

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IMPACT ON ROMANIA'S SECURITY

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Abstract: *As the whole political scene is concerned with finding solutions to world economic crisis, the main issues related to Romania's security are of economic nature only. Romanian society still suffers the effects of faulty management of its economic and social transition that has led to weakening the authority and reducing efficiency of the state institutions while affecting social cohesion and balance.*

Keywords: *economic crisis, transition, vulnerabilities, risks, corruption, reform, state, European and Euro-Atlantic structures, economic security, European security*

Romania is concerned with reducing the internal vulnerabilities which, under certain circumstances, may have negative impacts on national security. Such vulnerabilities may include¹:

- Persistence of economic, financial and social problems caused by a prolonged transition and delayed structural reforms;
- Amplification of corruption and poor management of public resources leading to deeper social inequities and underground economy development;
- Inefficient responses of the state bodies to increased economic crime forms, disturbed public order and reduced safety of the citizens, phenomena that produce increasingly visible negative effects on social cohesion and solidarity, and civil life quality as well;
- Maintaining sources that pose the risk of generating social conflicts, of a lesser or larger extent, which may produce detrimental effects such as waste of energies, reduction or interruption of economic processes, or population disquiet;
- Nonobservance of environmental policies by some industrial enterprises thus enabling ecological disasters, natural catastrophes, or

environment degrading;

- Citizens' reduced trust in state bodies as a result of excessive bureaucracy and carelessness in administration, and corruption which also leads to deterioration of social and civic cohesion;
- Uneven development of various regions of the country;
- Limitation in fulfilling Romania's NATO commitments;
- Low level of information infrastructure and delays in meeting the standards globalization dynamics entails;
- Migration of highly specialized professionals which impinges on Romanian society potential development;
- Reduced capability of absorbing European funds;
- Limited expertise in some essential areas;
- Justice insufficient authority.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, in a recent speech in front of the European Parliament, asserted that "there is no restraint in fighting against corruption and organized crime. Anything Romanian Authorities can do in fighting against corruption – must be done..., and they must prove perseverance in this course of action" (International Herald Tribune, "European Commission President Barosso says Romania

¹<http://www.mapn.ro/strategiasecuritate/stratrisc.htm#a44>

should continue fight against corruption”, September 7, 2007).²

Difficulties of a prolonged economic transition, reduced life quality, social disparities, increasing amount of people living in poverty, all these may cause intolerance; affect social solidarity; encourage populism; nourish radical and extremist movements with most serious effects on state bodies and mechanisms. The outcomes, yet insufficiently edifying, in running the reform process have determined reduction of the resources allocated for society modernization, and expectations of the population which has to face an accelerated impoverishment.

Official records have shown a decline in most population living standards including health, education and environment quality. Public services are overwhelmed by bureaucracy and infrastructure insufficiently developed all over the territory. As for industry, it is having difficulty with restructuring and modernization while agriculture has undergone a significantly regressive process. Things are not far different regarding the privatization and execution of the owner rights law, not to mention precarious medical assistance system and undersized transport and communication networks. At the same time, slow adjustment of public order and national security system to the newest and increasingly aggressive crime forms as well as the shortcomings in administration of justice have caused an unacceptable fall of the citizen safety level.

Difficulties Romania is confronted with are also the result of the problems some European regions have to deal with, problems which are subject to a large international concern. Perpetuating instability at sub-regional level, harmfully impacting on economic environment, has highlighted Romania's incapability to make appropriate decisions to bring it closer to economic and financial system characteristic of western democratic world. In its efforts to promote economic reforms, chosen formulas to align with and join the western economic and

financial structures have been not easily and randomly implemented. Crises and violent conflicts broken out in the vicinity have caused some traditional economic ties to be ceased leading to heavy financial losses, hindered the development and promotion of long-term strategies, discouraged foreign investors and generally increasing the stress.

Findings

Meeting Romania's commitments to fully integrate into European and Euro-Atlantic structures represents a critical phase in Romanian society modernization process and strengthening the trends of economic growth. In the long run, with them comes the promise of prosperity and they increase Romania's credibility in its efforts to build up security in Europe.

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²<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap2007/09/07/Europe/EU-GEN-Romania-Barroso.php>