsewhere around the world. In this context, Chinese-US relations have been generating critical interest and at the same time concerns have been voiced by the international community. The alarming prognoses and scenarios (produced mainly by American commentators) notwithstanding, while analyzing those relations the author rightly indicates the current interest of both parties in maintaining the *status quo*, which not necessarily means that this line will continue in the long-term run. On the contrary, the ideological, cultural, political, economic and military differences persist, each of them potentially explosive for relations between the two giants that represent asymmetric interests, potentials and visions. China’s fast growing military arsenal and the accompanying official

defence strategic philosophy – presented in the other article about China's 2010 White Paper – is a *sui generis* pendant to the country's military aspirations, which are the source of concerns not only for its neighbors but also for other world protagonists, including the American rival.

The Polish security-related legislation is an important contribution to strengthening the condition and sense of security today and in the future. Consequently, we feature three texts that discuss essential issues relating to that field. Analysis of the role and position of the President's office within the state authority system demonstrates the scope and capacities of the head of state to influence the security problems. The second article, dedicated to the position of minister of national defence, shows that playing the role specified by the constitution in relation to the President's authority over the Armed Forces, the minister's status is connected with the specific legal system and political position in the government. The author of the third chapter in this section indicates the incoherent system solutions in situating the heads of special and public order services in Poland, while suggesting several organizational modifications aimed at improving their functions in preventing and fighting threats.

Among threats coming from outside the traditional military area, there is a demographic bomb, which is ticking also for Poland; yet, we do not mean the threat of overpopulation, on the contrary – these are the depopulation trends that require a proper migration vision and policy, both in relation to Poles emigrating abroad and the flow of other nationalities coming to our country. This is a considerable challenge and Poland, for several different reasons, has not yet got prepared for it adequately. As the author notes, an ostrich approach and shying away from the problem until a “more opportune time” comes will not ease, but rather exacerbate the coming demographic crisis. Referring to the above-mentioned issue, another Bureau's analyst takes on evaluating the implementation of the Charter of the Pole with regard to our compatriots living in the East. He points to various problems and obstacles and asserts that the chances for the potential fulfilling by them of the population and economic gap resulting from the emigration by many Poles to the West are poor.

Space issues are not very popular in Poland, nevertheless, while analyzing the chances offered themselves by the satellite technologies and techniques, the next author persuades that it is rather bureaucratic resistance and obstacles than lack of the knowledge of benefits that are critical in this regard. In order to quickly create an effective and profitable system managing the space

industry in Poland, the national vision of strategy, an integrated approach and a satisfactory budget are needed.

The last article in the quarterly brings us back to the cooperation and security in energy issues, this time in Central and Eastern Europe. Dependence on the Russian hydrocarbons has resulted, after several crises and conflicts, in the need of tighter cooperation between the interested countries. The cooperation concerns the dynamic development of gas and oil transportation lines, production and storage in order to better diversify the supply sources, and therefore, the radical limitation of dependency on one producer and supplier alike. Eventually, the author advances a thesis that further cooperation and integration of the region countries in this field might not be that obvious and could subside after the goal is achieved.

Wishing you pleasant and useful reading, we would also like to wish you a happy season holiday and use this opportunity to add our own wishes for even better relations with our Readers in the coming 2012.

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