

# **Central and Eastern Europe Policy Paper**

## **Introduction**

Over the last 20 years, the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries have changed more dramatically than any other region of the world. It is largely becoming an influential player in an ever-changing world. This policy paper will set out the four key areas that the United States needs to focus on in the years to come with the aim to achieve further stability, security and access in the region.

## **Missile Defense**

The United States' policy of missile defense in Poland and radar system in Czech Republic must continue as the treaty states. Further expansion of missile defense systems in Eastern and Central Europe should continue, but treaties should be made with more considerations for other players involved.

The development of a comprehensive system should include land, sea, and space based technology. The establishment of a missile defense site in Poland seeks to provide peace and security from the threat of rogue nations. As has been shown in the agreements on the Ground Based Interceptors (GBI) in Poland and radar installation in the Czech Republic, the United States' interest in establishing protective measures for itself and its allies should extend into eastern Europe to maintain a greater sense of security. Due to Russian skepticism regarding the missile defense system in the region, provisions should be established that emphasize communication and cooperation between Russia and United States. In the spirit of the monitoring aspects of the CFE (Conventional Forces in Europe) treaty, the missile defense system would be observed by Russian military experts on a regular basis. In looking to the future, the United States must consider further installations within the region with placement in stable states.

In further developing our capacity to defend against long-range attacks, the United States should coordinate with its NATO allies to determine the best course of action in building missile defense systems that are the most militarily applicable and politically expedient.

## **NATO**

The role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will continue to be a stabilizing force providing military and economic security to the region. The United States should continue to facilitate the expansion of NATO membership in order to provide stability in a time of increasing global uncertainty. By increasing NATO membership, the United States of America will have greater strategic access to foster positive relationships in key regions of the world.

In relationship with other NATO members, the United States should continue on the path of friendship, joint operations, and exchange programs to promote relationships among NATO members. Regarding Non-NATO countries, the United States should support Albania and Croatia in their progression on the Member Action Plan (MAP) to become members of NATO. The United States should support NATO membership for

the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, after settling its dispute with Greece over its name and continue advising it for membership. The United States should also continue to work on stabilizing Bosnia so they can eventually become a member of NATO.

As stated by President Bush at the NATO Summit in Bucharest, Romania on April 4-6, 2008, we should continue to stand by our commitment to support and advise Ukraine in becoming a NATO member. Until Ukraine becomes a full member, we should continue to foster our cooperative military relationship with this ally. We will continue to do this through joint operations, exchange programs, and other NATO/Ukraine operations.

### **Trade and Economy**

The trade relationship between the United States and the CEE countries can be categorized into two different aspects: those dealing with the European Union nations and those dealing with nations not currently in the EU. The differences between these relations are important and US policy needs to be focused around them.

With respect to the EU nations, this committee feels it is in the best interests of the United States to continue to foster good relations and continue to enhance and develop as many trade agreements as possible to ensure the continuation and expanded globalization. This can be achieved through the enhancements of the Transatlantic Committee on trade. Additionally the moral leadership regarding the resolution of Trade disagreements through the World Trade Organization will help the United States to continue its position as a world leader on trade.

In relation to the other nations in Eastern Europe that are not part of the European Union a different approach is required. The need to foster these relations to aid the United States in achieving the goals of stability, security and access within the region requires bilateral and multi-lateral agreement. We propose the following general recommendations for this region. With the rising costs of labor in the traditional outsourcing destinations of China and India, Eastern Europe could be used as an alternative for American manufacturing industry. Other industries that may benefit from this redistribution of services are Agriculture, Telephone Help Centers and other sectors of the consumer service industry.

The other approach we recommend is direct foreign investment with the State Department acting as the mediator between United States businesses and the country of investment. To negate part of the security risk the first countries that we would recommend are those in the process of adaptation to gain access to NATO, these include Croatia and Albania. With the uncertainty of the current economic environment within the United States and the ripple effects which are being felt around the world. The United States needs to take a leadership position to resolve the situation. The states outside the economic security of the European Union will be hardest hit by this economic downturn. These nations, for example, the Ukraine, whose economy is still in the

process of being rebuilt after the controls of a state run economy, could cause an extreme economic ripple effect.

### **Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime**

Increased security against terrorism affects all of Europe. The flow of terrorists and organized crime from Eastern Europe to Western Europe is a main mode of transport for illegal weapons and human trafficking. Borders in this region are loosely regulated, while the propagation of black markets and the drug trade reinforces instability of political organizations and governments.

Addressing these issues is in the United State's interest for several reasons. First, combating terrorism and organized crime maintains the stability of governments in the region, providing the US with important strategic allies; increasing our legitimacy with these allies. Second, Central and Eastern Europe is the main route for the smuggling of opiates into Europe from Afghanistan, and shutting down this drug trade will assist the fight in Afghanistan. Additionally, organized crime is a main contributor to corruption and instability in these governments. Lastly, organized crime deters foreign investment, provides serious problems for local business development, trade and tax collection, and hinders the overall economic development in the region.

These issues should be addressed through two main paths; intelligence sharing, and empowering the local police force. The United States should increase its participation with INTERPOL to facilitate the passage of intelligence on organized crime and terrorism in order to assist local police forces. This can also be achieved through joint intelligence organization training and operations. The United States can help empower the local police force by creating exchange programs between police from major cities in the United States and major Eastern European cities. This enhances the ability of governments to gather intelligence at the local level, which affects security across national boundaries. Exchange programs can also provide local police the opportunity to attend American law enforcement training, with an emphasis on deterring corruption. The resulting improvement in law enforcement capabilities will help close black markets, choke off funding to organized crime, and create a positive feedback loop for government tax revenue.

Cumulatively, these changes will assist in providing stability in the region, in turn limiting Russian influence and providing the United States with strategic allies.

### **Conclusion**

In summation, the Central and Eastern European region will continue to be a key element in the United States' foreign policy. In its action the United States needs to set itself as the leader of democracy in the region in helping the old Soviet sphere to convert to the democracy that they have long to achieve. Through obtaining the goals of security, stability and access in the region the United States will itself become more secure.