

Eurolimes, where to?

Ioan HORGA

Abstract: *Now that we publish the 10th issue of Eurolimes, the editors of the journal intend to sum up the contribution of Eurolimes to the examination of the notion of boundary corresponding to the border-limit in correlation with the notion of border as state boundary. Our journal also aims at showing the way in which the meaning of internal frontiers changes evolving from the national perspective to the community one. On the other hand, we seek to define the future editorial initiatives of the journal towards more punctual topics through the question “Eurolimes, where to?”: EU position in an international context with strong mutations after 2010; the impact of policy on the construction of a formal or informal border; the impact of different types of borders on identities; the process of evolution of social borders within the EU Member States, etc.*

Keywords: *border, boundary, frontier, identity, Eurolimes*

Defining the European Union as a global security actor

Dacian DUNA

Abstract: *This paper evaluates the European Union’s actorness in international relations and especially in the field of global security. It approaches three core documents for the development of a European security culture: the European Security Strategy, the Constitutional Treaty and the Treaty of Lisbon. The European Security Strategy provided the normative substratum for engaging European Union into the global governance of the 21st century after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The Constitutional Treaty and the Lisbon Treaty were not as revolutionary as the security strategy. They in fact showed the limits of the institutional compromise and the political sclerosis of which the EU suffers. However, as this paper demonstrates, the norms and institutions are created for better or worse. What still misses is the political will of the Member States and EU officials to advance further the objective set out in the security strategy.*

Keywords: *European Union, security, globalization, treaty reform*

Turkey as a key player in the architecture of the European Security and Defence System

Yannos CHARALAMBIDES

Abstract: *The article evaluates the geopolitical and strategic position of Turkey in the European security system, both through NATO and EU perspectives. The particularities of Turkey relations with other organizations and powers, underlines the need for a deeper consideration of the security environment and security potential of Europe. There are clear indications that Turkey is strengthening its power and influence and became one of the most important actors able to influence the geopolitics both in Europe and in the Middle East.*

Keywords: *Turkey, security, Europe, defence*

Romania's geopolitical position in the Ponto-Baltic Isthmus. Reflections upon the strategic partnership between Romania and the US

Nicolae TOBOȘARU

Abstract: *The relation of strategic partnership with USA has helped not only the hastening of Romania's modernization, but also the invitation to NATO's membership in 2002. Moreover, through the Access Agreement of US Army in facilities located on the Romanian territory, since 2005, the future installation of the American anti-missile elements and the support for the Black Sea Strategy of the Băseșcu administration, the bilateral strategic partnership has consolidated the geopolitical position of Romania, as an operator in the southern flank of the Ponto-Baltic Isthmus.*

Keywords: *pivotal state, buffer state, limes, pontic-baltic isthmus, Romanian-American strategic partnership*

The political, social and cultural aspects of the Islam in the Balkans

Zsuzsa M. CSÁSZÁR

Abstract: *Activities of the Islam have been present in the Balkan region almost since the beginnings of the region's history, although with varying intensities. The Ottoman Empire played a determining role in forming the life of the Balkan for an extremely long period of nearly half a millennium. Nowadays in few countries of the Balkan region the Islam remained an important factor. Moreover, an Islamic expansion can be identified since the second half of the 20th century, represented by the demographic boom of the Albanians.*

Keywords: *Islam, Muslims, , Balkan, Islamic expansion*

Romanian- Serbian Cross-Border territorial system. Elements and mechanisms generating systemic functionality (natural and administrative context)

Alexandru ILIEȘ, Olivier DEHOORNE, Dorina Camelia ILIEȘ, Vasile GRAMA

Abstract: *The following study analyses on the Romanian-Serbian border sector which is considered to be relict. Stretching on 546,4 km (256,8 km terrestrial; 289,6 fluvial), this area dominated by plains in the north and south (approximately 70% of the total surface) and by mountains in its central-south half (30%) inherits the morphologic characteristics of the Romanian-Yugoslavian border. The main objective of this study is to identify, quantify and integrate the elements and mechanisms which generate the functionality of the cross-border territorial systems and subsystems. By combining these according to the morphological and anthropic characteristics of the landform, the study proposes the remodelling of contiguous border systems and the modelling of the cross-border system obtained. Thus, by means of instruments and methods attested by specialized literature and based on the border line as well as on the morphological characteristics of natural contiguous border systems, we can identify the factors which determine and the elements which compose the functioning mechanisms of contiguous Romanian and Serbian border areas, using qualitative, quantitative and*

functional-systemic criteria. The understanding of these elements from a morphofunctional and morphodynamic point of view is the key to this study which will represent the starting point for the creation of a highly functional cross-border territorial system model.

Keywords: *territorial system, Romanian-Serbian border, functional system, natural system*

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), Instrument of Cross-border Cooperation. Case Study Romania - Hungary

Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA, Adrian-Claudiu POPOVICIU

Abstract: *The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), as an instrument of cross-border cooperation does not create an intermediary administrative level and its members do not totally transfer their competences to a group, only those necessary for applying the assumed mission. Also, the EGTC has the goal of eliminating a discriminatory reality inside the European Union on the Internal Market, defined through the diverse report of facilitating the cooperation between two partners from different countries, towards the cooperation between two partners from the same country. EGTC does not eliminate all the existing legal cooperation forms, but comes with a new alternative, truly more consolidated. Besides the lack of law protection of the concept of Euro-region, the EGTC one is officially recognized by the European Commission as “label”, protected by the European Union.*

Keywords: *The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), cross border cooperation, EGTC Oradea-Debrecen*

„SoNorA” as a factor of developing Adriatic - Baltic co-operation

Jan WENDT, Tomasz WISKULSKI

Abstract: *Our presentation has been concentrated at the scientific description and analysis of “SoNorA” potential. The aim of “South – North – Axis” project has been development of transport and services infrastructure at Central Europe. The main transport corridor, known as well as “Adriatic – Baltic Landbridge” will connect Polish and German ports with Italian, Croatian and Slovenian ones. Realization and developing transport net between the Baltic Sea Region and Adriatic Basin let develop stream of goods not only between Baltic and Adriatic ports but as well between South Part of Europe, even North Africa and Scandinavia. Developing this transport and transit corridors will give a possibility to create a great number of private enterprises, a green field ones as well as at the service sector. Additionally between aims of Project “SoNorA” are developing activity of logistic and transport services, helping at the preparing and coordinating plans for international cooperation and support of regional development.*

Keywords: *Baltic, Adriatic, co-operation, corridor, transport, landbridge*

Trans-border regionalisation under globalisation

Gennady FEDOROV, Valentin KORNEEVETS

Abstract: *Trans-border regions are formed active in the conditions of globalisation. They have macro-, meso- and micro-level forms and different functional types. The authors consider the Baltic macroregion as a positive example of cross-border regionalisation.*

Keywords: *regionalisation, globalisation, cross-border cooperation, trans-border region, hierarchy of regions, Baltic Sea region, EU-Russia co-operation*

Cross-Border Cooperation in the Periphery of the European Union: Reinterpreting the Finnish-Russian Borderland

James WESLEY SCOTT

Abstract: *The profound socio-spatial transformations that have occurred in Post Cold-War Europe are becoming visible in border regions in terms of the influence of civil society co-operation, intermarriage, business networks, the increasing mobility of labour, local cross-border trade and tourism, etc. These processes suggest an acceleration of rapidly re-territorializing (e.g. 'post-national') dynamics in Europe. The Finnish-Russian case of 'Karelia' highlights the complexity of re-territorialisation in 'emerging' European Borderlands.*

Karelia is, on the one hand, a regional idea – part of an attempt to selectively use history, geographical representations and discourses of regional integration in order to create a sense of common purpose. This paper will present evidence of regionalisation processes taking shape in 'Finnish-Russian' Karelia based on the construction of 'familiarity' This region-building strategy harks back to the well-known Euroregion model developed within the context of European integration. However, if Euroregions can be seen as largely public sector projects of 'place-making' the construction of familiarity is a much more socially grounded process. In concluding I will speculate to what extent this European Borderland can be seen as a laboratory of post-national identity-formation and development practices.

Keywords: *border, periphery, EU, Finland, Russia, cooperation*

Demographic changes as a challenge for the geo-economy a geo-policy of the European Union

John ABRAHAM

Abstract: *The European Union faces many challenges, which may in the next few decades, change its geo-economic and geopolitical position. Among these challenges we can include, inter alia, the ongoing population changes (slow population growth and namely population ageing). The aim of this paper is to assess current population trends and prospects for the development of the population of the European Union and to outline possible effects and tools to address the aging of the population. We focus here not only on the European Union as a whole, but also on the comparative profile of the member countries. The study is based on an analysis of statistical indicators and projections of the European Statistical Office.*

Key words: *European Union, demographic changes, ageing of the population*

L'Union Européenne e le Mexique : l'Accord régional de partenariat comme instrument géopolitique face à l'Aléna et à la globalisation.

Angelo SANTAGOSTINO, Andrea FORNARI, Luisa BRAVO

Abstract: *Latin America especially since the accession of Spain in 1986 has been strategically important for Europe. At the same time is the sub-continent has continued to be relevant for in the external policies of United States. Mexico is the example of a country where these geopolitical interests have crossed. The NAFTA, on the part of the United States, negotiated and entered into force at the beginning on the nineties. As an answer to Nafta, a few years later, in the mid 1990s, the European Union negotiated an Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement with Mexico, which was signed in 1997 and entered into force in 2000. This Agreement provides a suitable framework for both deepening and strengthening EU-Mexico political relations. The Agreement has three main pillars: political dialogue, trade and cooperation. It also allowed the EU to reinforce its economic and commercial positions in Mexico, which had been under considerable pressure since the entry into force of NAFTA.*

Keywords: *European Union, Mexico, agreement, cooperation, globalization*

EU economic frontiers determined by its international trade position and trade policy

Bogumiła MUCHA-LESZKO, Magdalena KĄKOL

Abstract: *The subject of the study is an assessment of the European Union's previous and future impact on the development of the multilateral system of international trade. The issue has been analysed taking into account the experiences of Pax Britannica and Pax Americana. The authors come to the conclusion that the polycentric world economic order does not favour the strengthening of a global trade system, which results in the inadequacy of international trade policy towards the global dimension of market mechanism. The two main centres of the world economy (the US and the EU) have different strategies of trade liberalisation. The United States prefer liberalisation in bilateral and regional agreements. They develop trade and investment links with the developing countries that are interested in access to the US market. This is also the strategy that enable control over the global trade relations. In the situation when the EU does not have the majority in WTO and bilateral agreements are the prevailing trend in trade policy of many countries, the EU position in international trade and its impact on global trade relations depend on the competitive advantage. The potential possibilities of the large EU internal market, as a lever by means of which benefits from globalisation may be achieved, have not been used so far.*

Keywords: *EU trade, competitiveness, trade policy, global trade system, US strategy of trade liberalisation*

Geopolitics and security in the European Neighbourhood

Dorin I. DOLGHI

Abstract: *The article explores the current geopolitical configuration around the Eastern border of the European Union. From this perspectives, there are geopolitical determinations of the political, economic and security dynamics for the states that are considered both in the European Neighbourhood Policy of EU and also in the Near Abroad Policy of Russia. To this end, each power – EU and Russia – conducts policies to influence the regional preferences of the states situated at the eastern border of EU. Our main question is addressed to the capacity of the EU neighbouring states from the East to promote long term agendas in their internal and external policies.*

Keywords: *European Union, neighbourhood, geopolitics, security*