

Topic A: European Energy security

The discovery of the Ekofisk oil field in 1969 and the exploitation of it started in 1971 allowed Norway to develop its energy sector and become an important producer of oil in Europe. This exploitation extends to the North Sea, the Norwegian Sea as well as the Barents Sea and in the Arctic region (Norway Petroleum, 2023, par.10). Oil exploitation became and is still a key contributor to the economic welfare of Norway. After Russia, Norway is the second largest producer and exporter of petroleum in Europe and possess many pipelines transporting oil or natural gas. They connect Norway to Germany, Belgium, France and UK and it is sold on a market-based price (Rauhala, 2022, par. 26).

However, with the current energy crisis in Europe and weaponization of gas by flow of interruptions providing from Russia, Norway has created a new pipeline related the country to Poland and become the number one supplier of gas and oil for Europe. The recent damages to the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines bringing natural gas from Russia to Germany show that European country need a reliable source of oil and natural gas in order to address the European energy crisis. Norway is the perfect candidate to address the issue. Our current infrastructures allow to export our resources to European country and contribute to energy security in Europe. Moreover, Norway is greatly involved in energy security in NATO. Through the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable, Norway is greatly involved in the development of guidelines and practices in the development of oil exploitation in the Arctic region, an oil and natural gas rich region, since it is vulnerable to climate change, and it can affect the reliability of energy supply (Laird, 2018, par. 8). Additionally, Norway takes seriously the issue of cyberattacks on energy infrastructures and advocate to enforce cybersecurity of energy sources of the member of the alliance reliable in order to assure energy security (Anderson, 2022, par. 8).

On the long term, supplying Europe in natural and oil is not a sustainable solution. Effectively, assuring Europe energetic resources is a temporary solution. Long term contract concerning oil and natural gas exportation could affect Norway climate change goal as well as affected the production and exploitation of oil in the Arctic region. Norway is a leader in term of renewable energy such as hydroelectricity and wind power. Effectively, 98% of its electricity is produced by hydroelectricity (Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, 2016, par. 3). Efforts in diversify energy sources are necessary and should be addressed quickly by NATO members and partners to ensure energy security of their own country and reduce their dependency on oil and natural gas resources coming from other countries. The issue of cybersecurity should as well be addressed since no countries are protected from cyberattacks. Protecting and enforcing the cybersecurity of the energy sector ensure that countries have a reliable source of energy. It should be achieved through collaboration, development of practices and sharing knowledge between NATO countries. A partnership on cybersecurity should be prioritized to enhance the energy security of NATO countries.

Topic B : Eastern Flank Partnership

Following the Cold war, the establishment of the Partnership for Peace with NATO and former Soviet States allow to develop relations with the NATO east peripheral countries and address military and defense policies as well as security challenge. However, this partnership is more important than in ever with the ongoing war in Ukraine for common security of both Eastern Europe and NATO members countries as well as their partners.

Since the establishment of the Eastern Flank Partnership Program in 2009 with Eastern country, Norway has been an active actor in terms of taking initiative to enforce the security cooperation and the defense of the eastern Europe partners. It has offer military education, training exercises and military exercises and contribute to the collective security on the eastern flanks. (RAND Europe, 2020, p. 18). Norway is renewed for its strategic military and NATO recognized its contribution on eastern flanks to assure collective security. Effectively, since 2016, it is part of NATO enhanced forward presence in Lithuania and contribute to it by military presence by troop contingent and over 200 from the Norwegian Army's Brigade Nord are in Lithuania (Norwegian Armed Forces, 2022, par. 3).

However, Russia invasion of Ukraine is the gravest threat to NATO eastern Flank partner countries and Norway take the issue seriously. To address the issue, Norway has increased its contributions to the enhanced forward presence in Lithuania by sending more 60 troops in Lithuania in the German led battalion (The Print, 2022, par.1) and continue to support through army contribution the battalion to assure defense security. Eastern flanks threats need to be addressed and preoccupied Norway since Eastern flank potential threats and issues are closely intertwined Baltic states and Artic threats that greatly preoccupied Norway. In this way, to enforce the defense of the Eastern Flank, Norway believes that the adhesion of Sweden and Finland will reinforce the defense security of NATO on the Eastern Flank and augmented the collective defense security (Iceland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022, par. 4).

The war in Ukraine brings Norway and NATO to intensify the means and actions to solidify security on the Eastern Flank. Norway is more than ready to increase its sharing of military and defenses policies as well as strategies with eastern flank countries. It will also intensify its effort to improve training education. However, Norway the Russian-Ukraine war has exposed the fact that EAPC need to extend the areas of cooperation and introduce the issues of cybersecurity of energy sites as well as energy security with its partners. In term of assuring defense security in the face of Russian aggression, sharing knowledge and training exercises concerning cybersecurity are needed in order to increase collective security. Discussions about energy security are also needed since the weaponization of gas interruption of Russia bring instability within eastern flanks countries and weaken the defense security within NATO. In this perspective EAPC must give importance to cybersecurity and energy security in discussions with eastern flank countries since a strong collective cybersecurity and energy security increases collective preparedness and build societal resilience.

Topic C : Caucasus Security Challenge

The current war in Ukraine shows that the sovereignty of post-Soviet Union countries such as Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia are still vulnerable to exterior power. The Russian invasion in Ukraine raise concerns about the security and integrity of these Caucasus countries where there is Russian presence on their territory. History tends to repeat itself and the Russian presence in Georgia and its implication as a peace actor in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict show us that we should not let history happen again.

NATO has provided supports and assistance to Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in term of modernizing and reforming their defense institutions. It was and it is still achieved through military education, military training, and military exercises (Czulda 2022, par. 17-18). These allow to enhance defense capacities for the countries and strengthen the relationship with these countries. Norway contribution to NATO in terms of being a key player in military education allow NATO to use its military strategies and knowledge to help states in need. In this objective, Norway contributes to in military education of the Caucasus states. Norway is also renewed for its military capabilities, which place the country as a leader in term of military education and training in order to promote stability of countries in the region. (NATO, 2022, par. 3)

Moreover, Norway is an important play in term of promoting democracy and human rights and had contributed to peacekeeping missions with NATO in countries. Norway believes firmly that human rights of every citizen should be respected. In the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Norway had offered humanitarian assistance to both Azerbaijan and Armenia and support both country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Norway argues for the end of the hostilities and appeal to peaceful resolutions between both countries. As a member of OSCE Minsk group, Norway is facilitating negotiations in order for Azerbaijan and Armenia to find together a peaceful solution. To achieve it, an honest and peaceful dialogue is needed to be engage between these two countries. A peaceful resolution of the conflict between these two countries will lead to achieve country stability in Azerbaijan and Armenia (OSCE, 2020, p.1)

However, Russian presence in Georgia since 2008 affect the country's integrity and sovereignty. Its presence on Georgia territory endangers both democracy and human rights and it believes that the issue should be address. Norway fully supports Georgia border integrity and believe that the Russian invasion motive if Georgia and well as their non-respect of human rights should be brought to justice (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023, par. 4). As seen with the current war in Ukraine that started with illegal invasion and presence of Russian forces on Ukraine's territory, the sovereignty of Georgia is in danger. In this perspective, collective efforts to ensure the security and the integrity country should be an important issue that should be address. As a supporters of NATO open door policy, Norway believes and advocate for Georgia inclusion in the alliance. Norway has provided political and practical support to Georgia through NATO-Georgia Commission and has invested in project in Georgia that promotes democratic development and human rights (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022, par. 7).

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