

## External Threats Can Become an Efficient Factor of Economic Growth

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The main goal of the Black Sea Synergy is encouraging cooperation between countries of the region and the EU in the fields of democracy, human rights, good governance, border management, trade, migration, development, etc.

However, Russia’s aggressive ideology and violent actions entirely contradict the goals and objectives of the Black Sea Synergy. In such conditions, Russia has no right to participate in the Synergy Initiative.

Another feature of the day that shapes the thrust of the Black Sea Synergy is that the current (political, economic, military) support for Ukraine enhances the security of the partner countries (first of all, European), both now and in the future.

Proper consideration of external threats can become an efficient factor of economic growth and condition the need for “synchronous” acceleration of the economy and enhancement of security. The unity of these goals lies in the sphere of the defence industry, focused on the production (in cooperation with international companies) of the widest possible range of weapons, which can guarantee the defence of the country and strengthen the eastern outpost of the European Union.

The strategic challenge faced by all countries is the development of the modern production infrastructure (as a prerequisite for successful business activity) alongside the preservation of cultural and environmental heritage.



For Ukraine, it means the upgrade of Ukraine's transport and logistic infrastructure and its integration into the European transport network, as well as the introduction of European standards, as a prerequisite for the European integration of Ukraine in the EU - infrastructural in general, and transport and logistics, in particular.

The European Commission incorporated Ukrainian logistic routes in the Trans-European Transport Network. One of the most urgent tasks is transitioning to the European standard rail track, which requires significant investments and coordination with the neighbouring Trans-Black Sea countries.

In addition, the heads of state and government of the Three Seas Initiative (3SI), which unites 13 EU participating countries located between the Baltic, Black and Adriatic seas, decided to engage Ukraine in all unification projects as a partner country. In particular, the Ukrainian GTS operator joined the initiative of the Vertical Corridor - a new route for transporting gas from the south to the north of Europe, which will contribute to the diversification of gas supply in all countries and optimisation of their infrastructure.

A pressing challenge is presented by Ukraine's involvement in the European Green Deal, becoming even more topical in the conditions of Russian military aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine's obligations of European integration include increasing the share of renewable energy in power generation, transport and heat supply, which, despite the transformational difficulties, can contribute to its energy and economic independence. Ambitious aspirations to create a new sector of the economy - production, transportation and supply of hydrogen (using investments from the EU countries) - have been made public.

Participation in expansion investment projects is an important factor in economic acceleration and improvement of well-being, creation of conditions for the development of private initiative, strengthening of small and medium businesses, as well as full consideration of regional specificities, particularly in the field of environmental protection. Privatisation processes and investment expansion with the admission of international investors, reinforce each other. The involvement of investors from partner countries will make it more rational and transparent.

To sum up, we note that despite multiple scenarios of bankruptcy and collapse of the country, Ukraine has proven its ability to consistently implement and adhere to the principles of civilisation, joining global development, focusing on wellbeing, human rights and democratisation of society.