

## Strategic Forum for Defense and Industry

In January 2015, at the initiative of Romania's president, HE Klaus Iohannis, the national political agreement for financing Defense increase has been concluded. The document states that all parliamentary parties engage to support the increase in defense expenditures so that the budget allocation reaches 2% of GDP in 2017. Also, the agreement envisages that this minimum will be maintained at least 10 years, in order to ensure the required predictability in planning and implementation of major programs in modern fighting building-capacity of the Romanian Army.

In this moment, the Ministry of Defense budget represents 1.47% of the GDP. Will the government ensure the real raise of budget spending so that it reaches the 2% from GDP in 2017? Which are the arming priorities of the Romanian Army? How will the National Defense Strategy be implemented? Will we invest in necessary arming to face the threats to the Romanian national security? What technological partnerships we propose and how do we relaunch the national defense industry? Could the important prefigured military expenses boost not only this industry but also the export? How do the state institutions cooperate and what should be improved in order to have an export strategy with significant results?

To answer these questions, New Strategy Center launches the **Strategic Forum for Defense and Industry** program as we aim to create a dialogue platform and debate having as subjects the modern military equipment acquisitions of Romania during the next decade, the possibility to strengthen the technological partnerships between the major world companies producing armament and the national industry, the revival of the internal production of military fighting-technique due to the strategic projects of arming that the Romanian Army will develop, the revival of the armament export and what type of inter-institutional co-operation should exist in order to ensure the success of a viable export strategy and strengthening the strategic partnerships that Romania has in military and political domains as a result of the technological and industrial co-operation in defense field.

We invite the representatives of the industry companies in Romania and abroad, the Presidential Administration, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Economy, representatives of the political parties and academics to join our demarche. We need coherence for the public policies regarding national defense, we need strategies on medium- and long-term which should be assumed by the entire political specter and implemented no matter the government that takes the power. Whatever the political sympathies for left or right, there is Romania.