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Romania is situated in a rather important geopolitical region that represents a connector of areas with significant strategic importance as it is placed on the corridor linking the Euro-Atlantic community (security provider and energy consumer) to the Middle East, Caspian Region and Central Asia (energy provider and security consumer). Additionally, Romania is an EU border state and a distant NATO member which is though closely connected to the

European and Euro-Atlantic structures and security philosophy. The aforementioned ascertainments highlight the importance of the Romanian territory and pinpoint some of the geopolitical synergies that Romanian authorities have to take into consideration when shaping the military doctrine of the country.

Romania has major interest in creating a stable, democratic and prosper neighbour capable to maintain peace and understanding between the neighboring countries, create pluralist regional communities and have a predictable behaviour regarding the security domain. The aspiration of Romanian government is to play a major role under this framework by being a dynamic vector of democratic security, stability and economic prosperity in the region.

This is fostered by the participation of the country in the Euro-Atlantic political and defence structures. Through them, Romania managed to create a new philosophy that encourages the development of a collective strategy. This strategy facilitates the establishment of a set of principles, norms and unitary conduct rules based on the provisions of international law; and encompass obligations regarding the bilateral and multilateral relations of the regions countries.

Participaton of Romanian Armed Forces to International Missions

Theatres of operations	NATO	EU	ONU	Coalition type missions	Total
BOSNIA-HERTEGOVINA	1	EUFOR: 60			61
KOSOVO	KFOR: 147				147
AFGANISTAN	ISAF: 1655			ENDURING FREEDOM: 8	1663
IRAK	NTMI: 3 (NATO Training Mission - Iraq)				3
ALTELE		EUMM: 7	MILITARY OBSERVERS AND MONITORS: 48	LIAISON OFFICERS: 5	60
TOTAL	1806	67	48	13	1934

Thus, Romania is deliberately trying to create international and multilateral synergies such as the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership and through these to promote stability, democracy, energy security, peace and economic development. In order to achieve that Romania has to cooperate closely with its neighboring states and with the member states of EU and NATO. Concomitantly, it can integrate these political synergies into the Euro-Atlantic community and actively play the role of intervener between the EU- NATO and Eastern Europe.

Apart from the institutional dimension of Romanian interference in the political circumstances of the region a practical aspect is also ongoing as the Romanian Armed Forces are participating in several international missions conducted under NATO, EU and UN aegis. This participation highlights the intention of Romania to combat terrorism, promote security in the global scale and finally is the proof of the commitments Romania showcases as a member of the international community. Additionally, it is a testimony of the professionalism of the Romanian Armed Force's



The various dynamics in the neighboring region of Romanian that have been created the last decades imply the creation of new solutions and actions, capable of being solved only through permanent cooperation and collaboration. Under this notion, Romania is deliberately trying to create the proper conditions so as to promote cooperation and collaboration.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

## Romanian Defence Procurements under the New Security Strategy of the Country



### Ministry of National Defence

Romanian defence doctrine has been adopted in the new tense and complex environment in which the security of each individual country, as well as that of the international community as a whole, largely

depends on the ability to anticipate and to take proactive actions, rather than reacting to events. That is the reason why Romanian forces should always be in alert, ready to identify potential threats and tackle with them before creating any further unpleasant situations for the Romanian society. Additionally, it is obvious that it is equally important to be able for them to mobilize the society in order to carry out in cooperation with the armed forces national projects and find the proper way of harmonizing individual initiative with modern civic spirit. In order to achieve the aforementioned goal Romanian armed forces have to undertake a comprehensive project of modernization. For this purpose Romanian authorities allocated for the year 2009, 6,960 million new lei, while in 2000 the amount was significantly lower at 2,031 million new lei.

#### Military expenditure of Brazil

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
In local currency ( m. new lei)	5,757	6,324	6,358	7,558	6,960
percentage of gross domestic product	2	1.8	1.6	1.5	-

Source: SIPRI Publications (<http://milexdata.sipri.org/result.php4>)

The national defence budget was even bigger for the year 2008 when 7,558 million new lei were spent. This amount represented 1.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). With this Romania procured armament equipment for several countries. The first four (4) countries that export arms to Romania, based on the amount of funds allocated are Germany, Israel, USA and France. As it is clearly illustrated Romanian arms exports are rather diversified in its geographical structure as the aforementioned countries represent (3) different continents, Europe (Germany & France) North America (USA) and Asia (Israel).

Germany is currently the main exporter of arms in Romania. One of the defence systems that the country procured from Germany during the last years are (36) Gepards. The delivery was completed in 2008. The tanks were in service with the German armed forces before procured from Romania and were modernized before the delivery.

#### Imports (expressed in US\$ m. at constant 1990 prices)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Germany	48	36	37	-	120
Israel	17	20	20	20	77
USA	3	22	2	32	59
France	-	12	6	0*	18

Source: SIPRI Publications, Arms Transfers Database

Israel is another important country regarding the imports of armaments systems to Romania. In 2009 Israel completed the delivery of (750) Spike-MR/LR anti- tank missiles. Furthermore, Romania acquired from USA (138) C-9 Diesel engines for the modernization of (180) MLI-84 infantry fighting vehicles to MLI-84M version. The original MLI-84 is an indigenous variant of the Soviet BMP-1 infantry fighting vehicle, with a lengthened hull and additional heavy machine gun mounted over the troop compartment. The delivery was completed in 2009. Finally, Romania procured three (3) SA-330 Puma helicopters from France.

As it is already mentioned the goal of the Romanian security strategy is to prevent potential dangers and if this fails, to counteract them in order to guarantee the state of domestic security. The aforementioned procurements will definitely help the armed forces to fulfill this goal, though the multidimensional nature of modern security threats also requires the help of civilian factors in order to shape a successful and viable security policy.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

## Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects"



Epicos " Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects " provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

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### Development of a customized Howitzer crew training and simulation system



A leading player in artillery simulation and training concepts is interested in expanding its Howitzer crew training and simulation system into new markets. The complete training system is a proven concept, which uses a complete turret with all equipment, dummy ammunition and monitoring systems for the instructors to make sure that artillery training can be performed as realistic as possible. The system simulates the whole firing process and is considered to be much more cost effective than training in the real environment. Having delivered more than 50 systems to 10 international customers worldwide, the company has established the market leadership in this field. The company is interested in expanding this leadership and extend its customer base to new countries. In this context, the company is willing to cooperate with a prime contractor to develop a customised Howitzer training system, which can be offered to a third country as part of a direct or indirect offset programme.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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### Omni directional, long range thermal beacon for IFF military and homeland security applications



A leading company in developing and producing high-end innovative thermal IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) emitters and high power visible and infrared laser illuminators and designators, is proposing the use of a new omni-directional, long range identification device to armed forces personnel as well as military vehicles.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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### Europeanization of Defence Industry Policy in the 1990s, by Malena Britz



Europeanization has become a frequently used term, in the debate regarding socioeconomic issues. This book analyses the Europeanization of defence industry policy, with a special focus on the Swedish case. It analyses the creation of European rules for collaboration in defence equipment production, and the creation of European actors in form of European defence industry companies. A small comparison between developments in Sweden and developments in France and the UK is also made to enable a discussion of what is unique in the Swedish development.

The analysis should be useful for any student of Europeanization or European defence and security policy, as well as for professionals working with defence industry related issues.

### The Transition from Communism to the European Union: Restructuring Romanian Industry and Agriculture since 1990, by David Turnock



After the fall of the communist regime new socio-economical structures were created in all Southeast European countries. This book demonstrates this transformation process that has been limited by challenging political, economic and social constraints. David Turnock traces the complex issues that have influenced Romania's reform and restructuring program since the end of 1989. This book provides an overview of economic change in Romania, and studies in detail the transformation in industry, energy and agriculture, drawing on fieldwork in all parts of the country. The book should be regarded as a must read for students and researchers in the fields

of regional economics and post-communism, as well as readers with a general interest in Romania, the Balkans or the EU.



### China completes prototype of stealth fighter: reports

China appears to have completed a prototype of its first known stealth fighter, reports said Wednesday, highlighting Beijing's military modernisation days ahead of a visit by the US defence secretary.

Photographs published online and Chinese military sources cited by the Japanese media indicate a test model of the J-20 fighter has been finished, with taxi tests carried out last week at an airfield in southwestern China.

China plans to begin test flights of the J-20 as soon as this month, with plans to deploy the jet as early as 2017, Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper said, quoting Chinese military sources.

The fighter will be equipped with large missiles and could reach Guam with aerial refuelling, although it would take 10 to 15 more years to develop technology on a par with that of the US F-22 stealth jet, it said.

"While strengthening efforts to advance to the open ocean, the Chinese military is rapidly proceeding with modernisation of its air force," the Asahi Shimbun said. "The move may affect the military balance in East Asia."

In late 2009, the deputy head of China's air force, General He Weirong, said the country's stealth fighter would be operational sometime between 2017 and 2019, reports said.

Officials at China's defence ministry declined immediate comment when contacted by AFP about the reports.

The United States is currently the only country with an operational next-generation stealth fighter -- the F-22. In January 2010, Russia unveiled a new aircraft touted as a rival to the US jet, developed by Sukhoi.

The report came days before US Defence Secretary Robert Gates heads to Beijing, one year after Beijing snapped off military relations with Washington in protest against a multibillion-dollar US arms package for rival Taiwan.

The two nations have already resumed military contacts at a technical level.

China's massive annual military spending has aroused concern among its neighbours. Japan last month labelled Beijing's military build-up a global "concern", citing its increased assertiveness in the East and South China Seas.

US military officials and strategists meanwhile see Beijing as a potential threat to Washington's once unrivalled dominance of the Pacific.

China has repeatedly insisted its military growth does not pose any threat.



Defence Minister Liang Guanglie said last week that China was currently beefing up its navy, air force and strategic missile forces, while decreasing its ground forces.

According to defence industry publication Aviation Week, the J-20 is larger than observers expected -- suggesting a long-range capacity and the ability to carry heavy weapons loads.

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP)

#### Four militants killed in Russia's North Caucasus

MAKHACHKALA, January 5 (RIA Novosti) - Four militants were killed in a special police operation on Wednesday in the city of Khasavyurt, Russia's North Caucasus republic of Dagestan, a spokesman for the anti-terrorism committee (NAC) said. "Four militants were killed in a shootout. Their identities are being proved. A special operation continues," the spokesman said. On Tuesday Russian law enforcers killed another two militants in Dagestan's capital of Makhachkala, involved in murders and attempts on the lives of police officers. The NAC earlier said more than half of all terrorist attacks in the North Caucasus in 2010 occurred in Dagestan. Russia has been clamping down on militant groups in its volatile North Caucasus republics while stepping up efforts to boost the local economies. The Kremlin ended its decade-long antiterrorism campaign against separatists in Chechnya in April 2009, but has since had to step up the fight against militants as skirmishes and attacks on police and other officials have continued in the republic and around it.

Source: RIA Novosti

#### Poland calls for Russia to return plane crash wreckage

Poland's ambassador to Russia on Wednesday called for Moscow to return as soon as possible the wreckage of its presidential plane that crashed in April last year.

"We expect the plane wreckage will be returned to Poland when it is no longer needed by the investigation. Our position is that this should happen as soon as possible," ambassador Wojciech Zajackowski told the Interfax news agency in an interview published Wednesday.

Polish president Lech Kaczynski died with 95 others when his presidential jet crashed on April 10, 2010, as it attempted to land in fog near the city of Smolensk in northwestern Russia.

Kaczynski was travelling to attend a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of a massacre of around 22,000 captured Polish officers by the Soviet secret police during World War II at Katyn near Smolensk.

Poland has sharply criticised Russia's handling of the crash probe, with Prime Minister Donald Tusk saying last year that the investigation's preliminary findings were unacceptable and riddled with errors.

Russia has stressed that it is handing over full information to Poland and has made efforts to be open to the media. It handed Warsaw an initial 200-page report of its findings in October.

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP)

### Presidential plane crash caused by 'decision to land' - Polish PM

WARSAW, January 5 (RIA Novosti) - Last year's crash of a Polish presidential plane in western Russia was caused by the crew's decision to land, but Russian air traffic controllers are also to blame, the Polish prime minister told the TVN24 channel. "The disaster would have been avoided, if not for the decision to land. But putting the blame solely on pilots would be too simple," Donald Tusk said, adding that numerous causes were behind the tragedy, including a permission to land from Russian air traffic controllers. "This is one of the reasons why a report from IAC [Interstate Aviation Committee] does not seem 100% fair to me," he added. In mid-December Tusk announced that Poland had a number of problems with Russia's report on the causes of the plane crash and could not accept the document in its present form. The worn-out Tu-154 crashed in thick fog near the Russian city of Smolensk April 10 while carrying then president Lech Kaczynski and other senior Polish officials. All 96 people onboard - 88 passengers and eight crew members - died instantly.

Source: RIA Novosti

### Power supplies outside Moscow to resume by late Wednesday

MOSCOW, January 5 (RIA Novosti) - The Russian emergencies ministry said it planned to resume electricity supplies to blackout-hit areas outside Moscow in full by late Wednesday. As of 18:00 Tuesday, a total of 10 districts in Moscow Region remained without electricity. The power outages affected more than 6,500 houses with some 14,800 inhabitants in almost 200 settlements. But Gennady Onishchenko, who heads Russia's consumers' rights and health watchdog, later said that 31,000 people in 243 settlements near Moscow remained without electricity supplies. Massive blackouts began in the Moscow Region on December 26 after an ice storm. Freezing rain broke many power transmission lines, causing serious power outages. By noon January 1, the emergencies ministry said power supplies have resumed in all affected areas, but reports of more power outages followed. The local government had to introduce a state of emergency in 18 regions on the following day. Many houses in the neighboring Tver and Smolensk regions, as well as in the Central Russian Nizhny Novgorod Region, were also affected by power outages. By 18:00 Tuesday power supplies resumed in 92 Moscow Region settlements with 23,300 residents in total.

Source: RIA Novosti