PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S POLICY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

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The Republic of Moldova considers that cooperation at sub-regional level is important direction in the realization of its foreign policy and national interest. Starting from the immediate proximity of the Black Sea basin and the Danube, the Republic of Moldova actively cooperates within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) (p.2.b) [1].

The European aspirations of three BSEC countries were reflected in Batumi Summit Declaration Issued by the Heads of State of Association Trio – Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on 19 July 2021: "We look forward to strengthening cooperation between our countries and with our Black Sea partners to ensure the security and stability in the Black Sea Region. We recall the 17 June 2019 EU Council Conclusions reaffirming the EU's long-standing commitment to fostering prosperity, stability, and resilience in the Black Sea area. We share the EU's concerns about the security challenges in the Black Sea area, reiterating that respect for international law, including the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including freedom of navigation are fundamental for the security and cooperation in the Black Sea area. We will engage our Black Sea partners in order to jointly promote the sustainable development of the region, as well as make full use of the opportunities that the Black Sea provides for wider and secure connectivity between Europe and Asia." [2].

The new geopolitical configuration in the Black Sea region has opened a series of opportunities for the Republic of Moldova, in order to realize its national interests through bilateral cooperation with the countries from neighborhood, such as Romania and Ukraine, as well as through the international organizations from this region. Republic of Moldova is a small country which does not possess of the necessary geopolitical potential to promote its national interests, the difficulty being in the fact that these converge with political interests and policies of the actors from the nearest vicinity. Moreover, these actors are following to maintain their influence on the Republic of Moldova and in a tendentious manner destabilizes the internal situation of the country. This is a reason why the location of Republic of Moldova in this geopolitical context, will be preceded by the geopolitical and geostrategic analysis of the Black Sea region evolution from multispectral cooperation perspective.

Thus, on June 25, 1992, at the initiative of the Turkish Government and the outcome of the meeting in Istanbul, along with 10 other states participating in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Russia, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine), the Republic of Moldova

signed the Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation, becoming a founding member of BSEC. By signing this Declaration, the purpose of the Republic of Moldova was: the country's participation in the building of a new Europe and its integration as an equal partner in the new European structures [3, p. 121].

However, the Black Sea region is a point of interest for the Republic of Moldova, as the Black Sea is currently considered to be the second largest Sea of the North, as a potential for hydrocarbons, being the most energetically important region in Europe [4, p.37-87]. Black Sea exploration is still incipient, despite the nearly 100 drilled wells, but these operations involve high costs (an exploration well reaches about $ 150 million) and a probability of success of 20-25%. The Black Sea area is an energy „corridor” and energy provider, and a network of oil pipelines and gas pipelines oriented on north-south and east-west directions across the area.

In this context the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova in terms of security interests in the Black Sea region should be guided by the economic factors, such as following: increasing discrepancies in the level of economic development of riparian states and states in the extended area, by diminishing available material and financial resources; the global economic and financial crisis; the danger of increasing pollution in the Black Sea Basin with catastrophic effects on the ecological balance of the area and the danger of involuntary environmental accidents or consequences of terrorist actions; emphasizing the role of the Black Sea as an access zone for Western states and not only to the Central Asian market; increasing the importance of the enlarged Black Sea region as a source and transit area of its own petroleum products as well as those from Central Asia; the existence in the proximity of Romania of high-risk economic objectives (eg old-technology nuclear power plants belonging to Ukraine and Bulgaria); etc.

Political-military factors remaines important argument for Black Sea countries collaboration, including: maintaining the conflicting condition and highlighting territorial disputes, the exacerbation of nationalism and separatist tendencies, corroborated with the internal instability or the fragile stability in the newly formed states after the collapse of the Soviet Union (Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine) [5, p.280-281].

Analizing Republic of Moldova realities and perspectives in the BSEC context it is necessary to mention that the common participation in the frame of these organizations have greatly contributed to the consolidation of the relationships between Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, into the development of a common ideology of the relationships, the identification of the priorities, work directions of all the state institutions. It was noted during recent meetings of the leaders of both countries as well as Georgia. It is considered that there should be elaborated a process of synergy implementation into the Black Sea region that will contribute to the development of the good relationships between EU and the countries from the region. In this context, they declare their availability and will to accept altogether with the

members the implementation of the partnership project in priority areas for the region and the collaboration between Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

References:

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