

Civil society of Ukraine as a subject of influence on political-military decisions of the state

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Abstract

In the article the author deals with the forms and ways of civil society influence on the process of making political-military decisions (PMD), as well as analyses the normative-legal base of functioning of civil society institutions.

A large number of scientific researches are devoted to the issue of production and implementation of important PMDs, the thematic spectrum of which includes political, philosophical, historical, sociological, psychological and other approaches. The participation of civil society in the political life of the state is also actively discussed in the scientific literature. Meanwhile, most of the available researches are focused on the phenomenon of civil society only in the context of the influence of external factors, creating conditions for its development. In the meantime, after the completion of the stage of its formation, the issue of increasing its role in the processes of democratization of public relations in Ukraine is urgent.

However, in our opinion, not enough attention is paid to the participation of civil society in the system of adoption of the PMD. Therefore, this issue requires further scientific and theoretical understanding and practical analysis.

According to the results of the study, it is proved that it is necessary to deepen the cooperation of civil society with the government in order to adopt and implement effective and appropriate for the state PMDs.

Key words: civil society, public, political-military decisions.

Introduction

The establishment of civil society in Ukraine as an institution of developed democracy presupposes its broad participation in the

process of adoption and practical implementation of various political decisions, including those of a political-military nature.

Results and discussion

Civil society can be considered as a set of citizens, their free organizations and associations connected by the social relations that are characterized by a high level of public consciousness and political culture, and that are not subjected to the state control, its directive regulation and supervision, but guaranteed and protected by the state (Bebik, V., 2006).

An alternative definition of civil society is as follows: it is a system of self-sufficient and independent of the state social institutions and

relations that provide conditions for the realization of private interests and needs of individuals and groups, social, cultural and spiritual spheres, their reproduction and transmission from generation to generation (Todyka, Y., 1999).

The basis for the creation and functioning of civil society in Ukraine is the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine, namely:

human rights and freedoms and their guarantees determine the content and direction

of the state; the state is accountable to a human for his activities; affirmation and protection of human rights and freedoms is the main duty of the state (Article 3);

the state guarantees the right of everyone to freedom and religion (Article 35);

the state consecrates the right of citizens of Ukraine to freedom of association in political parties and public organizations (Article 36);

the state guarantees the right of citizens to participate in the management of public affairs (Article 38);

the state creates appropriate conditions that ensure the right of all to send individual or collective written appeals or personally apply to public authorities (Article 40) (Constitution of Ukraine).

The creation of civil society institutions is an indispensable attribute of a truly democratic state, a clear indicator of the freedom of its citizens. Only a society in which the public struggles for its right to control power, to demand its openness and accountability, is on the path of true democratic development.

In this context, there is a need for active involvement of the general public in the management processes, the formation and implementation of both public policy in general and military policy in particular, which, in turn, will promote democracy, transparency and openness of the adoption of PMD, establishing an effective systemic dialogue between the authorities and the public.

Civil society in the institutional context, represented by political parties, NGOs, associations, community councils, the media, etc., can be seen as a full participant and active participant in the development and implementation of the PMD.

Let's try to describe each component of civil society separately. Article 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine" defines a political party as a legally registered voluntary association of citizens – supporters of a national program of social development, which aims to promote the formation and expression of political will of citizens, participates in elections and other political activities (On political parties in Ukraine).

Political parties can exist in two forms: to be in opposition and to be in power. Being in opposition, parties become an institution of civil society, and when they are in power, they are integrated into the state mechanism. One of the main tasks of political parties is the relationship between society and government. Parties identify, justify and express the interests of various social groups and segments of the population. They play an equally important role in uniting interests in reconciling different positions, which contributes to the consolidation of society.

International experience shows that the most dynamic and extremely effective form of self-organization of a democratic society, one of its leading institutions, an important factor in the democratization of social relations is the activities of public organizations.

Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine "On Public Associations" states that a public organization is a voluntary association of individuals and / or legal entities of private law for the exercise and protection of rights and freedoms, public satisfaction, including economic, social, cultural, environmental, and other interests (On public associations).

Civil society organizations are intended to become intermediaries between citizens and public authorities, exercising control functions of society. They, directly representing the interests of various groups of the population, are aimed not only to solve certain social problems, but also to act as generators of ideas, alternative projects of development of society [6].

Non-governmental organizations can also include any organization registered in accordance with the laws "On Associations of Citizens", "On Political Parties", "On Trade Unions, their rights and guarantees of their activities". The main function of public organizations is "public" lobbying, exerting influence on the government by submitting sound proposals, criticism and decisions to improve the quality of public policy.

According to statistics in Ukraine over the past seven years there has been a tendency to increase the number of non-governmental

organizations (Kornievsky O, Tyshchenko Y, Yablonskiy V., 2019). Among them are a large number of volunteer organizations, which in a difficult period of active hostilities in eastern Ukraine due to self-organization provided invaluable assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Representatives of public organizations became members of advisory bodies at the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. Thus, they are directly involved in the adoption of the PMD.

Among a wide range of public organizations in Ukraine, the “intellectual core” is think tanks, non-governmental research organizations, or, as they are also called, “think tanks”. As a rule, they focus their efforts on research and development of the leading spheres of the country's life – economy, politics, social relations, defense, etc. “Think tanks” implement original scientific models of various sectors of life and educational programs aimed at: a) educating the population and influencing the government and those who shape public opinion; b) the creation of appropriate public pressure for the authorities to make a socially useful decision on a wide range of social, political, economic, legal and defense issues. In addition, they act as a tool of public control, and thus determine the goals and values of society (Droval O.).

The next component of civil society is the media. According to the Law of Ukraine “On Information”, the media are defined as means intended for public distribution of printed or audiovisual information (On information). The media should provide the most objective and complete information to citizens about the activities of decision-makers, and the latter – about public opinion on issues that need to be addressed. In other words, the media become a mediator between government and society and play a major role in shaping public opinion, taking the position of the “fourth branch of government”.

In Ukraine, the adoption of various decisions, including political-military ones, is sometimes spontaneous when the established procedures for the formation, analysis of the situation and the possible consequences of the preparation of the PMD and its implementation are not followed.

Therefore, the quality of the PMD may be low. The main reason for this situation is the non-transparency of the decision-making model of state bodies. At the same time, increasing such transparency can be ensured by more active public participation in the process of adopting the PMD and the shared responsibility of civil society institutions for the formation and implementation of defense policy. An illustrative example of this can be the painful issue for Ukraine of integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a collective security mechanism. The chaotic change in the government's position on this issue over the decades has prevented it from reaching its ultimate goal. Moreover, our government's next steps towards NATO are now welcomed by the Alliance. According to a significant part of the citizens, most decisions in this regard were made at the level of higher state structures behind closed doors, without considering the positions and proposals of civil society. The agreements reached, the documents signed and the next steps planned by the state were communicated to the general public only *ex post facto*. The consequence of such a policy was the dissatisfaction of millions of people, as well as the creation of an additional source of destabilization of government agencies.

It is obvious that PMD should mature in the chain of all subjects of this process: state institutions – expert environment – civil society. It should be taken into the consideration that official decisions, expert assessments and positions of citizens do not always coincide. In practice, it is difficult to reach an agreement on all interests, but the final decision should be close to a compromise agreement on the positions of the various actors in the adoption of the PMD and be optimal in terms of state and public interests. Thus, the final decision must be preceded by a public explanation of the urgency of its adoption and compliance with national interests.

The participation of civil society in the process of adoption and implementation of the PMD allows to consider social factors, minimize social and political-military risks, adjust the plans and behavior of the government in

accordance with the interests of certain social groups.

Classifying the process of public participation

depending on the level of public influence on decision-making, we give the classification of Sherry Arnstein.

Forms of public participation	The level of influence on decision-making
1. Manipulation	Nonparticipation
2. "Therapy"	Nonparticipation
3. Informing	Tokenism
4. Consultation	Tokenism
5. Placation	Tokenism
6. Partnership	Citizen power
7. Delegation of power	Citizen power
8. Citizen control	Citizen power

At the first and second levels, real public participation is only an imitation, the government uses the following tools: substitution of goals, lack of feedback, manipulative approaches, and so on. Imitation of interaction with the public at the level of manipulation and "therapy" often generates conflicts and does not meet the needs of citizens. It is becoming clear that the level of public influence is almost zero.

The third and fourth levels – the levels of limited citizen participation in the decision-making process – are characterized by the fact that civil society has the opportunity to receive information and express their own opinions, but without guarantees that they will have an impact on the decision-maker.

The fifth level involves limited consideration of public opinion.

The sixth, seventh and eighth levels are characterized by the real participation of citizens in the planning and decision-making process. This involves public participation in a wide range of interaction: from partnership participation in the negotiation process in order to reach a compromise with the authorities to the adoption of important PMD through a referendum.

Involving the public in the adoption of the PMD and strengthening democratic civilian control over the elements of the military organization of the state through the institutions of civil society as an organized form of influence on state power, turns societal

demands into an effective lever for managing social processes in the military.

In a democracy, the process of development of the military sphere must be open to the participation of civil society in order to strengthen the security of citizens, society and the state as a whole. In the modern community of democracies, no PMD is adopted without using the potential of civil society.

Today, the formation of public opinion on the military sphere is carried out through the military media, the main of which are: periodicals of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, designed for the mass reader; special information blocks and programs on national radio and television; web-sites of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine; cinema, sound recording, video recording etc. Journalists from almost all print and electronic media outlets are involved in covering defense issues. In addition to professional journalists, representatives of the academic sector and non-governmental organizations should be highlighted, and the number of such publications is growing over time. All adopted PMD are covered in the daily news.

In Ukraine, information about the adoption of the VPR and the activities of the Armed Forces is provided by the press service, officials of the Ministry of Defense, members of the Public Council through personal communication with the public and the media, military, Ukrainian and regional media and the Ministry of Defense website – www.mil.gov.ua.

Conclusions

Despite the positive aspects of the development of civil society in Ukraine, the participation of its structures in the adoption of the PMD is slow. There are shortcomings caused by the imperfection of the legal framework, the need to create more favorable regulatory conditions for the activities of public institutions, to determine the mechanisms of their financial and economic independence, to create an effective system of public control. It should be noted that the cooperation of civil society with the government is initiated more by society than by the

government, and society itself is constantly trying to attract attention and convince the government of the expediency of making mature decisions for society and the state.

The development of civil society in foreign countries convinces that the best and most productive type of relationship between government and civil society is cooperation for the benefit of the people and the prosperity of the state. It is on this that the adoption of optimal, effective and necessary for the state PMD depends.

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