

# Political sciences

## GEORGIA IN THE PRISM OF EUROPEAN SECURITY

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### **Abstract**

The main goal of the European Union is the economic security of the member states, the well-being of the people, ensuring peace, creating a system of high standards of justice, ensuring basic human rights and freedom, and dealing with the modern challenges of democracy. However, the attack on Georgia in 2008 and on Ukraine in 2022 has already fundamentally changed the approach of the European Union and the Western states in general to both Russia and defense and security issues. The principles of defense policy, the understanding of integration in general, were fundamentally reevaluated. The West, and specifically the European Union, has intensively talked about the need to develop a defense integration policy that will allow it to deal with threats coming from Russia (and not only). The implementation of an integrated defense policy is related to the implementation of large works. Many interesting and important steps have been taken on this path and the process continues.

Since the goal of Georgia is to get closer to the European Union, it is vital for it to integrate into a single European security system, especially in light of the fact that 20% of the country is occupied. The European Union also considers Georgia a part of the region where it has long-term plans. Therefore, opportunities and potential for integration exist. Integration includes the possibility of expanding the security sphere, if Georgia continues to get closer to the European Union, this convergence will automatically affect the security sphere as well.

**Keywords:** European Union, Georgia, security system, integration.

### **The European Union - a global actor of peace:**

The European Union has focused on economic development since its foundation, and the result is obvious, the creation of the European Union has benefited the entire world economy. For decades, it has brought unprecedented prosperity to the part of the Eurasian continent that is part of it. At the same time, the idea of integration in the military sphere appeared at the same time, which many politicians and soldiers put on the agenda and tried to draw attention to. However, this idea did not find development.

In recent years, the processes developed in the immediate neighborhood of the European Union forced Europe to think about the creation of a collective defense system of security, since neglecting this component made full-fledged security of Europe impossible. Behind the scenes of the European Union, the discussion of labor safety and safe working environment has already been replaced by issues of defense security, and its member states have already actively discussed the development of their own military potential. Since 2016, this process has moved to a completely new stage. The formation and development of the common defense and security policy of the European Union gives the following chronological picture - in 1951, the union of European coal-mining and steel-producing countries agreed to start institutional cooperation. Creating conditions for equality.

Naturally, issues of security and defense were important for post-war Europe. In 1950, the plan presented by the then French Prime Minister René Plevin envisaged the creation of a single European army. This idea was called the "Plevin Plan" and along with the economic plan, it became the military security plan of the European Union. However, despite several years of consideration/discussion, this idea could not be implemented.

The process of the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the Iranian revolution and other facts reminded Europe roughly that economic prosperity and reaching high standards of development could not protect it from military conflicts, and especially if these conflicts arose in its vicinity, this situation would also affect the peaceful life of Europe. Therefore, Europe should at least take care of creating a unified defense system. The strength of each European state and the status of a nuclear power were not enough to make them feel safe. For a long time,

the European Union relied on US military assistance, but this could not withstand criticism among certain political forces in Europe. Therefore, the establishment of a common policy in the field of defense and security has become a priority for the European Union. This process reached its condition during the collapse of the Soviet Union. In 1992, the famous "Maastricht Agreement" was signed<sup>4</sup>. It entered into force on November 1 of the following year and related to the transformation of the European Union into the European Union and the establishment of a common foreign and security policy. On the basis of this agreement, the common defense policy of the European Union was established. In the world security system, the European Union is already starting to establish its place and develop as a global actor of peace. Therefore, the European Union is already a space where it is possible not only to develop economic and democratic institutions, but also to see an umbrella in terms of national security. Thus, with the addition and development of security mechanisms, the importance of the European Union for Georgia increases significantly. Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia<sup>5</sup> envisages the policy of full integration with the European Union. The existence of this mutually beneficial policy facilitates the possibility of developing these relations into close cooperation. However, the development of this cooperation comes with challenges. This challenge and threat comes from the Russian Federation, which considers the immediate neighborhood only as its sphere of influence.

The Treaty of Amsterdam, signed in 1997, strengthened the defense policy of the European Union: in particular, it clarified the ways of developing military potential and talked about the possibility of participating in peace operations. In 1998, a decisive step was taken in St. Malo and the European Union created the common defense or CSDP. EU soft power instruments (mediation, peace support, humanitarian aid) have been supplemented with defensive instruments (including conflict prevention).

In December 1999, at the meeting of the European Council held in Helsinki, it was decided to create a "Police and Security Committee"<sup>6</sup> and to form rapid response troops (mobilization of 60,000 military personnel within 60 days if necessary). Since 2000, the functions of this committee include:

1. To observe the international events to which the terms of the common foreign and security policy apply.
2. To participate in the process of defining the common foreign and security sphere.
3. Monitor the implementation of the decision of the High Representative of the European Union in the field of foreign affairs and security policy.

In the following years, the European Defense Agency and EU combat units were formed. These measures further strengthened the defense system and strengthened the security of the European Union.

Since 2015, some clarifications have been made in the EU policy and new directions have been introduced. This process also affected the neighborhood policy and bilateral cooperation. That is, the Georgian side was involved in such types of events as:

- fight against cross-border crime;
- fight against organized crime;
- fight against cybercrime;

These measures are part of the "Global Strategy" of the EU's foreign and security policy. It aims to promote stability and security in its partner states. Part of this policy is the regulation of migration, the fight against illegal migration, border management and other measures. Cooperation in these areas contributes to the establishment of a common security and defense policy within the European Union. The goal of Georgia is to be a part of this space. In this space, the union offers security guarantees to its member states. Georgia is a small and weak state and it needs such type of guarantees. Moreover, these guarantees are vital for Georgia.

In 2022, the "Strategic Compass Initiative"<sup>7</sup> was approved in the European Union. It aims to ensure security and defense through crisis management, capacity building and strengthening partnerships. This initiative involves the deployment of a 5,000-strong rapid response force to crisis zones for 30 days, regular exercises on land and sea, and financial support. Despite these measures, EU security policy still needs to be developed. The scope of CSDP international missions covers Kosovo (EULEX), Georgia (EUMM), Iraq (EUAM), Libya (EUBAM), Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali). They are also involved in OSCE and UN peacekeeping operations.

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<sup>4</sup> Treaty on European Union (TEU) / Maastricht Treaty, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/the-parliament-and-the-treaties/maastricht-treaty>

<sup>5</sup> Constitution of Georgia, 1995, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/30346?publication=36>

<sup>6</sup> HELSINKI EUROPEAN COUNCIL 10 AND 11 DECEMBER 1999, PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/hel1\\_en.htm#:~:text=The%20European%20Council%20met%20in,stage%20in%20the%20enlargement%20process.](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/hel1_en.htm#:~:text=The%20European%20Council%20met%20in,stage%20in%20the%20enlargement%20process.)

<sup>7</sup> Strategic Compass Initiative, <https://epc.eu/en/Projects/Strategic-Compass-Initiative~4fe908>

It is very important that European politicians constantly emphasize the importance of Georgia for the European Union and consider it as a part of the common space of Europe. French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking with Vladimir Putin in Moscow about the principles of ensuring European security, noted that Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are part of the European security system<sup>8</sup>.

The 21st century world includes new forms of security challenges and it is necessary to manage them. These challenges can be information systems integrity, fight against disinformation, Internet attacks, software. Thus, cyber security is a very important part of security and no less important than military armament. The European Union and its member states have developed cyber security strategies. Protection of cyberspace becomes a task of the same importance for the state as for the economy, society and other sectors. Georgia also developed a cyber security policy by sharing European practices and experience. The country has accumulated interesting experience in this regard and it can be said that it is not behind the European countries. American bachelor's and master's (University of Kentucky) programs have been introduced and are operating in the country. "With the support of the SAFE project funded by the European Union, Georgia was also able to equip the existing infrastructure with modern security technologies. In addition, within the framework of the project, it was possible to retrain technical personnel. "Exemplary cooperation with the European Union and UNOPS gave Georgia the opportunity to strengthen cyber security both at the Ministry of Defense and at the national level," noted the director of the Cyber Security Bureau of Georgia, Levan Giorgobian<sup>9</sup>.

The outbreak of a large-scale war in Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022 changed the situation in international security, the world faced new challenges, including many changes for the OSCE, which has certain advantages, and mutual cooperation with its comprehensive security concept is an important goal. It is also noteworthy that the annexation of Crimea to Russia caused great indignation of the world community, it was considered as aggression, annexation and violation of the norms of international law.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly tried to violate the sovereignty of other states. His intention is to prevent the countries of the former post-Soviet space from joining the European Union and NATO.

#### **Cooperation in the field of security:**

It is important for the European Union to be a geopolitical actor, therefore, its involvement in military confrontations is important. Although it reacts to Russia's military actions, it is not enough.

The EU, together with the US, played a decisive role during the August 2008 war. With their involvement, it was possible to cease fire and sign the well-known six-point plan, the initiator of which was the chairman of the European Union at the time - French President Nicolas Sarkozy. With his direct efforts, it was possible to invite the Russian side to the negotiation table and sign a cease-fire agreement. Representatives from Abkhazia and the so-called from South Ossetia as well. After the end of the war, the European Union allocated 650 million in aid to Georgia.

It is a fact that the European Union supports the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Georgia and pursues a policy of non-recognition towards the two regions of Georgia, which Russia declared independent after the August 2008 Russia-Georgia war.

The support of the European Union did not end there: after the August 5-day war, the "European Union Monitoring Mission"<sup>10</sup> (EUMM European Union Monitoring Mission) started working in Georgia. Mission offices were opened in four cities of Georgia: Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Gori and Zugdidi. These missions carried out 24-hour monitoring of the administrative borders of the conflict regions. Their goal was to provide an immediate response in any crisis situation, to prevent the illegal abduction of Georgian citizens by the Russian border guards and to promote the restoration of trust between the parties to the conflict.

Since 2008, the European Union has introduced the post of "Special Representative on Crisis Issues in Georgia", which is a very significant fact and only indicates that Georgia is a valuable partner for the European Union.

One of the most important steps after the August 2008 war was the opening of a new format of negotiations by the European Union. This is the Geneva International Negotiating Format (GID). It brings together the representatives of Georgia, Russia, Abkhazia and Ossetia and includes four rounds of negotiations per year. EU, USA, OSCE and UN are involved in this process. Issues of security and humanitarian assistance

<sup>8</sup> Macron named Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova as part of the European security system, February 8, 2022, <https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/31692405.html>

<sup>9</sup> EU helps Georgia strengthen cyber security by handing over new integrated systems, July 19, 2021, <https://euneighbourseast.eu/ka/news/latest-news/evrokavshiri-sakharthveloshi-kiberusaphrthkheobis-gadzierebas-akhali-integrirbuli-sistemebis-gadatsemith-ucqhobs-khels-2/>

<sup>10</sup> EUMM Georgia: The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia - Civilian mission, 30.11.2020, [https://www.eas.europa.eu/eumm-georgia/eumm-georgia-european-union-monitoring-mission-georgia-civilian-mission\\_und\\_en?s=335](https://www.eas.europa.eu/eumm-georgia/eumm-georgia-european-union-monitoring-mission-georgia-civilian-mission_und_en?s=335)

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will be discussed at the Geneva talks. 60 rounds have already been held, but so far Georgia has not reached an agreement with the Russian Federation on principled issues. However, the process continues.

It is worth mentioning separately the fact that on January 21, 2021, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights published a decision of historical significance. It refers to the August 2008 Georgia-Russia war and its consequences. The European Court of Justice has clearly announced that after August 12, 2008, the Russian Federation violated a number of articles of the European Convention on Human Rights while exercising effective control over the Tskhinvali region and Abkhazia. Since then, the European Union has always expressed its willingness to promote peace in Georgia, to settle conflicts, and spares no effort to do so.

Russia's attack on Georgia in 2008 was indeed followed by the European Union's response. After the August armed conflict, the EU became more actively involved in post-war stabilization through its Unarmed Civilian Monitoring Mission (EUMM) under the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). It is noteworthy that the European Union implements the neighborhood and enlargement policy. Its Eastern Neighborhood Policy, embodied in the Eastern Partnership initiative, seeks to strengthen democracy in these countries.

It is a fact that Russia's military interventions in the Eastern neighborhood of the European Union in the post-Soviet period, and the current full-scale invasion of Ukraine, once again emphasized that Russian military intervention not only destroys these countries, their economies and democratic processes, but also affects the security of the European Union. That is why he is always ready to restore peace on the continent of Europe.

### **Conclusion**

The European Union is an organization focused on solving economic challenges rather than on military and defense issues. But, the fact is that in the 21st century, unfortunately, military confrontations and clashes still happen and it is necessary to regulate it. Also, the importance of security and defense has expanded and it no longer means military defense alone. In the conditions of a hybrid war, an informational, cyber attack is no less harmful to any country than military aggression. In this struggle, the European Union is trying to develop appropriate defense tools. All countries associated with the European Union benefit from the achievements and benefits that it brings. The European Union shares all its technological achievements with its member and non-member states. Georgia is part of the system and receives a lot of aid, the continuation and deepening of this process promises a better future for the country.

All polls conducted in Sakhaartvelo in recent years prove that the majority of its population likes the course that has become a constitutional norm.

In the modern world, the security problem is important for all countries. For the European Union, the enlargement policy may become a powerful tool for strengthening security, because a unified, coordinated security policy will become a condition for greater common development, peaceful coexistence, and a secure environment.

### **Recommendation**

It is desirable that Georgia is more involved in any security initiative initiated by the European Union; In addition, Georgia should develop concrete initiatives together with the European Union on what type of measures can be taken for more democracy and common security. The European Union together with Georgia should implement projects in the field of security, which may increase the security and integration quality of both the European Union itself and Georgia, which is very important for Georgia.

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