

A. A. VIRKOVSKA

postgraduate of international finance department

Ternopil' national economic university

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OF UKRAINE WITH EUROPEAN UNION

Summary: The article discusses the basic principles of Ukraine's strategic partnership. Priorities of strategic partnership between Ukraine and the EU are analyzed. The strategic goals of the EU towards Ukraine are determined.

Анотація: У статті розглянуто основні принципи стратегічного партнерства України. Проаналізовано пріоритети стратегічного партнерства України з ЄС. Визначено стратегічні цілі ЄС щодо України.

Анотация: В статье рассмотрены основные принципы стратегического партнерства Украины. Проанализированы приоритеты стратегического партнерства Украины с ЕС. Определены стратегические цели ЕС относительно Украины.

Contemporary international relations are characterized by dynamism and rapid trend towards the further complication of international relations system, which become multidimensional nature in all directions – from economics and finance to security issues. Interdependence of international business is growing, which requires the search for new forms of co-ordinated and coherent interaction. New challenges to international security being transboundary are requiring joint efforts of the international community. In these conditions, the forefront problem is constructing flexible and differentiated system of Ukraine's relations with key international actors that will meet the challenges of the globalized world and contribute to strengthening the role of our country in the world.

The relationship of strategic partnership is an important tool of foreign policy, which is used by leading countries and integration associations, because it allows increasing the effectiveness of their actions in the international arena. Long-term

partnership is a flexible mechanism for cooperation between the countries united around the strategic objectives for the implementation of its national interests and enhances stability in the world [7, 389].

The topic is studied by such scholars as I. Burkovskyy, N. Kuharska, A. Filipenko, A. Lytvynenko, V. Kopyyka, A. Kovaleva, V. Chumak, Y. Pavlenko, B. Gubskyy, G. Clement, H. Timmerman and others.

The purpose of this paper is to study the principles and priorities of the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the EU.

Testing the strength of strategic relations occurs in a deepening global and regional competition intensified struggle for markets and natural resources against the background of the negative trends in the global economy. Redistribution of the international balance of power, the rapid development of new global powers pose additional challenges for the consolidation actions of the partner countries while generating opportunities for creating new configurations of international partnership.

In the Ukrainian foreign policy concept of strategic partnership has not yet received the final content, which in previous years had resulted in excessive expansion of Ukraine's «strategic partner». This practice significantly reduced the effectiveness of this important foreign policy tool, prevented channeling efforts to develop truly meaningful, strategically important for our state relations models and mechanisms of interaction [2, 274].

Strategic partnership – is the type of interstate relations, built as a consistent interaction system in the direction of common strategic objectives, interests and goals. Unlike allied relations of strategic partnership does not imply a rigid system of political, economic, humanitarian or security nature obligations.

This position possible differences partners with certain issues should not significantly affect the development of strategic cooperation in general.

The relationship of strategic partnership formalized in the relevant agreements and contracts and implemented in the current practice of interaction partners. These relationships often involve a specific institutional framework in the form of

permanent or consultative mechanisms. Lack of formalized properly functioning strategic partnership mechanism creates uncertainty process of their implementation.

Strategic partnership relations established between the parties, which are of strategic importance to each other, and are able, through affiliate relationships, enhance its role and influence in the wider international context. Ukraine's relations with its strategic partners constitute one of the key foundations of its foreign policy. Ukraine's inclusion in the strategic relations system with the leading world countries shows the importance of our country as an international actor [6, 11].

Choosing Ukraine's strategic partners based on a strategic vision of the state development, due to the realization of its national interests and means of implementation.

In some cases, the nature of these relationships can take vital to the existence and development of our country. Strengthening and development of strategic relations, giving them a deeper content should be leading the scope of the Ukrainian diplomacy efforts and other state institutions.

Identification of potential partners and capacity building bilateral relations to a level – is a long and complex process that depends on several factors, political, economic, security and cultural character etc. In turn, the partner may also be interested in the strategic partnership as part of its national interests. Strategic partnership system of our state is formed according to the selected Ukraine's strategic course for the modernization of the country in accordance with the current challenges of the globalized world [5, 125].

Ukraine's relations with various strategic partners should not enter into conflict with each other, should be harmonized, on what is directed efforts of the Ukrainian diplomacy.

In case of serious disagreement or conflict between Ukraine's strategic partners, if they affect our country, the choice of behavior forms in a given situation should be carried out in accordance with national interests and favorites its strategic policy [2, 306].

Ukraine defines its foreign policy priorities and builds a system of strategic partnership in three main dimensions – at the integration process with the European Union, on countries-global players level (the U.S., Russia, China) and regional level (Poland, Turkey and others). All these main areas of Ukrainian foreign policy is self-sufficient and yet complementary.

Integration into the EU along with solving foreign policy objectives involves radical internal reforms to adjust to European economic, social, political, and legal standards.

The main purpose of unifying strategic relations with global powers is to strengthen Ukraine's international security guarantees, to maintain its sovereignty, territorial integrity, democratic progress and economic development. Ukraine's relations with global partners each have their own specifics, emphasize specific areas of cooperation to address clearly defined strategic objectives [1, 46].

Relations with the EU are a key priority of Ukraine's foreign policy and simultaneously stimulate internal transformations in the country. The strategic nature of the partnership with Ukraine confirmed co. The strategic objectives unity of both parties is to ensure their mutual dynamic and sustainable development based on democratic values, maintaining the system stability and security in the Eastern European region.

Ukraine's inclusion in the system of the European Union strategic partnership through a comprehensive and deep integration into European structures corresponds to the conversion process into a modern, dynamic, developed, democratic country.

The strategic partnership with the EU considers Ukraine as an important step towards the implementation of its integration goals. Strategic EU-Ukraine relations are built on political, economic, legal areas, provide maximum intensification of trade, social and cultural ties, and deepen security cooperation, covering virtually all possible areas of cooperation. However, they provided effective system implementation mechanisms, which are currently being transformed under the new format of the strategic partnership.

The strategic partnership between the EU and Ukraine, based on shared values and interests, is a vital factor of peace, stability and prosperity in Europe. Freedom, independence and stability of Ukraine rank among the greatest achievements in the new Europe rid of old dividing lines. Geography and size, the resources of its population as well as its location along the North-South and East-West axes give Ukraine a unique position in Europe and make it a determinant region.

Ukraine has excellent relations with all its neighbors and has taken important steps in nation-building and towards consolidating its democracy. The fact that since independence Ukraine has always been a source of stability in the region, despite the internal complexities and contradictions, is worthy of respect. The EU welcomes the close involvement of Ukraine in the stabilization and encourages the strengthening of its role in regional cooperation fora. The EU welcomes Ukraine's commitment to nuclear disarmament and cooperation in maintaining peace and security in Europe and in the world, particularly in the framework of the OSCE and the United Nations.

The strategic partnership between the EU and Ukraine has been continuously reinforced since the independence of Ukraine. In this regard, partnership and cooperation is a significant achievement. Ukraine was the first of the new independent states that have signed such an agreement, thus marking the EU's and Ukraine to strengthen cooperation. Through macro-financial assistance, the Tacis program, as well as bilateral programs EU supports Ukraine in the process of transition and reform [3, 179].

Because of the enlargement process, some future EU Member States will share an external border with Ukraine. Enlargement of the Union will further enhance economic dynamism and political stability in the region, thus increasing the possibilities of cooperation with Ukraine.

The European Union has the following strategic objectives for Ukraine:

- contribute to the emergence of a stable, open and pluralistic democracy and law in Ukraine and underpinning a stable functioning market economy which will benefit all the people of Ukraine;

- cooperate with Ukraine in the maintenance of stability and security in Europe and throughout the world, finding effective responses to common challenges facing the continent;

- increase economic, political and cultural cooperation with Ukraine as well as cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs.

The EU acknowledges Ukraine's European aspirations and welcomes Ukraine's pro-European choice. The EU remains firmly committed to working with Ukraine at national, regional and local levels to support a successful political and economic transformation in Ukraine, which will facilitate its further rapprochement with the EU. The European Union and its Member States offer Ukraine their various experiences in building modern political, economic, social and administrative structures, fully recognizing that the main responsibility for Ukraine's future lies with itself [4, 18].

The European Council therefore adopts this Common Strategy to strengthen the strategic partnership between the EU and Ukraine. It recognizes that a successful, stable and secure Ukraine best interests of the European Union. The legal basis of relations between the EU and Ukraine is the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The full implementation of this agreement is a precondition for successful Ukraine's integration into the European economy and helps Ukraine assert its European identity.

The European Union and its Member States will develop coordination, coherence and complementarity of all aspects of their policy towards Ukraine. In addition, the European Union, the Community and the Member States to cooperate with regional and international organizations, as well as with partners who have a similar approach to meet the objectives set out in the PCA and this Common Strategy. Positions of the Community and its Member States in all relevant fora will conform to this Common Strategy. The European Council invites Ukraine to cooperate with the EU based on this Common Strategy [8].

Bilateral format of strategic cooperation with the EU multilateral format complemented initiative «Eastern Partnership», which, in addition to Ukraine,

involved a number of Eastern European countries (Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan), that promotes the formation of regional partnerships under the auspices of the EU.

The prospect of political and economic cooperation is a factor, the effect of which could potentially contribute to intensification of Ukraine's accession to European structures.

Thus, the construction of strategic partnership coherent system should provide Ukraine with progressive democratic development, outstripping the implementation of social modernization and strengthening international guarantees of its security.

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