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In the debate about the security that was revived in Poland by the Strategic Review of National Security, as initiated by President Komorowski, it is important to recall basic issues and definitions relating to the internal and external activity of the security entities. The essence of security is described as that ensuring existence and freedom of the interests of the players in the context of opportunities, challenges, risks and threats. Serving to ensure safety and stability, a security strategy includes defined interests, evaluation of security conditions, an elaborated strategic concept and an established security system. In order to understand the future development in that area, it is helpful to follow the historical evolution of security.

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The majority of the Middle East and North Africa countries have been engulfed by the torrent of protests and social unrest. In Tunisia and Egypt they resulted in ousting long-time presidents – Zin El Abidin Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak. So far, the authorities of Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Morocco and Saudi Arabia have survived the Arab spring, which proves that monarchies are more stable than republics. The leaders of Yemen, Libya and Syria are struggling for their future. Although it is difficult to foresee the final outcome and consequences of the revolts, rebellions and the wave of mass protests, one can unequivocally say that they pose a serious challenge to both the Arab states and the international community. There are many indications that an essential role in the new power structures will be played by the Islamists, although they did neither initiate nor drive the protests in the Arab world, and the nature of the anti-regime riots had no ideological roots.

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The scale of the Arab Spring – i.e. the wave of revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East – like the impact of economic crisis earlier, surprised everyone. Should yet anyone have presented such a scenario of events last year, many would react with disbelief or even scepticism. To prove that, it is worthwhile to quote an excerpt from the declaration of the third EU-Africa summit: „2010 is the year of peace and security in Africa”. To underline the irony, the summit was held on 29-30 November 2010 in Tripoli.

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The NATO mission in Libya is an example of crisis management operations, which have been recognised by the Lisbon Strategic Concept as one of the main tasks of the Alliance. In the face of the dynamic changes occurring in the direct international environment of the Alliance, one can expect that this type of actions will gain in importance on the NATO agenda. Poland should strive to prevent this process from undermining the capabilities which are necessary for fulfilling the collective defence obligations. However, it must build and develop components to carry out crisis management operations if it wants to remain a major and significant member of the Alliance in the future.

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The daring raid of American commandos carried out during the night of 1 and 2 May 2011 in the Pakistani town of Abbottabad resulted in killing the founder and head of Tanzim Qaedat al-Jihad (*Organization for the Basis of Jihad*), Osama bin Laden. This symbolically confirmed the important role Pakistan plays in the activities of international structures of radical Islam. Regardless of the level and scope of actual support for the Islamic extremists rendered by the Pakistani authorities, the country’s territory became a genuine sanctuary for Al-Qaeda and a range of groups and organisations making up the broad jihad movement. There are indications that currently Pakistan is one of the key targets of Al-Qaeda’s activities in South Asia. The organisation’s new strategy towards Pakistan benefits, among others, from the gradual growth of Islam in the country’s public life and the population’s religious radicalisation as well as the economic weakness and permanent political crisis.

ARMED FORCES

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Participation of civil specialists representing different domains supporting the armed forces’ actions within the framework international operations aimed at maintaining, restoring or enforcing peace, carried out under the auspices of the UN, NATO, EU, OSCE or in ad hoc coalitions, particularly the ones performed in distant theatres, is a continuously developing trend. Initially, this contribution stemmed from the need to secure outside competences and expertise that could be at temporary, permanent or limited disposal of the armed force. Currently, it is an increasingly conscious and systemic solution resulting from pragmatic and economic reasons.

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Agnieszka Adamusińska

“Embassies on the sea” – this description accurately conveys the meaning of the presence of Polish and other countries’ warships outside their territorial waters. Participation in the international exercises, missions and operations is connected with the fulfilment of tasks given to the armed forces cooperating with armed forces of the allied or partner countries. Along with the obligations being fulfilled, it is important to represent the state externally. The Polish Navy has performed this task for 90 years.

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Lucjan Betza

In the future environment of non-military security the risks and threats relating to information manipulation, blackmail and pressures in the fields of energy security, terrorism and legal rights and in the demographic economic and financial domains (on the macro-economic level) as well as threats resulting from the criminal abuse of cyberspace will be more and more significant. The efficient control and regulation of those fields shall determine the security essence and meaning on all levels of public life.

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Michał Grzelak

The present development and security of cyberspace is not a result of well-thought-out strategies prepared by governments or international organisations but a consequence of unorganised activities carried out by the international community. The growing dependence of the modern society on the network technologies and the gradual penetration of the cyber services into the new domains of life around the world proved that the Internet is not only a benefit but it can also contribute to significant problems. The rapid growth of number of threats in the cyberspace initiated discussion concerning its future. It has also made several countries and international organisations to start actions aiming at ensuring openness and security of the Internet.

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Paweł Turowski

Building the European Union external energy policy, both with neighbouring countries and strategic partners, building a single energy market basing on the Third Energy Package provisions, developing the gas and power transmission infrastructure as well as unhindered access thereto for all market participants – these are the main goals of the Polish presidency of the EU Council.

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Creation of nuclear power stations in Poland stems from the necessity to limit greenhouse gases, which has been approved by all EU member states. Poland plans to build two nuclear power plants having a total yield of 5 thousand MW that would amount to 100 billion Polish zloty. However, if the gas industry started to develop due to the potential shale mining, then the plans for nuclear power industry might be shelved.

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Przemysław Siejczuk

The penal measure taking the form of a ban to enter mass-scale event has been functioning in the Polish system for more than a decade, mainly in the form of a ban to enter sport events, hence the stadium ban name. Implementation of this institution into the Polish

legal system in the late 1990s was accompanied by the escalation of negative events, such as hooliganism and violence in sports. This problem has been encountered by many Western European countries, and the Polish ban is modelled on their solutions. The problem of fighting stadium criminal activities that often reveal ties with dangerous – including organised – crime have become particularly important in the context of Poland’s preparations to hosting the football games EURO 2012.

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Joanna Maj-Marjańska and Paweł Pietrzak

Military-related researchers unanimously agree to the necessity to purchase and develop unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by the armed forces. UAVs play different roles. Precise attacks by US UAVs on identified targets became the constant part of the „war against terrorism”. Unmanned aerial systems are also developed for air transportation.

As UAVs are more and more often used by the Polish armed forces, it was necessary to regulate their legal status and specify how they are to be used in the Polish airspace.

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