

Editorial

From an uncertain zone to security generator: a long way for us to take the first step...

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Security is a state and a necessity that concerns us all, whether we are talking about the citizens and everything the security means for them - housing, health, future, the conviction that the institutions protect them - or about the state machinery. However, in the public space of the Republic of Moldova, there is too little discussion about the concepts of national security, individual security and safety, and security culture. Even less people discuss about the reduction in the level of internal security through the increasing degradation of the democratic governance system.

In fact, most of the time, in our geographic area, we associate security with the Transnistrian issue settlement and, respectively, we perceive security threats from a rather narrow perspective, and namely from the systemic vulnerabilities generated by the frozen conflict. The Republic of Moldova, as a whole, is described, labelled, and identified as a conflict point, a conflict zone, a black hole...

Although the national security and security sector reform should be a priority for the political authorities and political elites in Chisinau, they are constantly ignoring the long-standing visions of reforming the legislative and executive structures empowered with security mandates. The sporadic initiatives, the lack of a viable interinstitutional cooperation system, and most importantly, the duality of strategic visions of security, weaken the Republic of Moldova from within and thus generate insecurity externally, which is affecting the whole region.

But not only the lack of a systemic approach by the state in the field is the problem. Although the Republic of Moldova is seen and treated by the international community as a



post-soviet state with a frozen conflict on its territory - moreover, as a state controlled by the Russian Federation - the citizens don't consider the Transnistrian settlement as a vital priority. On the contrary, this is among the last in the list of priorities and interests of the Moldovans... The explanation, of course, may lie in the inefficient communication of the authorities, generated by the desire to keep the subject as "low profile" internally or by reduced institutional capacities in this sense, "cumulated" with the general incapacity for viable functioning of the Republic of Moldova.

Likewise, a so-called "security discourse" is lacking, and a tough position that would subsequently have electoral implications is avoided by the politicians.

In the given context, if we look at the main issues preoccupying the citizens - poverty, corruption, unemployment, the future of children- the existence of a war in the region (the conflict in Ukraine) and interethnic relations (often referred to as an outbreak of instability) are not found. Such a landscape clearly denotes that there is no logical link between "chronic" insecurity and the degradation of living standards generated by democratic slippages. National security and individual security are analysed as independent concepts, the logical interdependencies being ignored. The consequences of such a percussion not only generate internal vulnerabilities, but also prevent the country from overcoming the state of transition and that of insecurity generator - a non-viable state.

A second crucial element for the security of the Republic of Moldova, but also for the building of possible development partnerships, is the security vision - which, unfortunately, is completely lacking despite the attempt to draw different perspectives by the presidential institution, on the one hand, and by the Parliament and the Government, on the other hand (potentially revised according to the post-electoral scenarios). ▶

Thus, at the recent Munich Security Conference, President Igor Dodon presented the Comprehensive Package for Moldova, which, if analysed in detail, is generating more questions than answers. De facto, the Presidential Plan is a document built on the principle of a balanced foreign policy between East and West. But is this concept compatible under the current conditions and what would be the price of such a policy? Because the idea of international recognition of the neutrality of the country is bringing back to life the discussions about the inability of the Republic of Moldova to decide its long-term strategic vision of security policies to be agreed upon by all internal actors.

In addition, the appearance of such a document during the election campaign makes us wonder why this Plan was presented in Munich just now and especially why it was not discussed in Chisinau before. Why are the issues related to the national interests of the Republic of Moldova not publicly discussed as it is naturally assumed in a democratic state, but they look for the approval of the foreign partners first? And why is the emphasis put on the position of third parties and not on the internal legitimacy?

Only when we are able to answer these questions will we be able to build a security profile for our country and will we be able to understand the vulnerabilities, but also the potential development opportunities. A development from a bankrupt, insecure state and insecurity generator to a reliable state that brings security, economic and social stability and safety to its citizens and neighbours. At least, this would be a start.

In terms of information security, the Republic of Moldova is a wide-open and fence-free courtyard

Dumitru Țâra, media expert



Security is no longer just army and defense, just like information security is no longer only a sophisticated computer password - although it is not the case to neglect it either... That is why, in recent years, they have been discussing about information security "as part of the package" with the development of the information society, the rise of social networks and the growing role that the machines are occupying in our lives, often replacing the people... But there is an area of information security which, in an almost definitive way, depends (yet) on the people - more precisely, on what they propose to do with other people and with their minds, through the information

they offer. It is about the media and the risks a state is subjected to if doesn't secure itself in this sense. About information security and its various aspects, we have discussed with Dumitru Țâra, media expert, manager who has managed several media projects in his life and who knows the field ... first-hand.

■ ***Mr. Țâra, how safe do you feel in Moldova? And what are the security issues that matter to you as a citizen?***

■ From a physical security point of view, there is no problem. It is true that we are not in 2007-2008, when you could leave the key in the car – the small delinquency has somewhat increased - but we have lived much worse times. At the level of interaction with the institutions, I think everything is very individual and sometimes even subjective. As to the security in general ... nowhere in the world is perfect.

■ ***And yet, not everywhere in the world is declared, unexpectedly, a blue level of terrorism threat as it happened in Moldova last week...***

■ In fact, this announcement should have been made in the Republic of Moldova five years ago, when the war began in Ukraine, because a war in our