

# Water and his influence on the national security- case studies in Romania

DAN VICTOR CAVAROPOL  
Department Of Public Order  
ASSN- National Academy of Security Science  
Șoseaua Panduri 68-72, Bucharest  
ROMANIA  
cavaropold@gmail.com

*Abstract:* - In this article is presented the link between water and our national security, taking into account the vulnerabilities and the threats linked to the Black Sea region and the Danube river. The two case studies refers to the SWOT analyse of these two regions and the direct and indirect impact on the regional and European security as well.

*Key-Words:* national security; Black Sea; threats; risks; vulnerabilities; water

## 1 Introduction

Romania, as a UE member state and NATO member state, is situated at the east side of the European borders, having two main water borders: the Danube river at south, which is an internal European border with Bulgaria, a border with Serbia, and a sea border-Black Sea which is part of a very "hot" region, in terms of regional, European and global security.

The situation created by the Russia in the peninsula of Crimea put into discussion the essential problems of security in the region of Black Sea: the maritime security, the energetic security and the capacity of the main actors-EU, Russia, Turkey and NATO to establish and maintain the stability in this region.

The presence of Russian military navy in the Black Sea, the natural resources like gas and oil, the energetic and military problems between Russia, Turkey and Ukraine are threats that must be take into account at the strategic level by Romanian government and European and NATO states [1].

The migrant's crisis at European level is also a very big problems for Romania, and the Danube River is an important natural border at the south of our country, and a natural barrier for refugees. [5].

Of course, according to our National Defense Strategy for the period 2015-2020 is important to take into account in our study the military security, but also the other non-military aspects of the national security:

- economic and energetic security,
- social and environmental security.

## 2 The national security and the SWOT analyse

In this section are presented the general problems of the national security of Romania, according to the recent strategies adopted in Romania, and the risks, threats and vulnerabilities in the Black Sea and Danube River. The method of study is the SWOT analyses - one of the most important tool of the strategic management.

### 2.1. The risks, vulnerabilities and threats according to Romanian legislation

According to our National Defence Strategy, created by our presidency and approved by the Romanian parliament in 2015, for the next four years, among others national security objectives are: the respect of the principles and fundamental values of EU, the security in the Black Sea region, the cooperation between the states of the east side partners [6].

In the chapter of "risks, threats and vulnerabilities" we find also the concept of security/insecurity in Black Sea region, as follows:

-Risks: the protection of human rights of the communities of Romanian people and the economic activities in the area of the economic exclusive zone at the Black Sea;

-Threats: the actions on the eastern borders could create instability of the region surrounding the Black Sea, migration, organised crime; the "frozen" conflicts in the region of the Black Sea and the instability of the West Balkans put supplementary pressure. One main actors in the region in Russia

Federation, whose actions in the Black Sea affects the main principles of international law and creates tensions between NATO and Russia (the Crimea conflict).

Another important strategic document was elaborated in Romania last year: the National Strategy for Public Order for the period 2015-2020, in which we find the threats identified also by Europol: irregular migration, human traffic, pharmaceutical goods traffic, illegal reimbursement of VAT, production and selling of synthetic drugs, cybercrime, money laundering. The transnational crime organization could commit crime against environment, illegal traffic with metals and toxic substances, crimes in energy system and green certificates traffic [7].

As we can see in the two above strategic documents, the water borders, Black Sea and south border-Danube river are both an increasing importance in our strategic planning and thinking.

## 2.2 Security in Black Sea and Danube River

There are many and varied threats to the security of the Black Sea region. One of this is of course the geographical factor, which play a substantial role on assessing transnational public security threats due to its border control component and to potential political implications [1].

Romania and Bulgaria are both members of EU, and the Black Sea border southern Turkey and northern Ukraine. In Romania the border on the sea measures 245 Km. There are also the two great regional powers, Russia and Turkey, who have both had recently great economic growth, and are located at the northern and southern extremes of the sea. On the other hand, with a foot on the Caspian Sea and the other on the, are three old Soviet republics, Armenia Georgia and Azerbaijan, prone to ethnic and nationalistic tensions, and that serve as transit areas for large energy resources coming from the Middle East.

Another threats are the transnational criminal organizations and terrorists organizations for the states, and also for the liberty and fundamental rights of the people. The frozen conflicts in the extended area of Black Sea (South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistria) could be at any time another source of insecurity.

Also, there are the network of smugglers that operated at the border between Ukraine and Moldova and they sell uranium—probably from an atomic installation from the former Soviet Union—to buyers in northern Africa allegedly connected to al-Qaeda.

The Danube river, with a length of 2860 Km is the second large river in Europe, and it is situated at the Romanian border with Bulgaria (1075 Km between Baziaş and Sulina), Serbia (235,5 Km), Moldova (0,6 Km) and Ukraine (53,4 Km).

Very important for both Danube river and Black Sea region is the protection of the critical infrastructures, defined as all “those physical and information technology facilities, networks, services and assets which, if disrupted or destroyed, would have a serious impact on the health, safety, security or economic well-being of citizens or” [6].

The two main dams at Danube river, at Porțile de Fier 1 (with a power of 1080 MW) and Porțile de Fier 2 (with a power of 250 MW) are included in the high-risk objectives, and are protected by Romania and by our south neighbour-Serbia—a non member of the European Union.

There are some important critical infrastructures in these two areas: transportation maritime and fluvial, energy—plants and installations used for research, transportation or storage of energy and dangerous materials, recreational and tourist areas, the Danube-Black Sea canal.

The European Union is also very interested to the security of the region of Black Sea, directly or as result of action on its south eastern border, through different initiatives as “The Black Sea Synergy” [7]. Discussions about security had taken place between the EU and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization (BSEC) [9].

The crisis in Georgia, the Crimea war, the conflict in east Ukraine, have determined the more increasing military presence on NATO forces in Black Sea. The decisions of the NATO summit in Wales (September 2014) include also the adoption of the „Readiness Action Plan”. It is considered of the great importance the regional security. They will increase the NATO presence in Black Sea and Baltic Sea as well [10].

Cross-border cooperation (CBC) on the external borders of the EU is a key priority both in the European Neighbourhood Policy and in the EU’s strategic partnership with Russia. CBC under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) [4].

## 2.3 The use of the SWOT analyses

SWOT analysis is an examination of internal security strengths and weaknesses, its opportunities, and the threats the external environment.

In of SWOT analysis, data are collected and sorted into four categories: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats S.W.O.T. Strengths and weaknesses generally stem from factors within the

organization, whereas opportunities and threats usually arise from external factors.

**Strengths** are internal, positive factors and describe the positive attributes, tangible and intangible, internal to our national security and they are within our control, the **Weaknesses** are internal, negative factors, the **Opportunities** are external, positive factors, and the **Threats** are external, negative factors.

We can use this type of analyse in this study, because it is link with the strategic thinking of the national security and we now that the primary aim of strategic planning is to bring into balance with the external environment and to maintain that balance over time.

### 3 Case studies for Romania

Taking into consideration the above presented issues on the actual security of Romania in the regions of Black Sea and Danube, we focus our attention on the main aspects of the four points of the analyses, for each region. The problems are very dynamic and most of them depends of the actual and future evolution of the international and regional

#### 3.1. SWOT for Black Sea

**Strengths:**

- the geographic position;
- the geostrategic importance of the extended Black Sea Region;
- the interest manifested by NATO
- huge resources of gas and petrol, some unexploited;
- the platforms of gas and oil;
- the existence of national and European strategies for the Black Sea region
- the delta of Danube with the high touristic potential and rich fish potential;
- recreational and tourist area along the costal line;
- the increasing number of military NATO actions after the Wales 2014 Summit;

**Weaknesses:**

- the neighbourhood with Ukraine, Crimea, Russia;
- the lack of detailed studies and perspective for discovering the new resources of gas and petrol;
- the Constanța port have old installations and insufficient Romanian ships;
- the reduced navigation on the canal Danube-Black Sea and further to western Europe;
- underdeveloped economic towns at the border of the sea;
- lack of agricultural pipelines for irrigation of the lands in the county of Dobrogea;

**Opportunities:**

- the possibility of the construction in the future of pipelines as a link with the resources of Baltic Sea, Transcaucasia, and Caspian Sea;
  - the close link with Bulgaria for common program under EU research programs Horizon 2020;
  - tourist attractions at the sea border;
  - the existence of physical markets of energy;
- Threats:**
- the Crimea problem;
  - the instability of Ukraine;
  - the military presence of Russia near our territorial water;
  - critical water infrastructures at the canal Danube-Black Sea (64,4 Km);
  - marine pollution;
  - delta pollution of the 20 protected areas-about 506 Km<sup>2</sup>.
  - terrorist threats against the existent installations in the port of Constanța and Agigea;
  - the desire of Russia to control the Black Sea region and the supply with energy for European countries.

#### 3.2. SWOT for Danube

**Strengths:**

- a great area for internal navigation;
- very good cooperation with our Bulgaria and Serbia in the field of organised crime, human traffic, drug traffic;
- a very big natural area for fishing;
- a natural barrier for irregular migration;
- production of hydro power energy (about 10% of the total Romanian production of energy, only with Porțile de Fier I);

**Weaknesses:**

- weak economic growth of the towns;
- small numbers of bridges;

**Opportunities:**

- connexion with European capitals and towns: Belgrade, Budapest, Wien, Bratislava, Linz for goods exchange and tourist programs;
- social and economic growth of the areas at the border of Danube river;
- the canal Danube-Black Sea

**Threats:**

- the canal of Bâstroe-the dispute between Romania and Ukraine;
- pollution along the river;
- the critical infrastructures at the two main dams at Porțile de Fier I and II;
- the migration routes coming from south and south east via Greece-Bulgaria, or Turkey-Bulgaria;

## 4 Conclusion

We cannot talk about national and regional security without the detailed study of the problems of these two regions.

These two SWOT analyses can be a starting point in any strategic decision, and they must be improved in the future in every moment, according to the evolution of the geopolitical situation. One thing is very clear: these two regions are direct or indirect connection with the interest of the EU, Russia and SUA and the other states of central Asia. The battle for the supremacy of natural resources remains in the 21st century as actual as it was one or two hundred years ago. The problems of irregular migration, international crime and the transport of petrol and gas for EU needs remain all together connected with the evolution in the Black Sea extended region.

### References:

- [1] Calopăreanu Gheorghe, Implicații de securitate ale extinderii NATO și UE la Marea Neagră, *Impact Strategic*, nr 1(38)/2011, Editura UNAP „Carol I”, București, 2011.
- [2] Clark RM, Deininger RA, Protecting the nat. critical infrastructures, *JCCM* 8(2), pp.73-80.
- [3] Proclamation of the Commission to the European Council and Parliament, April 11, 2007 «*Black Sea Synergy*» [COM (2007) 160 final not published in the official Journal], [http://eeas.europa.eu/blacksea/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/blacksea/index_en.htm).
- [4] Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)-2014-2020, [http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/pdf/financing-the\\_enp](http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/pdf/financing-the_enp).
- [5] Silvia Matache-Zaharia, The European Union's eastern partnership and the geopolitics of the Black Sea: challenges to European security, *Buletinul Universității Naționale de Apărare „Carol I”*, June 2015 p.243-259.
- [6] Strategia națională de apărare a țării pentru perioada 2015-2019.
- [7] Strategia națională de ordine și siguranță publică 2015-2020.
- [8] [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/justice\\_freedom\\_security/fight\\_against\\_terrorism](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/fight_against_terrorism).
- [9] <http://www.bsec-organization.org>.
- [10] [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events\\_112136.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events_112136.htm),  
[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events\\_112136.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events_112136.htm).