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**The Need for Identifying
the National Interest In Romania**

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Abstract: With regard to economics, the concept of national interest has become the common factor of strategies for economic and social development of a country with sectorial strategies, policies and programmes that give consistency and direction of development of a country. The national interest and is one of the criteria for the selection of strategic objectives with operating, decision-makers at every level, for shorter or long periods. Definition of national interest – ideal in connection with general interest-is essential in the current economic area, affected by many disturbances and developments, correctly defined interest-being awarded the role of a Lighthouse in the national economy development orientation towards clear, viable in the long term objectives.

Keywords: national interest; general or public interest; economy

1. Introduction

Interest is a socio-economic objective, turned into a powerful engine of progress of development, (2). Interest involves awareness of needs, most perfectly justified, which turns into motivations, which in turn, is reflected in the actions and behaviors (3, 4).

With reference to the economic area, interest is the main stimulus of involvement in market relations, from the workplaces to the international trade.

Interests may be: personal, group, regional, national, or international, general, public. Moral criteria, may be legitimate, occult, etc. Note that the definition of interest is expressed as needs.

In the European security strategy, the national interest is defined as: "those States and processes, based on values entered into the Romanian society and promoted by ensuring prosperity, protection and security of its members, the stability and continuity of the State."

The concept of national interest is the Foundation for its internal and external policies of the State, and the credibility of the concept is supported on the following components:

- it has a dose of relativity as it expresses in particular, the aspirations.
- on medium and long terms it sustain changes according to the doctrines of political, economic, social and political parties that succeed to power.
- it must have a high degree of generality in the meaning of the inhabitants.
- its continuity relies on its conjunctural avoidance and on long-terms visions.
- The capacity of operating with it in the national practice.
- As a rule, the national interest it's a sum of more interests which cannot be missing those related to national security, the well-being of citizens, and affirmation of identity outside the boundaries of the country.

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Viewed thus, the national interest is a public good that preoccupies to the most citizens that are able to sacrifice and spend their wealth in order to defend it. In its essence, it sums up the national interest concerning the moral materials – this definition belongs to Samuel Hustington (6).

In terms of management, national interest expressed in values, can be considered a strategic objective that in order to be transformed, in practice, is typical of a methodology: purpose, strategies, scenarios, policy efforts needed to attain the objective assessment and appraisal of their expected impact. Following detailed programmes, operation of the whole strategy, action-task for State leadership through its institutions.

Interests that subsume the national interest can be modified in the operative strategy, but the interests that relate to fundamental values are not subject to correction and they are regularly included in the Constitution: the territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence, etc.

States that define the national interest are usually stable political, economic States, that have control over the whole national system and that must be secure and that it is conformable with aspirations of the people, and this communication must operate in both directions.

Lately the concepts of public interest or general and global interest have also emerged. The public interest is the sum of the individual interests of the population of the territory and which may or may not coincide with national interests. The public interest shall be considered representative if it represents the views of most large parts of the population.

Global interest belongs to the representatives of the process of globalization, the developed countries, international institutions, acting as actors in the globalized space(financial institutions, regulating trade, pollution control, etc.).

Global interests are specific objectives of globalization process and involving their own tools such as the following examples:

- Monetary policies;
- Access to markets, liberalization of markets;
- The right to intellectual property;
- New forms of nationalism of own resources, including agricultural products and foodstuffs (7).

The two types of national and public interests: they have specific tools to support: the national interest turns into national policies, strategies, or generates a legislative framework, requires a lobby in front of the international institutions, the Governments of the neighboring countries or distant looking alliances. The public interest is expressed by citizens acting through the street: strikes, campaigns, NGOs, governmental institutions, in addition to lobbying, etc.

2. Globalization and the National Interest

On a characterization of the end of the 20th century, John Naisbitt and Patricia Aburdene wrote in "Year 2000-Megatrends": *the whole world is guided by the interests of national security, to economic security in a globalized world where economic power has become more important than military power in the role of a nation. A result of these developments, in global economic area under the influence of technical progress, expansion of markets, of modern automation and computerization is the Division of labor between the Nations and the interdependence of countries in developing products, services, the resultant of this interdependence is the difference between the cost and the selling price, so the profit.*

Integration of economies is not identical with the harmony between the partners, differences arise between Nations, the power of interest, their spokesmen being, transnational corporations. If the interests of the actors in the economic area coincide they become common factors of cohesion, cooperation, peaceful coexistence. If there are audible differences they generate spheres of influence, asymmetric economic potential associations of employers.

The national interest gains more attention in the globalized economy, perhaps more than was expected at a time when it talks more about the demise of the nation State, about the world of transnational corporations, globalization, and the emergence of human extinction boundaries – global citizen.

For nation States, the national interest is the vector of development, support of national identity (sum of history, culture, economic power, geographical area, vocation, etc.), catalyst of motivation, brands with whom the country gets part of the globalized world.

In the case of transnational corporations is easy to identify their main interest (in the alternative they are cumulative and other interests including the State were formed and they have representation – mother), namely – profit. Profit can define the paradigm of the process of globalization.

Often it is hard or very hard to consolidate the national interest in a single paradigm, but it is easier to understand in a series of partial interests such as:

- To promote the value of natural resources, but taking into account the right of future generations to access these resources.
- Use extra care, techno-cultural, spiritual, material produced by the company in the course of history.
- The smooth functioning of the financial system in order to ensure the continuity of the production, consumption, savings, and investments; the correct management of the finances of the country.
- Consolidation of the country's economy in a sustainable, modern structure.
- Management of external economic relations so that they meet the national interest and to have the effect of strengthening the economy.
- Reactions in response to the process of globalization to assimilate, to harness the positive effects of globalization and to put under control the negative effects.
- The presence of country (identity, role, place, trumps) in regional alliances, international and global space and shaping the image of the country ".

Not all countries define their national interests and have the ability to track it in economic practice. Through UNDP, the UNITED NATIONS established an annual ranking of the world States (human development index) taking into account a set of indicators. Standings gives the opportunity of observing the existing gaps between countries and could determine the heads of some of the countries situated in the lower half of the standings to correct the objectives included in the national interest to mend the country towards progress and prosperity. The human development index can be equated with feed-back system of national economy or in a modern instance with the feed before the economical developments, designed for long-term and continuous improvement of the economy (structure, the external situation, possible manifestations of globalization).

Do not enjoy too much attention to countries located on the outskirts of category or footer First Nations performance criteria. Target a group of 20 to 40 countries, referred to as "stranded", "missed", "difficulty", etc. They are the countries that have failed in a first confrontation with the harshness of the manifestations of globalization processes and find themselves in a precarious situation and because of their dysfunction (political, social climate, internal conflicts, etc). For this category of countries, the national interest if it were defined could refer to a "survival" paradigm that would precede a subsequent change to economic growth.

3. National Interest in Romania

The Constitution of Romania on 135d article mentions the notion of national interest with reference to the exploitation of natural resources, but this essential phrase which could play the role of management economy compass has not been defined after the year 1989.

If the national interest would have been shaped by the political class which led Romania and ruled legislative, perhaps even in the Constitution as fundamental interest and if it had been taken seriously in the management of the economy, when it was possible another evolution of the economy, such as:

- The national interest should address strategies for economic and social developing, should set goals on short, medium and long-term, should offer her place and the horizon of Romania in European area;
- Should be avoided due to the shrinking economy and the place in the hierarchy of peripheral European States;
- Privatization Process would not have been the base of the transformation of the country in an outlet market for other countries;
- Never would have lost millions of jobs, and the migration of residents in European countries (and not only) would not have become a phenomenon;
- Romania could have an economic structure, corrected by privatisation and foreign investment, and should withstand the financial and economic crisis, provide an additional level of living for the population;
- Loss of food safety, energy supply, there was cause for concern and the concern for policymakers: about 150 hypermarkets ensure the food supply of 70% of the population with products brought from import;
- The national interest would have become a common factor of sectorial strategies and tracking of such long-term strategic objectives beyond electoral mandates, ephemeral, in the country's history.

Lack of defining the national interest proliferated a typology of interests: personal, party, group, foreign (including transnational corporations), trade unions, client (for various reasons, obscure) with domestic and foreign actors, etc.

Romanian economy entry under the influence of the process of globalization has become a reality with beneficial effects or less beneficial for the country. Interesting to note that the Constitution of Romania (box 1) allows premises and conditionings for a logical approach of the process of globalization, that may become an opportunity; there are created conditions even for the accession and integration of Romania in EU.

Box 1

The constitutional provisions governing the relationship of Romania with Eu and premises for the process of globalization

Article 135

(1) the Romanian economy is a market economy, based on free initiative and competition.

The State must ensure: the freedom of trade, protection) framework of fair competition, favorable for the recovery of all factors of production;

(b) protect national interests) in economic activity, financial and foreign exchange;

c) stimulation of scientific research and technology, art and protection of copyright;

d) exploitation of natural resources, consistent with the national interest;

(e) environmental protection and restoration) environment, and the maintenance ecological balance;

f) create the conditions necessary for increasing the quality of life;

g) application of development measures in line with the objectives of the European Union.

(2) public property is guaranteed and protected by law and belongs to the State or territorial-administrative units.

(3) public interest of riches subsoil waters, airspace, with potential energy, the beaches, the territorial sea; the natural resources of the economic zone and the continental shelf, as well as other organic goods laid down by the law, which are the subject of public property.

(4) goods are inalienable public property. According to the law, they can be given in the administration of the autonomous public institutions or be leased or rented and, also, they can be put into service free of charge.

(5) private property is vessel linked, in the organic law.

(6) the national currency is “leul”, and its subdivision, the “ban”. Under the terms of accession to the European Union, through the organic law may recognize the movement and replace the national currency with that of the European Union.

Source: Constitution of Romania: 2003. Publishing the Official Gazette

Who Should Define National Interest?

The answer is simple: The State’s institutions! But his definition must have a national consensus: population, social groups, academia, trade unions, employers; It does not belong to party doctrine, decision-makers, political conjuncture, ephemeral and is deeper, the country is the future perspective of humans, place of the country in the world, in other words gives the stroke of destiny of a people, a nation.

This complex process, full of responsibility was bypassed by the makers of the past 21 years, other personal interests, other economic or political spaces were present in the management of the Romanian economy. Jonahthan Scheele, former head of the EU Delegation in Bucharest declared: I believe that Romania has no clear objectives in the EU (8), and with more than 2000 years before Seneca, had warned us that gods don't send wind in favour of ships that do not know where to move. As an exercise for the formulation of the national interest It was demanded for students from the second year from the Faculty of agri-food and environmental Economics A.S.E. Bucharest, during a brainstorm to imagine things that give substance to the national interest. Replies (box 2) are located on the first four places with the following proposals:

1st: Raising the standard of living, the preservation and the promotion of moral values.

2nd place: economic development.

3rd place: protection of the environment; international affirmation.

4th place: demographic Growth.

Box 2

Possible components of national interest

Brainstorm – second year students- Faculty of agri-food and environmental Economics, "A.S.E, Bucharest, 2011

Proposals: (in order of percentage of total responses)

- The standard of living Growth; conservation and the promotion of moral values (equal scores);
- Economic development;
- Protection of the environment; international affirmation (equal scores);
- Demographic Growth;
- Jobs;
- Optimal Use of natural resources;
- National Unity;

Other themes added:

- Promoting youth;
- Transport infrastructures;
- Eradication of corruption;
- Balanced budget;
- Reduction of foreign debt;
- Responsible political class;
- Civilization;
- Stability;
- Reconsidering national heritage;
- Personal security;
- Healthcare;
- Consumption of natural resources rationally.

The records of box 2 are surprising:

- Despite the age of the students in the second year, they demonstrate a mature thinking, a survival instinct that was no longer suspected of the current generation of young people subjected to the effects of globalization (especially those harmful).
- Hierarchical Logic-the response is almost perfect, not only through the involvement of the three pivots of development: human-environment-economy, but surprisingly, brings into the equation a component of the "new economy" of morals which is not only a skeleton, but the profit economy moving by the equity in the business.
- The imagination of students played in box 2 shows that if in two minutes could be formulated 19 objectives, the State institutions, including 1.2 million civil servants, of which 20,000 seats, could, in the early 90s of the 20th century, to steer the development of Romania on the azimuth national interest.
- They have appreciated a wide range of economic, social, ecological problems contained in the horizon.
- With the opportunities created for these young people to fit in the Administration (local, regional, national) would be a guarantee that Romania might improve economic and national interest that could be defined and used as a paradigm of strategies and policies development.

In literature are present works which attempted to give content to the national interest:

- In the early 2000s, it was tried to define the strategic objectives of the energy sector in Romania (8) in conjunction with the national interest. It is no legal expressed, it was suggested to provide consistency throughout the evolution of the energy sector in the national economy.
- Agriculture, the most vulnerable sector of the national economy has enjoyed the attention of decision-makers and does not have a future clearly foreshadowed. The Association of communes of Romania together with the Association for the advancement of the Romanian Village authorities gave a paper entitled: "Who nourishes Romania?" in which they proposed reconsideration of agriculture in mountain areas or hill areas where live about six million inhabitants in small households. Suggesting strengthening small-scale rural households and prepare it to evolve later to prosperity, by development. The proposal had been in accordance with the national interest to cancel the dependence on food imports of Romanian food (10).
- Association of CHIMINFORM DATE of Bucharest, 2003: developed the "national interest for development in Romania of chemistry, petrochemistry and related branches (11)", in place of the liquidation or externalization of these economic entities they were proposing to modernize the sector, expanding the development and use of human potential in this sector, including research and development.

Examples presented above wished to prove the existence of ideas to give content to the national interest, but these efforts have not been sufficient to awaken the interests of decision-makers.

Exercise: Globalization and the national interest of the United States

As an application to the definition of national interest in Romania, in what follows, are shown the views of the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, presented in the journal *Foreign Affairs* in 2000 (12). From the rich material presented, we consider relevant in connection with the theme of our work, these elements:

- The need for defining the national interest;
 - a priority setting;
 - a correlation of interests group, rank 2, and even individual communities;
 - to avoid a vacuum of power and administration guidance and avoid such influence or pressure transient or group.
- Alternatives to the national interest of the United States,
 - The existence of international law and international norms, the United Nations shall be sufficient to legitimize the exercise of power. The national interest can be replaced by "humanitarian concern" or "the interest of the international community."
 - The national interest is characterized or changes depending on the internal and external situation. For example, after the fall of the Soviet Empire, the national interest of the United States had changed.
 - In the democratic countries, where there are several political parties and doctrines with interests, it is not easy to define the national interest. In these cases sought common components such as: maintain and promote freedom, peace, contributions to a better world and more prosperous.
 - U.S. Interests may not be consistent with those made by the UNITED NATIONS (see Kyoto Protocol) but the priority national interests which provide for maintaining the momentum of economic development.
- Universal American values are namely considered:
 - Liberalization of the economy for the benefit of the American economy trade,
 - US military Power should be strengthened, because the US is the guarantor of global peace and stability.

Assuming the role of Earth's military leader means not only the role of peacekeeping operations but also the right to use the concept of "limited sovereignty" anywhere in the world, in the name of humanitarianism.

Another crucial goal of the United States is dealing with big, powerful States. Such as relations with China and North Korea must take into account the signals from Japan and South Korea. Special attention is given to Europe, NATO enlargement in the former territories of the Soviet Union.

Relations with China have two components: economic-a country with a great potential for development, the business partner for US interesting by dynamism and military dimensions of the market – and – as a power in itself and the power of balance and peace in Asia. The integration of the Chinese economy in global flows is desirable, but must rely on private industry to weaken the control carried out by the central power of the economy of China.

India should be seen as a factor of economic and political influence in the region.

Russia is seen as a great power, characterized by a large population, a large territorial area, military power, resources – with an impressive economic potential – but the country has weakness in the management of the economy. Resources of gas and oil could affect the global market.

Article author's conclusions are as follows:

- The U.S. has no ambitions of territorial expansion in the 21st century, but the objective of promoting friendship, prosperity and peace, all made in a modern, global economy, with a vision towards the future.
- The U.S. cannot act in an international interest but in the context of a national interest in exercising their power, linking past and her role in the 21st century.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion the work you can make the **following considerations:**

Clearly defined national interest, is consistent with the general interest, is part of the management of a country, can be equated with a vector of time as part of the doctrines of political parties exercising power, designed in succession of a time horizon.

Theoretical and practical interests, national interests from the individual to the nation group, motivating the actions of the population with a view to attaining the strategic objectives that may be done to determine the place and role of the country in the European or world hierarchy.

In the definition of national interest, today, should be taken into account the vulnerabilities, assumed international obligations, challenges, existing or potential crises of internal and external governing of the Romanians, stating:

- Unsustainable economic structure;
- Occupation of last job in any ranking of European countries after the performance criteria (place undeserved and humiliating for people);
- Food safety and energy Loss;
- Outsourcing of the main natural resources and utilities services;
- Foreign debt that cannot be managed in excess of GDP;
- Migration of about two million people;
- Alienation of agricultural land;
- Chronic Lack of employment;
- Poverty;
- Corruption, theft, and so on to mediocrity, replacing professionalism with the decision-makers membership of a political party.

In the framework in which Romania plays, the fundamental interest with resonance in the national and general interest can only be one-in the opinion of the authors-the survival of the country, tough, difficult process, on extended term and who knows winners but also losers.

The authors of this paper have detailed in a relatively recent book (13), the concept of economic survival of which are retained the following principles:

- the functionality need of the system of national economy, looked in all its components; strategic management subsystems, tactical and operative in the structure and its viability in the prediction of evolution the Primate order into the system.
- Reduction of costs of stray and mainly of people in secondary and balancing the budget of revenue and expenditure of the country. Straightening all this budget surplus.
- On behalf of existing natural resources, ensuring food self-sufficiency and energy security of the country; surpluses for export.
- Acquisition of the concept of sustainable development principles: protection of the health of humans, animals, plants; load-bearing capacity of ecosystems and the conservation of natural capital, exploitation of human generations anthropic conducted earlier, the economic value of natural and mineral resources and taking into account the needs of future generations of human resources also.

- Reconsidering the role of rural households and small-scale place where working and living about six million inhabitants; strengthening and stabilizing the population housing (10).
- Promoting professional excellence with perseverance and moral to decision-makers. In theory it is considered that the leadership that led to the collapse of a system may no longer be able to recover it, so we need to replace the entire management subsystem (strategic, tactical and operative). Forms of replacement represent the critical point of the concept of survival ...

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