

Секция «Международная безопасность: новые и традиционные вызовы и угрозы»

### Three Seas Initiative: security challenges for the EU and the EAEU

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The growing popularity of the Three seas Initiative has its relevance at the moment not only among the EU members but also among the EAEU members, such as Belarus and Russia. A new possible integration association can become a kind of border-line between the already strained relations between Russia, Belarus, and the Eastern or Central European countries and serve as a threat to economic, political, and energy security. The information on the official website shows: "The Three Seas initiative aims to promote cooperation, first and foremost, for the development of infrastructure in the energy, transport, and digital sectors. It targets new investments, economic growth, and energy security." Are these direct clear goals could that interfere with the goals of the EU and the further development of the EAEU? Let's consider the TSI project from three sides: from the EU, the EAEU, and the participating countries (we will focus on Lithuania). At first glance, TSI is an initiative aimed at cooperation and assistance in the fields of transport, energy, and economics. The creation of a transport corridor will make it possible to quickly unite the participating countries and get an economic effect from the interaction. Probably, the idea of TSI is relevant in various plans: from the transport side - to fight distorted competition and the consequences of the introduction of the Mobility Package, replenishment of infrastructure with such objects as the Via Carpatia highway, Rail Baltica railway, the Baltic-Adriatic railway corridor, and others, from the energy side - to achieve independence from external energy sources, from economic - to promote partnership [2, 3]. However, do not forget that the United States is actively supporting the project (promoting military security issues), possibly as a result of which potential participants (Germany - active in the construction of Nord Stream-2 - desired but not a member [4], and China - the development project "One Belt - One Road") were ousted from nowadays agenda. This demonstrates not only the economic but also the political orientation of the association, the second goal of which may be a new redistribution of the market and the geopolitical situation in Europe. In this case, the number 1 threat for Europe - isolation from Russia's energy sources (and for Germany and the impossibility of completing the Nord Stream, but a real possibility for joining the implemented infrastructure) may turn out to be an economic collapse and provoke a political crisis. Strengthening ties between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will possibly give rise to the so-called syndrome of "integration of integrations", where the participating countries will achieve greater economic effect together, or possibly will cause an exit from the EU. Promoted by Polish President Andrzej cooperation could increase Europe's unity and cohesion but different interests in many issues related to European unity promoted by EU locomotives and newly attended countries made the idea of Unity unstable. The threat to Belarus and Russia is also relevant, which will manifest itself in the loss of the sales market for Russian energy products due to the participants' diversification of energy sources, and in the loss of transit potential for Belarus and the blockade by the West. However, there are threats for TSI countries themselves - the initiative does not provide a clear definition of the position of the participating countries in the development of the initiative. It is possible that by developing the initiative, the participating countries will

lose a possible EU transport market, to which access is already limited with the adoption of the Mobility Package. Thus, while the project formally remains a project, it does not receive significant funding, but the infrastructure elements are already being implemented. At the same time, the growing discontent between the old-timers of the EU and the new members of the EU, cultural and economic differences, way of life are possible motivators for further development of actions towards the development of the project. The project cannot guarantee the prosperity and economic well-being of the region, but it can improve the issue of military and energy security for the participating countries and at the same time have an impact on neighbors from the West and the East

### References

- 1) Electronical source: <https://3seas.eu/>
- 2) G. Zbińkowski, Comparative Economic Research. Central and Eastern Europe/ V. 22, N. 2, 2019//The Three Seas Initiative and its Economic and Geopolitical Effect on the European Union and Central and Eastern Europe
- 3) Electronical source: [https://rfc-amber.eu/contents/read/who\\_were](https://rfc-amber.eu/contents/read/who_were)
- 4) Electronical source: [https://pism.pl/publications/Germany\\_and\\_the\\_three\\_seas\\_initiative](https://pism.pl/publications/Germany_and_the_three_seas_initiative)