RISK FACTORS AFFECTING ECONOMIC SECURITY OF ROMANIA

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Abstract
A solid economic security requires knowing and identifying any potential risk factors. A strong economy, competitive and stable in terms of growth, dynamic and adaptable to the requirements of integration and globalization, is an important support of national security, ensuring the conditions for economic and social security.

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1. Introduction

Homeland security is represented by all activities regarding protection, guarding and defending inhabitants, human communities, infrastructure and property against asymmetric threats of military or non-military type, and also, those caused by geo-physical, weather-related or other natural or human factors which threaten human life, liberty, property, activities of people and communities, infrastructure and socio-economic activities and other values at a level of intensity and scope significantly different from normal threats.

We cannot have an internal security if Romanian does not benefit from the existence of a consolidated economic security.

A strong economy, competitive and stable in terms of growth, dynamic and adaptable to the requirements of integration and globalization, is an important support of national security, ensuring the conditions for economic and social security.

Strengthening and improving the work of the institutions and market economy mechanisms based on the principle of free competition and social solidarity is a priority. This is the basis for a healthy economic development, able to ensure the effective integration of Romania into the European Union, meet the exigencies of globalization, normal access to resources and international markets, resistance to major economic fluctuations.

Another element to combat risk factors regarding economic security is the existence of sustainable development both at national and European level, sustainable development plan that Romania has along with the European Union and we can give as example the fact that Romania has strategies in development at present time to accomplish European standards of basic infrastructure and means of transport by reducing environmental impact, promoting intermodal transport, improving traffic safety and protection of critical infrastructure; improvement and more efficient use of human capital in promoting social inclusion and strengthening administrative capacity to develop a modern and flexible labor markets, enhance the relevance of education and training for employment, stimulating entrepreneurial culture.

Between the sustainable development strategy of Romania and the national security strategy, there is a very close relationship. This is due to the fact that the constant development of neighboring countries, allies or other countries worldwide, countries with which our country is in a continuous competition to attract investment and to win new markets for manufactured products in Romania or maintain in Romania foreign investments in order not to migrate to countries which produce more present advantages. All these aspects are part of the national strategy for sustainable development, strategy which is closely related to the National Strategic defense strategy, strategy which is regarding maintaining internal stability on political, social, and economic areas.

2. Risk factors internal to the economic security

Among the most important internal risk factors economic security we enumerate: destruction of national economic units; corruption; underground economic sector; economic effects regarding mafia networks; lack of jobs; unemployment; terrorism; organized economic crime; money laundering; inconsistent legislation governing property or...
the existence of more laws which regulate same problems but with different solutions; corruption of government officials and other persons; outstanding issues regarding the implementation and the granting possession of property titles; calamities and natural disasters.

The most common hazards and economic threat to the rule of law refers to: upheaval national economy and increasing social insecurity; massive migration of labor force to countries in Western Europe, with all the ensuing consequences; high turnover of goods, people and services; underground economy proliferation; the existence of high economic and financial crime phenomenon; insecurity and social insecurity.

Also, internal economic risk factors are: degradation, inefficiency or undermining sharp drop in production branches of the national economy; underground economy proliferation; prejudicing strategically important sectors (defense industry); insecurity of property; devaluation of the national currency; weakening of the banking system or vulnerability; increasing public debt; excessive indebtedness of the population in the long term (the increase of depts over the possibilities of consumer in order to be able to repay loans to households); public distrust in the banking system; unrealistic and inappropriate economic policies circumstances.

3. External risk factors on economic security

The dangers and threats to the national economic security are numerous. All these dangers seriously affect not only the economy but also the national economic security. Of these, the most common and most serious risks are: developing economies or sectors of the economy capable of ensuring the production and upgrading weapons of mass destruction; global warming, drought, weather phenomena, cosmic; poverty and malnutrition; lack of drinking water; resource scarcity; economic effects of the proliferation of destructive diseases (AIDS, cancer, etc.); terrorism; economy, drug trafficking; economic effects of cross-border crime and their impact on economic security. The dangers and threats can be regionally specific, including: desertification of large areas, natural disasters; economic component of ethnic differences; regional economic effects of terrorism; border economic problems; poverty and malnutrition; economic gigantism produced by the economic policy of dictatorial regimes; economic cost of civil wars, guerrilla, ethnic and / or religious; economic guerrilla. Also there are challenges, tensions, dangers and even threats that ignore the economic entities, political and social state, but those are strategic corridors traffickers, mafia networks, money laundering, organized crime generates part of the underground economy and cross-border economic crime. Of these, the most important risks are: illegal migration; networks violent mafia, organized economic crime, money laundering etc.; border economic terrorism, especially that of networks or counterfeit dangerous material; local networks of traffickers; border local economic and social networks of drugs; border networks of prostitution; border networks of underground economy and economic and financial crime.

External economic risk factors include: blocking foreign loans; creating insolventy; blocking access to scarce sources of raw materials for the national economy; blocking access to modern technology; diminishing access to markets; economic globalization incapable of being adapted at national level; inappropriate regionalization; appropriate inadequacy of the economy (of the economic units, enterprises) to European requirements and market requirements; smuggling, illegal trafficking in goods, cross-border economic crime etc.. The main sources of these challenges, dangers, threats and economic risks exist due to the fact that the state is unable to harmonize all economic components, resulting in the impossibility to control domestic and international factors in the complex realities, creating this way huge gaps and sudden falls.

In order to be able to face all risks and threats that affect the economic security of the State, it is required a politico-economic strategy based on a strategy to cope with accelerated development and the change of society.

4. Methods of prevention of risk factors

To successfully prevent risk factors such as those mentioned above authorized state bodies should impose certain measures such as: the existence of accelerated economic development - as a prerequisite for welfare and security - depends greatly on the degree of competitiveness of the nation. Romania can become competitive only if we have a well-educated society which is oriented to knowledge and which is able to capitalize on the intelligence and creativity resources optimally, based on the belief that a well-trained workforce and flexible workforce is essential for successful European integration and being capable to benefit from opportunities offered by globalization. This entails ensuring access for all citizens, including those in rural and disadvantaged areas, to quality education and development.

Investing in the education system must be accelerated and strongly oriented towards the requirements pointed out by the new realities - integration into the European Union, European labor market demand, obligation of compatibility with European education and training requirements. The educational plan should stimulate permanent
education, rapid modernization of public education and strengthening private education, early education reform, increase capacity for development and project management, research and innovation. Increased competitiveness of Romania in global markets will be supported by policies and programs to facilitate access to research results for development companies, which involves significant organizational efforts efficient budgetary allocations objectives. The increase in funds allocated must be accompanied by efficient setting of strategic priorities. Accelerating economic modernization and maintaining a rapid rate of sustainable growth also requires radically improving people’s health and building a new social balance, through a system of solidarity which is able to guarantee the economic, social and health security of all participants.

An important role in ensuring national security - in terms of economic and social conditions – it is passed to energy security by adapting optimize and optimizing the structure of consumption of primary energy resources and energy efficiency. To this end, it will act with priority: reducing dependence on supplies from unstable regions or states that use energy as a tool of political pressure; accelerating programs of energy production in nuclear power plants; increasing formalities in order increase production of hydroelectric and energy using modern technologies based on coal. An important role regarding this aspect will be given to energy production from renewable or alternative sources and increase energy efficiency in industry and households. The measures in this area will have to be in accordance with the European Union energy security strategies.

A special direction of action, with important implications for the achievement of national security objectives is represented by the restructuring, modernization and development of national defense industry. As an important part of the national economy, it must overcome the standstill status and evolve swiftly to efficiency and interoperability to European standards. Efforts in this regard will be targeted in particular in the following areas: privatization, restructuring, modernization and refurbishment of the defense industrial capacity through cooperation with companies in the European Union and other partners from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Romanian firms connection to the activities of the European Defense Agency; consolidating efficiency and independence of justice and increase public confidence in the judiciary is another important priority, intended to ensure European quality of this area of interest. Solutions of action in this area will enhance the positive developments and the results confirmed by European partners in periodic assessments. However, it is understandable that justice should complete the full transformation program in order to become efficient and reliable. In the context of this national effort, institutions are called upon to provide necessary conditions-legislative, organizational, human and material - to radically transform the judiciary system, increasing this way its contribution to achieving the strategic objective of integration.

Achieving these goals is the top priority and major responsibility of the competent bodies governing the work of the judiciary system, while the success of real and full integration into the European Union depends to a large extent on how the Romanian justice system will prove its independence, biased character, professionalism and ability to act in accordance with the requirements of the rule of law and real effectiveness in the fight against corruption. Efforts in this area resulted mainly in reducing the phenomenon of corruption and controlling corruption, setting up appropriate mechanisms to prevent, deter and counteract, and beginning to change mentality among the population and a process of change in public perceptions.

Currently, in the fight against corruption, it is imperative that institutions operate according to law, without advantaging particular political circles of interest, economic or mafia, in order for tasks to be accomplished in accordance with the law. This way negative impact regarding different groups of action over economic security will be to be smaller and smaller.

Also, an effective way to prevent risks affecting economic security is represented by strengthening the legal system, which has to become much more predictable. Predictability of states legislative system, allows to attract economic investment creating this way a competitive, stable and efficient economy which strongly contributes to national economic security.

5. Specialized bodies in ensuring economic security

The task of ensuring economic security of Romania (prevention of risk factors and effective risk fighting against the Safety of Romania's economic) is complex and interdependent. It involves responsibilities of a large number of organizations. The most important institutions that have the task of ensuring economic security are represented by: public administration and public order structures and those dealing with the prevention and management of civil emergencies, border security and coast guard; structures of intelligence, counterintelligence and security.

Given the higher risks arising from the possibility of economic sabotage or terrorist actions generated by the countries with which Romania are competing, including the use of means and cyber-attacks on I.T. systems, it involves making constant investment and constant training of staff responsible for detection and prevention of attacks. This is a necessity as ensuring internal security is becoming more and more complex, as recent events in the world show us how high and how complex have become the threats against economic security.
6. Cybercrimes seen as a risk factor

Computer criminality is a phenomenon which determines the need of constant training and equipping of the Institution responsible for maintaining Romania’s economic security, cybercrimes representing that contemporary phenomenon, often reflected in the media. The number of cases of cybercrimes is in a continuous growth, and increasingly dependence for a secure informatics system as economic interests are more and more related to informatics data bases, makes absolute necessary that the attention and interest in this area to be much more orientated.

Facilities and opportunities offered by the Internet have transformed many business activities by increasing the speed, ease and distance at which you can perform various operations with considerable reduction in economic and financial costs. Groups or individuals which commit cybercrimes, found that Internet provides new opportunities and a multiplication of illegal business benefits. The dark side of the Internet involves not only fraud and theft online but criminal organizations, organized crime groups affecting the economic interest of the state in almost all fields through cyberterrorist activities, money laundering, drug trafficking....

Considering the purpose and the role it can play a computer system (which includes any notion of personal computer, electronic digital agenda, smartphone, internet type networks with its current network), in relation to committing acts that threaten the economic security by committing criminal actions, we can define three phases being representative for a criminal offence:
- personal computer as a target for a criminal offense (for example: accessing unauthorized information in order to gain economic benefits)
- personal computer as a means of committing crimes (for example: the use of computers to access classified data of economic importance )
- personal computer as a device of storing potential evidence (for example: mailing lists, web pages, images, etc.)

5. Concluzii

The necessity of having plans that have the objective to detect specific threats to the Romanian economy, to benefit from detailed informations that are capable to make us understand all kind of problems that can occur, is a must for the protection of the Romanian economy. As a result, in order to be able to face any kind of risks and threats that could affect the economic security of our state, is required know which are the risks Romania has to face in order to adapt to the rapid changes to which modern world is facing.

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