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**Formation and realization of the state policy in the European integration sphere  
of Ukraine as an essential component of ensuring national security**

*The article deals with the peculiarities of the formation and implementation of state policy in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine as an essential component of ensuring national security. The effectiveness of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union has been determined. The problematic aspects and contradictions of the formation and implementation of the state policy in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine as a necessary component of ensuring national security in modern conditions have been identified.*

**Keywords:** *state policy in the sphere of European integration, mechanisms for the formation and implementation of state policy in the sphere of European integration, Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, national security.*

The peculiarity of the functioning of the European Union in today's context is that all Member States that remain sovereign and independent have formed a zone of stability, democracy, cultural diversity, freedom and sustainable social development.

The main causes of European integration after the Second World War include the need for peace and security; expectations for economic development and welfare; Maintaining economic and political importance in the international arena [6].

That is, the fact that the countries of post-war Europe realized that both world wars significantly weakened the position of European countries in the world, and therefore had to guarantee the necessary level of security. The unification and joint adoption of important decisions should have become an obstacle to the emergence of new conflicts and the solution of existing ones, and close political and economic cooperation should become a prerequisite for the sustainable development of the EU on the basis of security and defense.

In modern conditions, the further realization of integration projects within the framework of the EU takes place, in particular, through its expansion to the East. For Ukraine, which seeks to see itself in the EU, European integration becomes not only a goal, but also a guarantee of successful reformation and ensuring national security in various spheres of public life.

The peculiarity of the functioning of the European Union in today's context is that all Member States that remain sovereign and independent have formed a zone of stability, democracy, cultural diversity, freedom and sustainable social development.

Consideration of theoretical and practical issues of the formation and implementation of state policy in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine as the necessary component of national security has been devoted to such scholars as Artyomov I., Vaschuk O., Rudik O., Shumlyayeva I., Yakovuk I. [1; 5; 7; 11].

However, many questions regarding the definition of the ways of improving the mechanisms for the formation and implementation of state policy in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine in the context of the need to ensure national security remain inadequately investigated.

The strategy of Ukraine's integration into the EU, which was approved in 1998, provided for a set of strategic tasks in the political, economic, legal and security spheres to be implemented by the competent authorities of Ukraine to create the preconditions for Ukraine's full membership in the European Union [10].

According to the Communication on European Integration Strategy for 2018-2021, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine from October 25, 2017, No. 779-r, European integration in the political dimension is related to the creation of reliable mechanisms for political stability, democracy and security [8].

The Association Agreement between Ukraine, on the one hand, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other hand (hereinafter referred to as the Association Agreement), which entered into force on 1 September 2017, opened a new stage in cooperation Ukraine and the EU [9].

According to the Agreement, in all areas of mutual interest, a political dialogue should be developed and strengthened between the Parties, which will contribute to the gradual convergence of external and security issues for the ever deeper engagement of Ukraine in the European security zone.

The objectives of the political dialogue between Ukraine and the EU are as follows:

- deepening political association and strengthening political and security convergence and efficiency;
- promoting international stability and security on the basis of effective multilateralism;
- Strengthening cooperation and dialogue between the Parties on issues of international security and crisis management, in particular to respond to global and regional challenges and major threats;
- accelerating results-oriented and practical cooperation between the Parties for the achievement of peace, security and stability on the European continent;
- strengthening respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, non-discrimination of persons belonging to

minorities, and respect for diversity, as well as the contribution to the consolidation of domestic political reforms;

- development of dialogue and deepening of cooperation between the parties in the field of security and defense;
- promoting the principles of the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders [9].

Thus, analyzing the above-mentioned goals of the political dialogue between Ukraine and the EU in accordance with the Association Agreement, it can be noted that it is the security component, the response to challenges and threats, defense, and the maintenance of territorial integrity is a priority of the cooperation of the Parties.

The Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU provides for monitoring and evaluation of its implementation through the compilation of the Annual Report.

The purpose of the Report is to inform Ukrainian citizens, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the international community, in particular EU institutions and its member states, about Ukraine's progress in pursuit of the goals of political association and economic integration with the EU in order to broadly discuss and analyze the activities of state authorities.

Therefore, we will analyze the reports on Ukraine's implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union in 2017 and 2018 on the basis of a comprehensive assessment in terms of their effectiveness, precisely in the security field of cooperation between the Parties.

According to the Association Agreement, which entered into force on September 1, 2017, the financial and expert support of the European Union has begun the practical implementation of a comprehensive reform of public administration, the main purpose of which is the formation of an effective system of public administration capable of producing and implementing a coherent policy aimed at to social sustainable development and adequate response to internal and external challenges.

Therefore, in the sphere of foreign policy, national security and defense, Ukraine continues the practice of joining EU statements and positions on topical international issues, including within the framework of international organizations. During 2017 Ukraine joined 424 applications (out of 504), and in general, since 2005 - to 5344 (out of 6486) [3].

The Ukraine-EU political dialogue remains high and takes place within the existing mechanisms, including coordination of the approaches of Ukraine and the EU to assess and condemn Russia's actions against international peace and security and apply appropriate countermeasures.

With the participation of NATO, US and EU experts, a draft Law of Ukraine «On National Security of Ukraine» was drafted, which should bring the standards of national security and defense in line with EU standards. In accordance with the provisions of the bill, Ukraine sets itself the task of membership in the European Union and NATO, which should be an unconditional guarantee of the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our state.

In 2017, in order to deepen cooperation with the European Defense Agency in the direction of the «Single European Sky», Ukraine participated in a number of working meetings of the Military Aviation Council of the political level and in an annual conference on this issue. Ukrainian experts were also involved in the work of the expert groups «Material Standardization», «The Single European Sky» and «European Air Transport Fleet» within the framework of the projects of the European Defense Agency.

Work continues to improve the effectiveness of the EU Consultative Mission on Civil Security Sector Reform and to ensure the practical effectiveness of its activities, taking into account the urgent security challenges faced by our state [3].

Some reservations concern the state of combating illegal drug trafficking, tobacco smuggling, cybercrime, and the illicit traffic in firearms.

The Association Agreement provides Ukraine with the opportunity to work more closely with the EU on the fight against organized crime, in particular to counter common challenges and transnational threats. In this regard, in 2017, two important treaties that define the forms and mechanisms of such cooperation are ratified and entered into force:

- Agreement between Ukraine and the European Police Office (Europol) on operational and strategic cooperation, which provides for the possibility of Parties to exchange intelligence in criminal proceedings; Participate in joint crime investigation investigations, search for offenders and international joint investigation teams;
- Agreement between Ukraine and the European Organization for Justice (Eurojust), which provides for the cooperation and exchange of information on combating serious crimes, in particular organized crime and terrorism, the possibility for Ukraine's representatives to participate in operational and strategic meetings, and to have at Eurojust its officer of communication.

Within the framework of the Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Ukrainian Monitoring and Medical Center on Drugs and Alcohol has developed a draft concept for nationwide monitoring of the narcotic situation in Ukraine and a plan for its implementation, based on the standards of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and narcotic addiction [3].

The Association Agreement also provides for the cooperation of the Parties in the implementation of international standards and operational cooperation on the prevention and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing.

In 2017, the Strategy for the Development of the System for the Prevention and Counteraction of the Legalization (Laundering) of the Proceeds from Crime, Terrorist Financing and Financing for the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the period up to 2020 was continued. The Action Plan for the Strategy implementation for 2017-2019 was approved and started its practical implementation. In addition, the

SCFM, jointly with the Ministry of Finance and other financial monitoring entities, has begun drafting a bill aimed at implementing EU law acts in this area - EU Regulation No. 2015/847 on information accompanying remittances and Directive 2015/849 on preventing the use of the financial system for money laundering or terrorist financing [3].

According to Article 338 of the Association Agreement, cooperation between Ukraine and the EU also includes the development and implementation of energy strategies and policies, the development of forecasts and scenarios, and the improvement of energy statistics, based on the timely exchange of information on the energy balance.

One of the main tasks of implementing the Energy Strategy for the period until 2035, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine from August 18, 2017, No. 605-p, is solving the problems of energy security in the conditions of the urgent need to ensure the sovereignty of the state in the circumstances of external aggression. The solution of these problems should be ensured through the implementation of mechanisms of a transformational nature for the period until 2020 and the definition of strategic guidelines for development until 2035. During 2017, Ukraine took an active position in defending its interests and inability to implement a project to build the Russian Federation gas pipelines bypassing Ukraine «Northern Stream II» and «Turkish Stream» [3].

The joint efforts of Ukraine, the countries of Central Europe and certain Nordic states have been able to slow down the implementation of the Northern Flow II through the Baltic Sea. The main efforts are now concentrated on bringing to the international partners the importance of adhering to the principle of solidarity and the conditions of Art. 274 concerning joint consultations and taking into account the interests of partners in the consideration of issues related to the further construction of the Turkish Stream gas pipeline.

An important component of the Association Agreement in the context of the need to provide security grounds is the protection of the environment.

According to Annex XXX to the Agreement, Ukraine undertakes to implement in its legislation provisions of 26 directives and 3 EU regulations in such sectors as: environmental management and integration of environmental policy in other sectoral policies, air quality, waste and resource management, water quality and management water resources, including the marine environment, nature protection, industrial pollution and man-made threats, climate change and protection of the ozone layer, genetically modified organisms [4].

In 2018, the agreement became the basis for forming a common position and political support of Ukraine on the part of the EU in important political and security issues:

- The EU continues to support Ukraine in restoring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country and condemns the aggression of Russia;
- With the adoption in June 2018 of the Law «On National Security» Ukraine began to reform the security sector in accordance with EU and NATO standards;
- A step has been taken to ensure the irreversibility of Ukraine's course towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration by initiating changes to the Constitution of Ukraine in order to consolidate Ukraine's strategic course towards accession to the EU and NATO (as of 09.09.2013, No. 9037), which was approved by the Verkhovna Rada in the prescribed manner [4].

In 2018, Ukraine offered the EU a completely new approach-launch the process of integration in priority sectors. At the highest level of political dialogue, at the Ukraine-EU Summit in July 2018 and the Association Council in December 2018, four priority directions of cooperation were identified and detailed in order to strengthen the political association and economic integration of Ukraine with the EU: in the areas of the digital market, customs policy, energy, as well as in the field of justice, freedom and security.

Ukraine and the EU continue cooperation in combating joint threats. The high level of Ukraine's accession to the declarations and statements on behalf of the EU remains high, indicating a common view and approach in terms of regulation and the proper response to regional and global challenges. In 2018, Ukraine acceded to 492 out of 588 applications and declarations of the EU [4].

In June 2018, the Law of Ukraine «On National Security» (from 24.06.2018 No. 2469-VIII), developed by the European experts, was approved, which envisages reforming the security sector of Ukraine in accordance with EU and NATO standards and introducing civilian control in the security sector [2].

Ukraine and the EU reached a political consensus on joining a number of EU initiatives to improve the capacity to counteract cyber threats: involvement in the work of the Agency for European Union Network and Information Security (ENISA); European Center for Cybersecurity Research and Competence; EU trainings on coordinating EU-Member State and Member State joint response mechanisms to large-scale incidents and crisis situations in the field of cyber security.

In order to intensify the actions of the National Police in combating organized crime, in close cooperation with the European Union Consultative Mission and the US Embassy in Ukraine, the Department of Strategic Investigations was established within the framework of the National Police Criminal Police. In 2018, 280 organized groups and criminal organizations were exposed by law enforcement agencies of Ukraine: the amount of material damage inflicted by their illegal activity amounts to 192 million UAH. The use of information through international organizations (Interpol, Europol, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) [4]) is used.

Consequently, it is already possible to state that the results of the implementation of the Association Agreement for the period 2017-2018 are tangible, and the benefits are noticeable. The agreement forms a broad basis for the political association and economic integration of Ukraine and the EU and has a strategic objective to implement

the European choice of Ukraine, including on the principles of security and defense in the context of the need to ensure the national security of our country.

Thus, increasing the effectiveness of state policy in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine, as an important component of ensuring national security, will help to reduce existing risks in all spheres of public life. Implementation of agreements between Ukraine and the European Union will contribute to increasing energy, social, economic, and environmental security, which will ensure the sustainable development of Ukraine in the long-term. The implementation of Ukraine's European aspirations has not only national but also international significance as a significant factor in countering global challenges, raising the level of security not only of our country, but also of the European Union as a whole.

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