

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

The events in the Gulf, the intense diplomatic activity for overcoming the serious crisis in the hot areas of the world, the penetration of the public opinion as a pressure factor into the equation of the future solutions of the greatest chancelleries seem to emphasize the need of an immediate exit from the transition situation in which the global security architecture lies and of finding the answers to the serious problems that exist today in the international life. It is obvious that in solving these issues the politicians and the regional or global security institutions have a decisive role but it is also not to be neglected the contribution of the analysts, the experts and of the academic and university structures in finding/suggesting some solutions. The opinions and the points of view expressed in the pages of our magazine by the researchers and the members of the universities devoted to international relations study and also by our younger friends are the sign of the Romanian society's preoccupation for analysing and understanding the politic and military events that are taking place. Observing and researching the geopolitical and geostrategical conditions in which Romania takes action today becomes more necessary as the international situation tends to be more complicated and as some differences of opinion concerning the right way in finding the solutions (of the Iraqi crisis) amplify.

The Romanian diplomacy needs to cope with the dilemma of choosing the solution EU dominated by France and Germany and NATO dominated by USA and also of the geostrategical and geopolitical issues born as a consequence of the rising interest of the great powers in the Black Sea – Caucasian region from the perspective of its being the future energetic tank of the humanity.

We must take into account the evolutions with spectacular changes in the bilateral and multilateral relationships sketched between our neighbours EU and Russia on the one hand and USA on the other hand but also the ones from within the EU – USA – Russia triangle where the direction and the focus points changes are quick and essential. The end of the year 2002 seemed to mark the beginning of a really historical epoch (era) in the Russian-American relationships. At the NATO/Russia council reunion in Rome on the 28th of May 2002, the American president George W. Bush said that it was "a historical achievement for a larger Alliance and a larger European nation. Two ex-enemies reunited now as partners, overcoming 50 years of separation and a decade of uncertainties. This partnership brings us closer to the greatest hint: a unitary, free Europe where peace reigns for the first time in history". Only a few months later this reality becomes history.

How would the transatlantic relationships look like in the following months? What will the evolution in the Eurasian region be and how will the interests of the states in different energetic rich regions be harmonized? The expectation of people concerns also the best means of rejecting the threats and the vulnerability of the international relationships system, the role and the place, in managing regional and global security, of the traditional institutions as UNO or of those recently charged with responsibilities in this field as NATO after the Prague summit. These are only a few questions and dilemmas waiting for a quick answer. Euro-Atlantic Studies Magazine invites you to an academic debate in order to find answers and solutions.

Constantin Buse, Ph. D.
Director of the Euro-Atlantic Studies
University of Bucharest