

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

At this end of century and millennium international relations have entered a highly complex and contradictory stage, consequent upon the changes undergone by the whole world over the last decades. The bipolar world structure occurred in Europe after 1945 has vanished, but not in a traditional way, through war or revolution, but through the wear and implosion of a hyper-centralized and collectivistic socio-political system.

The ever growing interdependence of the integration processes both on a European and a Euro-Atlantic scale, requires an adequate scientific approach from all those interested in the analysis of international phenomena.

The Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies in Bucharest has been created out of the necessity of meeting knowledge and understanding requirements by and within the Romanian society, concerning the current tendencies in international relations, in hope to reach compatibility between the think-tank type of research system, specific of western academic institutions, and the Romanian experience in this field.

The founders of the Centre have set themselves the ambitious task of working out a strategy with a view to assimilating and promoting new developments witnessed by the international processes during and after the Cold War.

Among other things, the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies intends to deal with:

- a) The process of political institutionalization of the Euro-Atlantic space after WORLD WAR II;*
- b) The history of the creation of current institutions relevant for Romania's Euro-Atlantic integration;*
- c) The relationships between European and Euro-Atlantic bodies and institutions;*
- d) The expansion of Western structures;*
- e) The dynamics of international relations and new tendencies in carrying them on;*
- f) The humanitarian dimension of the Euro-Atlantic institutions and their activity;*
- g) environmental issues tackled by the Euro-Atlantic institutions.*

*The scientific contributions of the full and associate members of the Centre will be published in Romanian and in foreign languages in the Centre's magazine, **Euro-Atlantic Studies**, which comes into life with this very issue. The magazine will also include contributions from outside the Centre, related to our field of concern and which will be published according to their value and relevance.*

The magazine is meant to be the instrument of this research programme and it is opening its pages to our colleagues and friends, specialists both from Romania and from abroad.

CONSTANTIN BUȘE
Director of Centre For Euro-Atlantic Studies