

MARITIME SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND GLOBALIZATION

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ABSTRACT

The work is meant to analyze and define the concept of Geopolitics and briefly present the main contributions of Romanian geopolitics. These bring into sight the importance of Romanian space where two legacies from different directions meet, i.e. that of Peter the Great who said that „I am not looking for land, but for water”, and that of Friederich Liszt, the author who used to indicate the direction of expansion for Germany by following the Danube’s course.

Our country geographical position as riverside to the Black Sea, and as Eastern border for the European Union, integrated on the navigable trans-European axis of Danube– Main – Rhine has a first rank importance regarding the development of maritime and inland waters transport and international trade at the same time, starting with 1st January 2007

If costs for inland waters and maritime transport are characterized as low, the transport on the river Danube has yet another advantage, that of political and juridical safety and a common interest of all Danubian countries. Today all Danubian states are members of the European Union and can guarantee a common interest in lightening the traffic on the Straits of Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, by redirecting the ships in the Black Sea to the North Sea.

KEY WORDS : UNCLOS, Romania, Black Sea, Danube, geopolitics, axes

I. EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION UPON MARITIME ACTIVITIES

Globalization a term which can be met on all continents and in all languages of the world, e.g. „mondialisation” in French, „globalisierung” in German, „globalizacion” in Spanish „gurobaruka” in Japanese, etc., highlights its own spreading all over the world, thus, revealing the interest taken not only by the scientific, academic, and political communities, but also

by the opponents of this phenomenon, who, in their turn, voice their opinion through discourses in front of demonstrators who seem to fear such challenge¹.

The term globalization, in a grammatical form, which clearly suggests a process, derives its present significance from the awareness that the world tends to become a unique economic, social, political and cultural system. The theories of the *world village*, supported by Marshall McLuhan², have overestimated the implications of the new communication means. There are national, mature economic systems in the world, which take pride in their traditions and long standing market mechanisms³.

The world economy in the course of its globalization includes two components⁴ crossing each other: a) national economic systems as basic entities which are not isolated, but interconnected by means of trade; b) financial relationships, scientific exchanges, technical assistance agreed upon in different agreements. A sustainable economic increase can no longer be solved at a national level; it supposes activities at international level⁵.

The international relationships in the last decades have shown an ample process of extension of economic, political, scientific and technical exchange among the nations, together with the ever more present process of globalization and interdependence processes in the world.

¹ Constantin Anechitoae, *Principle of Freedom of the Seas*, BREN Publishing House, 2004, p 202.

² Dumitru Mazilu. *Globalization*, in volume „*International Law and Relationships*”, postacademic course, Coordinators: Victor Duculescu, Viorel Marcu, V.I.S.”- Print, Bucharest, 2002, p. 16.

³ *Globalization is a term of the 60's* which has gained its popularity during the past three decades; it can be found in popular, political, mass-media and in the specialized discourse of social sciences as well. The term globalization entered a dictionary (Webster) for the first time, in 1961. By the middle of 80's it achieved considerable spreading. Daniel Yering makes the difference between *globalization*, as the expansion process of trade, investment and *globality*, which is a state or a condition, a reality beyond globalization „entrance in a world of globality”. *The Penguin Dictionary of Sociology*, published by Nicholas Abercrombe, Stephen Hill and Bryan S. Turner, which had reached its third edition by 1994, do not consider the term *globalization*, as a separately. The meaning of the term is explained in the paragraph dedicated to “the theory of global system”. The first dictionary to dedicate a generous space to the term of globalization is Gordon Marshall's *A Dictionary of Sociology* published in 1998. The term comes from the adjective *global*, with the sense that “it is spread world wide”, adjective whose use is linked to the beginning of European colonies, which took place in the XVI century. The process that globalization as term covers on a conceptual plan is thus much older than the concept that was added to it.

⁴ Gheorghe Badrus, Eduard Rădăceanu, *Globality and Management*, ALL BECK, Bucharest, 1999.

⁵ Vasile Zaharia, *Globalization –national incidents*, Tribuna Economică, no. 26/2001, p. 65.

1.1. Effects of global warming

Global warming has brought about more disasters than the decrease of the average temperature of our planet has. A study of the International Maritime Organization stated, pejoratively, that the freezing of the seas and oceans of the world would lead to the „freezing” of about 80% of the entire economic activity of the planet. The explanation derives from the fact that intercontinental transports are performed largely by merchant ships⁶, and continental transports are also considerably done by inland waterways in river vessels. The surface of the ice cap at the level of the Arctic continents has decreased in the past decades by approximately 10%, its thickness being in its turn reduced by about 40%. At the opposed end, the Antarctic ice cap has become extremely instable. Furthermore, the icebergs have begun to melt, and 70% of the icebergs in the Alps are expected to disappear by the year 2050. The managers of the skiing resort Andermatt in the Swiss Alps have decided to protect the Gurschen iceberg by covering it in a protective foil during the summer season. The level of the seas and oceans has increased in the past hundred years by about 10-25 centimeters and it is expected that within the actual increasing rhythm to further increase by 88 centimeters, by the year 2100.

This might affect about 70 million of Europe’s inhabitants, the population of the Nile delta, as well as the Maldives, Bangladesh, and others. Seawater could also leak into the ground water sheet thus affecting the harvests and the safety of the people.

Greenland is also subject to maximum risks, since the melting of this island might lead to the raise of the sea level by seven meters.

During the past decade the tragic events caused by the weather phenomena are three times more frequent than in the 60s. Besides huge damages to the insurance companies the water reserves of the world are directly affected. At the moment over 1.2 billion people do not have access to a clean source of water, which means a fifth of the world population.

An increase of 2 degrees in the temperature might bring about hot summers every two years as the summer of 2003, when over 40,000 people died of heat only in Europe. The damage in agriculture was of about 10 billion euros.

An increase of only 2.5 degrees in the temperature would increase the number of people affected by hunger with over 50 million, up to the level of one billion.

⁶ Constantin Anechitoae, Introduction in Port Law, BREN, Bucharest, 2007, p. 110.

Marine fauna might be irretrievably lost, and more than a third of all species would be threatened with extinction, by the year 2050. In the Amazonian forest the trees feeding on the absorption of carbon dioxide have come to grow rapidly to the other disadvantage.

The oceans suffer changes as a consequence of the global heating and this has become more and more dynamic. The oceans dissolve important quantities of carbon dioxide which is another gas with lingering hothouse effect. Due to the increase in the dynamics of the weather phenomena of more and more abrupt variations of temperature and ocean salinity, these are trying to compensate the alterations by absorbing and respectively releasing too large quantities of carbon dioxide in some areas. This way, the oceans are either too acid for the plankton, algae and corals or the atmosphere is too loaded with carbon dioxide creating in this way a hothouse effect, heating the oceans and intensifying evaporation.

In a research report quoted by the BBC News⁷ researchers warn that the seas in Europe are in a serious stage of decline because of pollution and global warming. The document showed that the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and North-West Atlantic will have a somber future if the damages brought by global development, pollution and global warming are not stopped.

In the case of the Black Sea, for example, the ecosystem is in collapse because of people's life style. Many harmful algae have grown in the area.

1.2. Davos - the Globalization Summit

On the 24th-28th January 2007, representatives of 90 states gathered in Davos, in the Swiss canton Graubunden, to attend the 36th edition of the World Economic Forum - WEF⁸. The meeting had a suggestive name –

⁷ HotNews.ro (non PDA), C.N.A., 08 June 2007.

⁸ The economic forum in Davos gathers each year businessmen, members of royal families and even religious leaders in the entire world. The first one took place in 1971, and it was an initiative of Klaus Schwab, a businessman and philanthropist. Eversince, the reunion is organized each year in the month of January in the, famous Swiss resort of Davos. Attendants debate the most controversial issues in the world and try to find solutions. Sometimes the summit has famous guests. Last year among attendants there were also Angelina Jolie and her boy friend, Brad Pitt. In 2007, the forum was opened by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and over 2,400 people from 90 countries attended (among them 15 state presidents, 60 ministers, 800 managers of the largest companies in the world, 23 religious leaders, 30 leaders of non-governmental organizations, 13 union leaders and media moguls). As already mentioned, representative businessman attended the Forum. Their companies register together a profit of over 10 triliards euro. Famous names such as Bill

"Changes in the equilibrium of power", and had as main subjects the: geopolitical equilibrium, alternative sources of energy, global changes, the crisis in the Middle East and climatic changes.

During the annual Summit in Davos⁹, thematic subjects are stocked, hypotheses of financial investments are launched, feasibility studies are counted, budgets are oriented, commercial co-operation is revised, new markets are configured, and tendencies of the global consumption are outlined for the year to come. And this is not all: the economic process coagulating in obvious indicators of the development become subject to files to be analyzed in superior decisional levels for the annual reunions of Bilderberg Group, ending in decisions taken by the group of industrialized countries – G8.

Last year the most important debates were around subjects such as the "petrol-economic" – a concept recently used more and more often, meaning the increase in the political influence of the countries exporting the so-called "black gold". After the two crises of the gas and petrol in Europe, at the beginning of 2006 and 2007, Russia has been looked upon in the Davos summit as an example of a state which used the "energetic weapon" for political reasons. And the Russian experts no longer deny this¹⁰.

2500 world leaders took part in the World Economic Forum, in Davos, in January 23th-27th, 2008; among them there were the business people elite,

Clinton, Dick Cheney, Tony Blair, king Abdullah of Jordan and ex-president of Iran, Mohammad Kathami, the richest man in the world, Bill Gates etc. Are to be found on the attendants list <http://www.antena3.ro/Elvetia-Forumul-Economic-de-la-Davos>.

⁹ The World Economic Forum is known for its influence on the diplomatic media. World Economic Forum, an institution which uses during the year about 250 employees has set its headquarters in Cologne, maybe the stylish resort in Switzerland, only a few minutes away from Geneva. Here found their „refuge” personalities in other fields of activity, thrown away by harsh financing in their countries of origin such as Charles Aznavour, the ex-ski champion Jean-Claude Killy, or Francois Dalle, the ex-proprietor of „L’Oreal”. The about 250 employees of WEF – with an average age of 37 years and belonging to 42 nationalities – coordinate during the Davos reunions, no less than 5,000 people including security forces. Representative for the modern society, the WEF headquarters with its glass and Brasil blue granite walls, built on a hill near the Leman lake, towers over the headquarters of UNO, BIT, TMO and WHO located on the other bank of the lake at the base of Jura Mountains. On the one hand, large international public institutions, which make of Geneva one of the political capitals of the world, and on the other hand the Economic Forum establishing the globalization process of the enterprise. Very modest WEF presents itself as a non profit governmental organization and its legal status is that of „swiss legal foundation” with a capital of 17 million Swiss francs (10,5 million euro). Members of the forum are chosen from the most important 1,000 enterprises in the world economy, established according to the classification of Fortune Journal.

¹⁰ <http://www.moldova-suverana.md/index.php?subaction=showfull&id=1169735260>.

politicians, state presidents and ministers (over 30 state presidents and 110 ministers).

This year's subject was „The Power of Innovation in Cooperation” , but discussions were mainly about the decline of the world economy. If in the recent years the agenda of the Forum was filled out with political issues, this year's agenda was one that seem to really belong to an economic forum¹¹.

1.3. The Bilderberg Group

The French journalist Alain Gresh has revealed, in a figurative manner, the new role of the international financial institutions in the prestigious journal „Le Monde Diplomatique”: „If the *Communist International*, a centre of modern working class has disappeared, if the idea of a privy conductor of the revolution only seems to be in the mind of some internal affairs ministries looking for enemies, the *Financiers International* is still very much alive”¹². It has its own political bureau, debate funds and means of propaganda¹³. Today, the European Commission, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development meet in secluded resorts where, most often in the most secret ways, (the case of Bilderberg Group)¹⁴ , as proven by the many sided

¹¹ The only practical result by which this year's edition can enter the Forum's history is the possibility of agreeing upon „the Doha round” - a trade – generated agreement of negotiations about the general rules applicable to the international trade. www.standard.ro/articol_27389/pessimistic.

¹² Victor Duculescu, *Globalization and the International Law*, Study presented at the Scientific Workshop of Hyperion University, Bucharest, 2002.

¹³ Constantin, Anechitoae, *Principle of Freedom of the Seas*, BREN Publishing House, Bucharest, 2004, p. 137.

¹⁴ Grupul Bilderberg bears the name of a hotel in Holland where in 1954, the first reunion of its founding nucleus took place: Prince Bernhard of Holland, Joseph Retinger, David Rockefeller and Denis Healey. The organizational bureau is to be found in Leyden, in Holland, composed of "tycoons of finance in Eastern Europe, USA and Canada". Their main targets are „to install a world government and a global army under UNO umbrella”. Amongst the Bilderberg members there are Zbigniew Brzezinski, George Bush, Henry Kissinger, Bill Clinton, Allen Dulles (former head of CIA), Giovanni Agnelli (Fiat), Henry Ford II, David, Nelson and John D Rockefeller, Edmund de Rothschild etc. The 14-15 May 2003 reunion took place very discreetly in Palace Trianon Hotel in France and it was chaired by the president of France, Jacques Chirac. The plan regarding the establishment of an EU army independent from the NATO was criticised by the Americans who attended the meeting of Bilderberg group, but there are some Europeans who are hostile to this initiative. Among them - Lord George Robertson, former Secretary General of NATO.

Agreement on Investments, decisions affecting the lives of billions of people are taken¹⁵.

The peculiarity of the Bilderberg Group meetings is characterized by a unanimously imposed discipline in keeping the discretion of the debates. All of the Bilderbergers claim that they are not “a secret club, but a discreet one”. The rule imposed by the founding members is that no public declarations and no mass media advertisements are to be made¹⁶.

Journalist Alisdair Spark said that „the idea of a secret league governing the world from the shadows is not a new one. We must expect that powerful and rich people organize things in their own interest. This is called capitalism”¹⁷. The initial intention of the Bilderberg Group was to deepen and harmonize opinions and to a better understand the economic mechanisms between Western Europe and North America, in informal meetings among very influential people.

Annually, a co-coordinating committee also influenced by the „Trilateral Commission”¹⁸ draw up a list¹⁹ of 100 names at the most. Although the meeting place becomes known, the subjects are always kept secret.

Officially, this total lack of transparency²⁰ is explained, in the sense that the attendants should be kept away from media manipulations and should not

¹⁵ Alain Gresh, *The Risks of the internationalisms*, Lumea Magazin Journal, year VI, no. 6/82, May 1998, p 28.

¹⁶ The guests are not allowed to bring either their spouse or their personal guard; they can not attend conferences and should dine separately from the members of the group. The Bilderbergers Group bring their own cooks and waiters. The participants are guarded by the CIA and MOSAD information service representatives.

¹⁷ Ziua, Year 10, no. 412, Saturday 10 June 2006. See also Cristina Martin, *The Bilderberg Club the Ruler of the World*. Translated by: Ioana Ionescu, Litera International Publishing House, Bucuresti, 2007, p. 26. „The power of the financial capitalism ... is a world financial check in the form of private property”.

¹⁸ The trilateral commission, a tension creating organism, was established in 1973, by D. Rockefeller, in order to defend the common of interests USA, Europe and Japan. They do not accept Govern members and unifies business people, political people and intellectuals

¹⁹ The mere browsing of the list of participants in 2005 reunion brings surprising information. Guests can be grouped in categories and fields of influence: personnel in state and governmental levels, international bodies (NATO, Commission for Atomic Energy, the Socialist International, European Central Bank etc.); official and European representatives (six in 2005); heads of trusts, consortiums companies; leaders of international media. The Eastern Europeans have taken part for the first time from Slovakia, Poland and Russia and also the Middle East representatives, such as Ziad Abu-Amr member in the Palestinian Law Council. Certainly, starting with 2006-2007, influential personalities from East European countries such as Romania will also be invited, since they are of interest for the Bilderberg Group.

be distracted from the main points of interest. Up to now, the Group has been an exclusive one, gathering residents from Europe and North America and excluded members from Asia, Africa, South America and the Muslim Middle East. This position, „of favoring the white race in the decisional global act”, underlined by many analysts (Rodolfo R. Escobar, June 2005) was surpassed in 2005²¹.

The structure of summoned personalities largely depends on the top events of the current year, on the stage of the implementation of the decisions taken in the previous year, on the predictions with an imminent deadline, made by experts, and on the new crisis points which may arise .

It is them who are also responsible for consensus making of, apparently democratic, decisions, which later on they will sign and apply in parliaments, ONU, FMI, BM, OMC, or NATO²².

Co-coordinator in office is Etienne Davignon, Honorary Chairman, Belgian politician and businessman. Members of tangent organizations also contribute to the selection: the Rome Club, the Trilateral Commission Council for Foreign Relation, etc.

1.3.1. Bilderberg –2007 and 2008 Sessions

It is not accidental that the location chosen for the 2007 session was Turkey, Istanbul, the cradle of the Byzantine civilization, which is at its turning point in its negotiations with Europe referring to Turkey’s admission in the European Union.²³

²⁰ The security of the meetings is ensured by Secret Military Services gathered with this opportunity. Attendants must keep an absolute secret regarding talks, which has been conceived by founders for a very pragmatic reason: all the people are public and very influential and they do not have to censor the speech as in public meetings. In other words it is preferred to have an honest dialogue even if this cannot be made public.

²¹ In 2005, topics such as harmonizing the taxes, creating a global tax of UNO for each inhabitant of the planet, the increase of the part played by non-governmental organizations, the consequences of the elections in Great Britain, the crisis of energy, telecommunications, China – an enormous trading issue, the close relations among Russia-China-Iran, research at the global level.

²² Cristina Martín, *Clubul Bilderberg. Stăpânii lumii*, op. cit. p. 73.

²³ The admission of Turkey in the European Community will allow the alliance of the Bilderberg group members to thoroughly consolidate within the Caspian Sea area, in order to maintain the influence over the East- Mediterranean states. Turkey is one of the most modern Muslim countries of the world, and it achieved its greatest success when it separated politics from religion, which is still a characteristic of the Arabian states. The European Union citizens are aware of the fact that, once Turkey is admitted in the Union, three major negative consequences would occur: 10 millions of poor Turkish will rush into

The 2007 reunion, the 55th meeting of the Bilderberg Group took place in Istanbul, between 31st May and 3rd June²⁴, anticipating the G8 Summit by several days. The Bilderberg Group has won a battle with the Bush Administration since it decided to join the global tendency of fighting against global warming. It is expected that the USA sign, in a near future, the Treaty of Kyoto, a topic re-debated during the G8 Summit.

Another topic was related to the fact that the USA will ratify the Treaty regarding the Laws of the Sea (The Sea Law Treaty „United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982”)²⁵. Recently the Bush Administration has announced the intention to ratify this Convention.

This year's reunion (2008) took place between 11-13 May, in The Westin Athens Astir Palace Hotel Beach Resort, in Vouliagmeni region (near Athens).²⁶

This reunion was kept secret, so this is the first time in 18 years, when the location and time of reunion was not announced and confirmed in advance. As a result, not many journalists could reach this reunion.

Europe in search of jobs or advantages offered by the social programmes; 2) billions of Euros from the communitary money will be sent to Turkey; 3) the Muslim population of Europe, also has become more and more aggressive, will increase dramatically. www.eurosceptic.ro

²⁴ Meetings of the Bilderberg Group took place in Turkey in 1959 and 1975. The choice of the host of 2007 is not randomly, but proves the (in) direct support of the attendants to the most controversial countries aiming to join the Union. It is a real European diplomatic strike in the Muslim fortress of the Middle East, with the assuming of all consequences, be they positive or negative, generated by this option. The first conclusion of the Bilderberg meeting is the fact that Robert Zoellick was nominated next president of the World Bank and was unanimously accepted. The European Union and the United States have a mutual understanding that the president of the World Bank is American, while the president of the International Monetary Fund is an European, but this status-quo is no longer agreed by the European Bilderberg members.

http://www.infocon.ro/stiri/2007/06/bilderberg_2007_ziua_2-20070602-5.html.

²⁵ *Convention of UNO over the Law of the Sea*, signed in Montego Bay (Jamaica), 10 December 1982, ratified by Romania - Law 110 of 10 October 1996, published in Monitorul Oficial, no. 300 of 21/11/1996.

²⁶ It was the same hotel where the 1993 reunion took place. The Bilderberg group had a good cover this year in Athens, if we take into account the fact that other different activities took place, some of them including the group members: - the Summit for Climate and Energy, in Athens – the discourse of the President/ rector of the Yale University , Richard Levin, having as a topic „ The Globalization of Universities, The governmental Council of the Central Bank of Europe, the arrival of Jose Manuel Barosso, president of the European Commission. <http://www.patris.gr/articles/132651>

1.4. The world economy dependant upon the decision of industrialized countries - G8

Some countries are grouped in economic unions of different types, the so-called regional economic „alliances”. These components could be called *world economy with borders*. Its „management” has been detained, for several years, by the Group of the most industrialized 7 countries in the world (G7) which became G8²⁷ - in 1997.

G8 is an unofficial forum of the most prosperous countries in the world representing 65 per cent of the world economy. The European Commission has had representatives in G8 summits since 1981, when the reunion took place in Ottawa. The G8 member states have 49% of the world exports, 51% of the industrial production and own 49% of the actives in the International Monetary Fund²⁸.

²⁷ The first reunion among the main world powers took place in France in 1975 as an initiative of the French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Six countries took part in the summit (G6 – France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States), to whom in 1976 Canada was added (G7). In 1995, G7 members gathered in Canada in response to the ceasing of fire in Bosnia. G7 turned into G8 in the Birmingham summit, in 1998, when Russia became an official member of the club. The decision was taken because during 1993-1997, Moscow involved in the activities of the group. Russia held the G8 presidency in 2006 and organized its first summit in Saint-Petersburg, in July 2006. The G8 summit in 2001, organized in Genova, Italy, registered anticapitalist violence and police clashes which led to the death of Carlo Giuliani. The G8 reunion in the famous resort of Evian, near the border with Switzerland, which took place between 2-4 June 2003, set the new directions of the world policy after the ending of the war in Iraq. The main issues of external politics and economic matters have been stressed upon: tensions in Iran, South Korea, coordination in the anti-terrorist campaign, removing mass destruction weapons, the increase of the American dollar, freedom of trade. In the summit organized this year by Germany in Heiligendamm, heads of state and government members of G8 took part (France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, USA, Canada and Russia), but the host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, also invited representatives from Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. Germany also held G8 presidency in 1978, 1985, 1992 and 1999.

²⁸ G8 is not supported by a transnational administration unlike other organizations such as the United Nations or the World Bank. The Presidency of the group is held in turn by each member for a mandate of one year starting at 1st January. The country holding presidency organizes a series of minister reunions which climax at the middle of the year in a summit for the heads of states and governments. In 2007, the presidency of the group is held by Germany and next year will be Japan's turn. Since on the agenda there usually are controversial international topics, analysts consider G8 an unofficial "world government". The annual summit of the group is often marked by protests of anti-globalization movements. The first G8 summit was organized in Rambouillet, France in 1975, to solve a dispute regarding cost estimates but reunions have soon become an opportunity for the world leaders to discuss matters of economic policy. G8 gathers to discuss major economic and political

In 2006 the officials in the G8, praised Japan and China, the latter one being a country which has known a true economic boom. The finance ministries say that in the United States there is a praiseworthy economic growth. However, they demand for a more transparent approach of the energetic market and a closer co-operation on the oil market. Last year Russia had the G8 (2005) presidency and organized its first summit of the club in Sankt-Petersburg, in July 2006, when it had to make some concessions regarding the way it is managing the energetic markets, to achieve an agreement over the energetic security²⁹.

The global emissions of carbon dioxide are increasing three times faster than the world experts in climatic phenomena had expected. The most consistent contribution in this respect comes from developed countries³⁰. The effect of the global warming has become more and more intense with each day. In Western China, for example, struck by draught, people are queuing with barrels for hours in turn to collect some water.

A study of American and European professors and researchers, specialists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA), East University (Great Britain) and some British, French and Australian scientists shows that during the past decade the CO₂ emissions have increased by 3% yearly, as compared to only a 1.1% growth in the 90s. This study has seriously drawn the attention of participants in the G8 summit organized on 6-8 June 2007, in Heiligendamm, Germany.

The German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced Thursday, 7th June 2007 that the countries in the G8 Group agreed on the objective of reducing the emissions of gases with hothouse effect by 50% by the year 2050. This agreement was referred to, by the German Chancellor, as a “great success”. The Heiligendamm compromise is a “powerful signal” for the coming Conference of the United Nations regarding the consequences of the Kyoto Protocol. This Conference will be held in December in Bali (Indonesia). The G8 members

facing the international community and its members as well. During the reunions such issues as macro economic management, international trade, relationship with countries under development, energy, and terrorism are also debated. Recently, the group also approached issues such as labour force and information, transnational phenomena such as pollution, crime and offences and the drug traffic, but some matters related to regional security, weapon control and human rights have also been brought to attention. http://www.bloombiz.ro/article--Business-Afaceri_Externe.

²⁹ Russia did not observe the requests to ratify the international regulations in the field of oil and gas – „Charter of Energy”.

³⁰ Study cited by the British journal The Telegraph, in the electronic edition of Monday 4 June 2007.

have agreed to finish negotiations in Bali “in 2009”. It will be “a clear start and ending” in 2009, said A. Merkel.

Since January 1st, the chair of the G8 group – of the most industrialized countries of the world, was taken over by Japan, (from Germany). Japan included in the agenda of its presidency traditional issues of the so-called G8: relief for Africa, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, elements of world economy. The boosting prices of crude, the mortgage crisis in the United States already affected the growth of the Japanese economy last year.³¹

1.5. Transnational Corporations

Besides the 8 most industrialized states there are other mature national economic systems in the world which have long standing traditions with well working market mechanisms. Some have been „*the admiral ship*” of Empires now long forgotten.

Transnational corporations (TNC) and international banks (of which some are also transnational), make up a network which in certain respect is beyond national borders. This world conglomerate is made up of the connection of different TNCs between different international banks, between TNC and financial circles and global communication networks. This major component could be called the world trans-border or transnational economy.

The very concept of „*national economy*” has changed. The basic economic institution becomes the transnational company which locates its factories and sells its produce where it feels it is convenient without taking into consideration any border³².

The club of the largest 100 TNC has actives of over 1,700 billion USD in their foreign branches and controls about 20% of the global actives abroad. If we add to this 2,000 billion USD worth from selling of goods and services abroad and about 6 billion employees, we may get a synthetic image of the power, influence and role of these giants in the acquiring and running of the trans-border world economy³³.

³¹ The 8 most industrialized countries Forum was scheduled to take place between 7-9 July, in Hokkaido, Hokkaido.

³² Cristina Barna, *Expansion of Transnational Companies (CTN)*, Tribuna Economică Journal, no. 47/2001, p 67.

³³ Source UNCTAD. *Division on Transnational Corporations and Investment*; World Investment Report 1995. *Transnational and Competitiveness*. UN, New York and Geneva, 1995, p 19.

One of the pillars of the globalization process is the unprecedented boost of direct foreign investments (DFI). The most extended and massive network of mutual investment is registered between the USA and EU with a superior quantum in favor of the European Union.

Today there are three main areas which rule over (govern) the world economy: the USA, Japan and the European Union. Having only a sixth of the world population they ensure almost three quarters of its production. From an economic and geographic point of view three world „poles” of power have been created: the USA in America, Japan in Asia and the EU in Europe. The former USSR no longer exists, and Russia struggles to get a part in the world economic hierarchy³⁴. China, although has world supremacy in what regards population, is still far from being a true power from the economic, technical and scientific point of view.

1.6. Economic realities decide for the development of maritime transport activities

The First World War put an end to the oldest international cartel – the one of steel bar manufacturers which had been organized for the first time in 1883. A more powerful and more extended cartel of the steel formerly organized in 1926, succumbed together with the free fall of prices over 1929. It had gathered again in 1933, the British joined in 1935, but, once again, it could not survive the breaking of the 1939 war. In both World Wars, the allied marine forces have taken the management of maritime trade from the transporting companies which in all seven countries had set the prices as usual and chased away competition³⁵. Only the Phoebus cartel, by maintaining the price of electric bulbs managed to survive, in spite of the fact that some of its members cheated by cutting prices in order to protect the market shares. However, this cartel could neither survive the war in 1939.

Maritime transport is a business which best illustrates Adam Smith’s opinion on the agreements made at the consumer’s expense and two more things: firstly, the impact of market conditions over the producers, especially when these conditions tend to become cyclical, and secondly, the impact over them and over production in general brought about by the change of technology in production of goods or, as this is the case, of services.

³⁴ Popescu, Dan, Co-ordinator, *Euroatlantic Integration and Economic Development-Economic Studies*. (Ion Ignat, University „Al. I. Cuza” Iași, The European Union – World Economic Power Pole), Economic Publishing House, Bucharest, 1999.

³⁵ Strange, Susan, *State Withdrawal. Power Diffusion in the World Economy*, translation, Radu Eugeniu Stan, Trei Publishing House, Bucharest, 2002 p 189 and the following

In the '70s, of the most renowned maritime transport companies, over 300 were exposed to a threat which came from two directions: the new technology of containerized transport and the international decrease of the freight rates. The market of the maritime transport had a depression which extended over next two decades. But, by 1984, all main maritime transport companies had already passed on to the containerized transport while their trade association the International Council of Containership Operators, nicknamed The Box could not reach an agreement concerning the solution that was obvious on long term - an agreement to throw away the older part of the world merchant fleet - large companies that towered above the transatlantic high capacity transport routes finally reached an agreement. They were to lay the basis of a super-cartel, whose members would set uniform prices for different types of cargo, agree with capacity decreases, and leave an agreed percentage of the container compartments in each ship unused; they would keep discipline among the members of the cartel, by making use of penalties, and among the customers by making use of the traditional practice reductions suspension.

Transatlantic Trade Agreement (TTA) was first signed in May 1992 by the twelve large maritime transport companies in the Atlantic trade: Sea-Land (USA), Atlantic Container (Sweden), Hapag-Lloyd (Germany), Moller-Maersk (Denmark), DSR-Senator (Germany), P&O and OOCL (Great Britain) and Swiss, French, South-Korean, Danish and Polish firms. Three more joined them later, and the terms of agreement were revealed in the commercial journals early in 1994. The rates were supposed to vary according to the value of the cargo and the traffic possibilities.

According to the state of the market, to the degree of external competition, and to other variables, they were to be moved up and down. The agreement was extended from the maritime transport to the land transport, since it could cover the rates for the transport of containers to and from the ports.

Initially, since the traffic to the east was only two thirds of that to the west, the agreement was single-sided east-to-west. But its members were responsible for 70 per cent of the traffic, and founded a Secretariat and a Surveillance Authority to ensure that the regulations were observed. It was empowered to inquire into presumed infringements of the Agreement, accounts and files of members, check sub-contractors and associates and in the end set financial sanctions.

The Secretariat ran the Management Capacity Program which could establish the unused space up to 25 per cent of the capacity of each ship. The power extended to smaller independent „consolidators” who used to carry smaller quantities of cargo, of which two had already been forced to withdraw from the business.

Under the pressure of users, the European Commission set out an inquiry. But there is no global law of the Commission on the maritime transport and the national laws tolerated the old companies for a long time. A decree of 1986 only threatened against cartels trying to chase away any efficient competition. In the United States, the Federal Maritime Commission – FMC is the agency responsible for the TAA surveillance, but the 1984 Shipping Act indicated an exemption from the anti-trust regulations, and in spite of the fact that FMC was kept informed of the cartel all the time, up to the present moment it has neither been approved nor declared illegal. Consequently, if the USA Administration overlooks TAA, it will be very difficult for the European Commission to act against it. Meanwhile it is expected that it may represent a model for other important commercial routes.

Briefly, the history of the economy clearly shows that the management of overstock capacity has always been an important and recurrent issue in the political economy and one in which the states and companies have sought and sometimes found many solutions.

1.7. Romania's interests in the maritime field

Romania has been longing for over a century to play a major part in the power supply of Europe. It is true that we have the largest port at the Black Sea, as constructed area, and with a modern and consistent logistics in the field of hydrocarbons³⁶, and „the gas war” between Russia and the Ukraine at the beginning of 2006 only created an opportunity for the West to focus its attention towards Constanta port.

In March 2006 the memorandum for the building of Constanta – Trieste oil pipe, in which Romania agreed to take part together with Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy to build a 1,360 km long oil pipe, with a capacity of 112 million cubic meters / year. This event will accomplish the destiny of the largest port at the Black Sea to be the turning point of power flows, containers and grains that links Europe with the Caspian Sea, the Middle and Far East.

At the same time Romania consolidated its relationship with the European Union as a member country of the Organization of Economic Co-operation of the Black Sea³⁷ - riverside to the Black Sea, a region in the direct

³⁶ We own one of the most modern terminals of oil in the world „Oil Terminal” and there are preoccupations for a new one on the island Constanța South.

³⁷ During November 2005-April 2006, Romania was in office for the leadership of the Organization for Economic Co-operation of the Black Sea .On 25th June 2006 14 years since its founding were celebrated. According to constitutive documents (Istanbul Declaration of 1922 and OECBS Charter , 1988), OECBS proposed to promote in the area of the Black Sea

neighborhood of the European Union. Starting 1st January 2007, Romania has become member state of the European Union and the eastern border of Romania has become the eastern border of the Union.

The program of the Chair of the European Union Council in the field of transport and urban development (29th December 2006)³⁸ has in view the fact that only in Europe, during 2007-2020 an increase of 45% of the volume of transported cargo is expected. Wolfgang Tiefense the federal minister of Transports and Urbanism in Germany stated in Berlin that „the problem linked to the European transport, environment, economic efficiency and safety would be more and more important”.

The „Galileo” navigation system will open new possibilities for the control and surveillance of maritime sector³⁹.

The maritime system is growing disproportionately while the division of labor continues at the international level, thus the European Union should set new requirements and regulations regarding safety. Under the German chairmanship of the Council the following proposals are to be submitted:

- Improvement of safety controls in the Union ports;
- Traffic monitoring and information systems for the safety of navigation;
- Compensation of passengers who travel by sea or by inland waterways in case of accidents.

1.8. Conclusions

During the past two decades the decisive decisions for the world agenda have had a hierarchical cycle: to name only the latest, the Davos summit (the end of January 2007 and 23-27 January 2008) – the Bilderberg reunion (end of May 2007 and 11th May 2008), G8 summit (beginning of June 2007 and 7th to 9th July 2008).

There is no doubt that the most powerful defiance of the beginning of the new millennium is the global heating and the revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe both in the political and social relationships, maritime trade included.

a co-operation spirit which should contribute to the progress of the region in the direction of stability and prosperity.

³⁸ Andreea Nistor, Bulletin on the European Policy in the field of maritime ports and maritime transports, no. 1 16th January 2007, p 4.

³⁹ Constantin Anechitoae, Introduction in Port Law, BREN Publishing House, Bucharest, 2007, p 373.

The effort made during the past decade by the commission of United Nations for International Commercial Law with a view to draw up new legal instruments, some Uniform Rules in the field of maritime transport, as a result of the intensification of the capital concentration demonstrates the importance of maritime activities. The old monopoly of the state tends to be gradually and surely taken over by large maritime transnational companies, and the trade policies of some states open their way in this respect.

The sea represents today the largest field of economic and political rivalries on our planet, influences the social life by exploiting the most precious gift of the nature and the global economic decisions incontestably set rules to guarantee benefits in the interest of mankind. Maritime activities have always influenced land transport by ensuring a continuation to them, and thus linking coastal, continental and intercontinental civilizations.

Globalizing the trade at sea which would have been impossible to achieve without the existence and implementation of global economic decisions will inevitably lead, in the next future, to the founding of international companies in the maritime field.

The existence of some agreements or alliances of co-operation already concluded between some maritime companies enable us to rapidly achieve transport at a global level at the consumer's request and by diluting the risks arisen by competition⁴⁰.

Once a ship-owner is enrolled in an alliance his sole objective is – apart from setting a force to fight against the union or consortium memoranda – to consolidate the earlier markets, to cut costs by a more rational use of available means, port facilities, terrestrial and multimodal services owned by the alliance.

The alliance policies have enabled the owners, who found themselves unable to allot financial means needed for a fusion and thus save or consolidate their traditional presence on the transport routes, to offer their customers the advantages of diverse and far superior services.

⁴⁰ Carmen Costea, Strategies of Conquest or Defence by Alliances, Revista de Comerț, n0. 3 (27), Year III, March, 2002, p 69. In maritime field alliances cover operational, logistic and most often functional aspects. They include on the East West direction the most frequent agreements enabling partners to use modern and large vessels. The most important called global alliances have been included in mega corporations of transport. E.g. Alliance of P & O-Nedlloyd, NYK, OOCL, Hapag-Lloyd, American Ship and MISC in Malaysia, regarding the traffic on route Europe – Asia; others for the North Atlantic traffic: New World Alliance between APL, Mitsui OSK Lines, Hyundai Merchant Marine, United Alliance between Hanjin Shipping DSR – Senator Lines, Cho Yong Shipping și United Arab (UASC) for certain destinations.

Up to the rise of the alliances the owners' objectives only envisaged East –West transoceanic routes, and less the North-South and intercontinental routes which were ensured in an independent manner.

The alliance seems a transit solution, a „virtual fusion”, which sometimes turns into a real integration as that of Hanjin/DSR – Senator Line and Maersk/Sealand International⁴¹.

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⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p 70.

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